



OFFLU/STAR-IDAZ consultation on a global animal influenza research agenda

Objectives:

1. To develop a clear 10-year vision for global animal influenza research needs
2. To identify research priorities and align research initiatives, and develop a strategy for animal influenza research
3. To strengthen collaboration between animal health and public health sectors in research

Outputs:

- A research agenda providing strategic vision for research priorities, allowing alignment of ongoing and future research.
- A strategy to support research and development to meet those priorities.

Background:

OFFLU is the OIE-FAO joint network of expertise on animal influenza. It is an open network and a platform for coordination which includes the world leading experts in the fields of equine, swine and avian influenza. OFFLU is now a globally recognised brand with representatives from at least 40 institutes in 27 countries. One of OFFLU's core objectives is to highlight influenza research needs, promote their development and ensure co-ordination. In 2010 at the annual technical meeting, OFFLU launched a global animal influenza research agenda, leading to better coordination of research towards a common vision, and guiding funders towards research questions which are agreed by consensus to be priorities.

STAR-IDAZ is an EU-funded project concerned with improving coordination of research activities on the major infectious diseases of livestock and zoonoses, at both the level of the research funders or programme owners and the research community, so as to hasten the delivery of improved control methods. Influenza was identified as one of the top disease priorities for collaborative activities.

Next steps:

OFFLU and STAR-IDAZ (with support from Defra and BBSRC) are holding a consultation with leading researchers and other stakeholders to initiate this process. The outputs from the consultation will be used to develop the global animal influenza research agenda.

Date and location:

8 - 9 April 2014, at OIE Headquarters, Paris, France

Participants (total 60):

Technical experts from fields of swine, avian and equine influenza

International partners and stakeholders, research funders, and industry stakeholders.