



Work programme for the FAO Reference Centre for Bivalve Mollusc Sanitation 2020/21

FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES

The functions and duties of the FAO Reference Centre are set out in the **TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE DESIGNATION**.

In 2020/21 work programme aims to support FAO Member Countries wishing to develop, enhance or expand their production of safe bivalve molluscs for domestic consumption or for international trade

WORK PROGRAMME, 2020/21

Outputs

1. Provide support for the development and maintenance of FAO e-Learning material and resources on bivalve mollusc sanitation to include in 2020/21:
 - Preparation of framework and structure for e-modules 2 and 3 covering technical guidance for the development of growing area aspects of bivalve mollusc sanitation programmes (shared cost exercise with FAO).
 - Review, approval and bench testing of e-learning module 2 and 3.
 - Hosting of approved modules on the Cefas, FAOBivalves website www.cefas.co.uk/faobivalves under the designated FAO Reference Centre training section (module 2 and 3 in 2020/21).
2. Provide guidance on relevant laboratory protocols, accreditation and use of methods for bivalve mollusc testing to include in 2020/21:
 - Development of protocols for microbiological methods with applicability for testing bivalve molluscs and water for dissemination via the Cefas, FAOBivalves website www.cefas.co.uk/faobivalves
 - Dissemination of protocols and supporting information on request of FAO member countries.
3. Develop, launch and maintain the completed FAOBivalves website (www.cefas.co.uk/faobivalves) as the main route of dissemination of relevant material for FAO Member Countries.
4. Development of the vibrio genome project for tracking of vibrio (and other pathogens) associated with seafoods, including bivalve molluscs, to include in 2020/21, the introduction of the online risk and genomic tracking tools via a dedicated portal on the Cefas, FAOBivalves website (www.cefas.co.uk/faobivalves).
5. Contribution to the establishment and ongoing maintenance of the bivalve shellfish pathogen strain and genome bank, to include in 2020/21:

Expected outcomes

- * *Open access availability to training module covering growing area assessment (sanitary surveys) and growing area review through FAO and Cefas websites*
- * *Open access availability to standard operating procedures*
- * *Open access availability to all guidance documentation and training material*
- * *Open access availability to epidemiological realtime information on pathogens and risk for LMICs and others*

- Development and implementation of pathogen accession, storage, resuscitation and transport conditions
 - Development of data storage and retrieval processes,
6. Introduce a pilot programme of proficiency testing (PT) for Member Country laboratories attending the initial pan African workshop at no cost to participants. This will begin to establish methods and enable demonstration of competence in designated official laboratories undertaking testing of bivalve shellfish or growing waters.
 7. Prepare and deliver an International/regional workshop on bivalve mollusc sanitation for Official Laboratories:
 - Invite Competent Authorities identified in FY2019/20 to designate Official Laboratories for undertaking bivalve shellfish controls to facilitate collaboration with the FAO Reference Centre,
 - Plan, develop and deliver a technical microbiological training workshop in FAO region (Africa) focusing on the ‘hub’ nation of Kenya (to facilitate travel within the continent), and to include assessment of PT data generated through 4.
 - Further to the above, undertake activities and follow up subsequent to the workshop.
 8. On request, deliver physical onsite training¹ and support to include provision of protocols, reference materials and access to additional proficiency testing programmes for interested parties specifically on microbiological testing and assessment of growing areas.
 9. Production of annual report describing activities undertaken within the scope of the work programme.

** Open access resource for characterized reference materials for research and development, proficiency testing, method development/standardization and comparisons*



** Demonstration of competency of laboratories to undertake bivalve shellfish and water testing amongst targeted sub-saharan African countries.*

** Formation of a demonstrably competent network of Official Laboratories across sub-Saharan African with responsibility for the development and operation of bivalve mollusc sanitation programmes*

** Increased proficiency in methods and programmes supporting the development of bivalve molluscs sanitation programmes amongst FAO Member Countries*

** Greater awareness of the activities of the Reference Centre within FAO and FAO Member Countries*

Plan approved by:

FAO Reference Centre Coordinator	FAO Reference Centre Director	FAO Project Lead
Louise Stockley	Rachel E. Hartnell	Esther Garrido Gamarro
27 th February 2020	27 th February 2020	27 th February 2020
		

¹ Physical training, including time and consumables for Reference Centre staff, at the Reference Centre to be provided within the existing baseline budget, travel and subsistence expenses for trainees from FAO Member Countries are excluded from the baseline budget and will require additional financial contributions from third parties.

