Feedback from twinning questionnaire

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GOUNALAN PAVADE
Scientific and Technical Department, OIE
Questionnaire

- **Aim**: Feedback on pros and cons of twinning programme
- **Questionnaire covered**
  - Pre-existing relationship
  - Communication
  - Gains
  - Obstacles and solutions
  - Research publications
  - Government support
  - Twinning experiences
  - Advice
Questionnaire

• Parent and Candidate lab: 11 Questions
• Candidate lab: 5 questions
• Parent lab: 5 questions

➤ Questionnaire sent to confirmed participants of 16 parent & 13 candidate twinning labs

➤ Parent labs: Australia, Argentina, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, South Africa, Spain, UK, USA

➤ Candidate labs: Brazil, Chile, Cuba, India, Malaysia, Morocco, Nigeria, Russia, Senegal, Sudan, Tunisia and Turkey
Feedback

- Out of 16 parent labs, 14 responded
- Out of 13 candidate labs, 13 responded
- Total responses: 27 out of 29
Source from where heard about OIE twinning concept

- OIE website - 3
- OIE representative of the ref lab - 3
- OIE ref lab meeting - 7
- OIE regional meeting - 1
- Other OIE meeting - 4
- OIE headquarters (invitation) - 5
- Other meeting (not OIE) - 1
- Research partner - 2
- National ministry of agriculture - 1
Pre-existing relationship with twinning partner

- Yes 24
- No 3

No pre-existing relation
- Invitation from twinning partner
- Collaboration after supervision and training

Timely completion of milestones in original plan

- Yes 52%
- No 48%

Reasons: Logistics, equipment repair, natural events, political, funds, many milestones in first schedule
Communication frequency and mode

Frequency:
- Weekly (6)
- Very frequently (6)
- Monthly (11)
- Every three months (1)
- Twice a month (2)

Mode:
- E-mail (27)
- Telephone (14)
- Fax (3)
- Visits (10)
Gains from the twinning project

- Upgrading the diagnostic capacity of candidate lab (8)
- Learning new techniques (5)
- Further collaboration with twinning partner (5)
- National recognition of candidate lab (5)
- Increased networking (4)
- Experience exchange between partners (3)
- Joint research interactions leading to publications (2)
- Quality management (2)
- Real field problems (3)
## Challenges encountered during twinning implementation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Obstacles / Barriers</th>
<th>Solutions found</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lack of equipments</td>
<td>Request through other international organisations; donation by parent lab</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bad equipments</td>
<td>Recalibration; replacement</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shipping and receiving materials takes too long time</td>
<td>MTA agreement at government level; Find suitable couriers like Fedex</td>
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<tr>
<td>Difficulty in travelling procedures</td>
<td>Long term visa; schedule in advance;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language problems</td>
<td>Explaining slowly; identification of translator; undergoing courses; help from OIE regional office</td>
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<td>Deficiency in budget</td>
<td>Convincing the national government for lab capacity; reduce travel expenses; complementary funding;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schedule problems for visits and training</td>
<td>Good planning and communications</td>
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</tbody>
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Positive or negative surprise

Positive

• Enthusiasm of the staffs involved in twinning
• Help and welcome from partners
• Generous helping from parent lab

Negative

• Sometimes it is slow to get things going
• Most appropriate person is not identified for training
• Difficulty in receiving materials
• Lack of good equipments in candidate lab
• Lack of perspective and vision in the second phase
• Bureaucracy and lack of flexibility of governments
Research publications with partner

YES
10

NO
17

5 research articles - 1
4 research articles - 1
3 research articles - 1
2 research articles - 4
1 research articles - 3
Candidate lab responses

- 6 out of 13 labs receive diagnostic specimens from other countries
- 9 out of 13 labs are involved in other capacity building projects
- 8 said they were operational before/during/after OIE twinning project
- 6 projects are complementary to each other
- Organising capacity building for state veterinarians
- Extended duration of training
- Provision of equipments
Candidate lab responses

• Training to staff of other laboratories (within or outside your country)
  Yes: 12                 No: 1

• Government support for sustainable development of laboratory
  Yes: 13
Parent lab responses

Ability of twinning partner to apply for OIE RL/CC status

At the end of the project:
- 80% Yes
- 20% No

After a period of transition:
- 77%
Parent lab responses

- Planning or maintaining contact with twinning partner after conclusion of twinning project
  
  100 % Yes

- Government support for the international work of laboratory

  99 % Yes

- Impact of twinning programme on other projects
  - Positive impact on international outreach programme
  - Twinning helps for collaboration continuation and funding by other means
  - PL disease free, CL disease present: Test development/validation
Parent & Candidate lab responses

• Involvement in the consultation process within their government on draft OIE standards prior to their adoption

Parent

- Yes: 93%
- No: 7%

Candidate

- Yes: 77%
- No: 13%
Parent & Candidate lab responses

Summary of twinning experience:

- Excellent
- Rewarding (but also time consuming)
- Good idea, good help and support from OIE
- Interesting
- Trust and mutual benefits
- Very useful
Parent & Candidate lab responses

Advice to future participant of OIE twinning:

- Visit to candidate labs prior to setting twinning project; initial assessment is vital
- Ensure government support to lab and project
- Improvement in laboratory upgradation and scientific skill
- Expectations and objectives have to be fine-tuned at the beginning
Advice to improve OIE global policies for supporting veterinary laboratories worldwide:

- Continue with twinning projects but allocate more money for consumables on the projects
- Encourage more referral labs region-wise or zone wise so that referral services are accessed easily and efficiently
- Funding for equipments through collaboration with other international organisation
- Supporting students for attending relevant OIE conferences
Parent & Candidate lab responses

Advice to improve OIE global policies for supporting veterinary laboratories worldwide:

✓ Develop laboratory assessment and improvement pathway
✓ Facilitation of an effective sample referral system to regional reference lab involving couriers, customs, quarantine and standard reporting protocols
Conclusions

- 89% of the labs had pre-existing relationship with their twinning partner
- 50% of the labs are able to complete the milestones laid out in the original project plan
- Twinning partners communicate with each other monthly or weekly by e-mail and telephone
- Gains by twinning project include capacity building, new techniques, collaboration, publications
- Labs face difficulty in shipping and receiving materials. MTA at government level would solve this problem
Conclusions

- 55% of CL receive samples from other countries
- CL are involved in capacity building at regional level
- Both CL and PL receive government support in sustainability and international work
- PL expression for CL becoming RL/CC status:
  - 66% After a period of transition
  - 20% at the end of the project
  - 14 % said No
- 77% CL & 93% PL are involved in adopting OIE standards
- All labs maintain contact after twinning project
- More twinning projects needed region wise to improve OIE global policies for supporting veterinary labs worldwide
Thank you for your attention

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