

Third Meeting of the South Asia Rabies Laboratory Network (SA-RABNET)

3 March 2025, Zoom®, 2:00 PM India Time (GMT+5.5)

(1 pm Kabul; 1:30 pm Islamabad; 2 pm Colombo and New Delhi; 2:15 pm Kathmandu; 2:30 pm

Dhaka and Thimphu)

MEETING REPORT



Photo credit: Kinzang Dukpa



Scan this QR code to access the presentations made at the meeting

Report prepared by: Kinzang Dukpa, WOAHR RAP (Secretariat of SA-RABNET)



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SUMMARY

The World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific (RRAP) in collaboration with Karnataka Veterinary Animal and Fisheries Sciences University (KVAFSU), India, organized the Third Meeting of the South Asia Rabies Laboratory Network (SA-RABNET) on 3 March 2025. A total of 25 attendees, including 15 Network Members (see annexure 1) from seven South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Members (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka) attended the meeting. A series of presentations were made on topics such as updates from the Members and KVAFSU/WOAH on progress and recent activities on rabies since the last meeting; and technical presentations on SOPs for submission of samples to KVAFSU and Interlaboratory proficiency testing – enhancing quality assurance of rabies diagnostic laboratories. Nepal was selected as the new Chair and Sri Lanka as the new Co-Chair who will lead the Network from the 4th meeting onwards. A *mentimeter* session was held at the end to understand how the Network is functioning and to collect feedback for further strengthening the Network activities.

Dr Sangay Rinchen from Bhutan as the incumbent Chair, chaired the 3rd Network meeting of SA-RABNET.

BACKGROUND

To achieve the global goal of elimination of dog-mediated human rabies by 2030, an important component to focus on is the surveillance of animal rabies to provide accurate data in countries for timely and appropriate control measures. Although rabies poses significant public health concerns in South Asia, there is a general lack of ground-level surveillance owing primarily to insufficient or total lack of rabies diagnostic capacity across the region.

Since 2020, to support capacity building for rabies diagnosis and surveillance in animals in South Asia, WOAHRAP jointly with the KVAFSU-WOAH Reference Laboratory for Rabies in India organised [virtual training on brain sampling and diagnosis of rabies](#) in animals in 2020, [rabies serology in 2021](#) for the SAARC Member States.

As a follow up to the virtual trainings and as per the demands of the Members, WOAHRAP and KVAFSU jointly organised a virtual workshop on “[Proposed South Asia Rabies Laboratory Network](#)” on 14 July 2022 to introduce the concept of establishing a sub-regional rabies laboratory Network for South Asia to strengthen rabies diagnosis, surveillance, and control. Further, as a follow up of the virtual workshop, WOAHRAP asked the countries for nomination of two Members to initiate the activities of the Network in accordance with the proposed ToR. Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka have nominated Members of the Network. The first meeting of the Network was held on 6 April 2023 to formally launch the South Asia Rabies Laboratory Network and discuss the scope and activities to be implemented by the Network. At the first Network Meeting, Bhutan was selected as the Chair and Nepal as the Co-Chair of the Meeting.

The 3rd Meeting of SA-RABNET was held with the following objectives:

- Share Members’ updates on recent progress and follow-up actions since the 2nd SA-RABNET meeting.



- Share information on interlaboratory proficiency testing on rabies diagnosis provided by KVAFSU and standard operating procedures for submission of brain samples to the WOA Reference Laboratory.

OUTCOME OF THE MEETING

OPENING REMARKS

Dr Kinzang Dukpa, Regional One Health Coordinator, WOA RRAP, welcomed participants and introduced the meeting objectives and key topics to be covered. Dr Hirofumi Kugita, WOA Regional Representative for Asia and Pacific in his keynote address reminded about the global goal that is fast approaching and reminded that this Network has an important role to play in catalysing actions across South Asia in in controlling and eliminating dog-mediated rabies. Dr N. K. Shivakumar Gowda, Dean, Veterinary College, KVAFSU, Bengaluru, thanked the Network Members for their hard work and reiterated commitment of the WOA Reference Laboratory in meeting the needs of Members of SAARC.

Network activities

Adoption of the Agenda

The meeting agenda was adopted following introduction by the Chair.

Adoption of the Meeting Report of the 2nd SA-RABNET

Following the Chair's introduction of the topic, the Meeting Report was adopted with no further comments from the Members.

Members' updates on follow-up actions from 2nd SA-RABNET and other recent actions/progress on rabies diagnosis, prevention and control activities

The Chair invited the Members of the Network to share their country updates since the last Network meeting.

Afghanistan

Dr Hamidullah and Dr Mohammad Ibrahim Froten joined the meeting despite connectivity issues. Dr Hamidullah informed that central veterinary laboratory undertakes rabies surveillance in

collaboration with laboratories with 24 provinces submitting samples. They have PCR and direct fluorescent antibody (DFA) facilities to diagnose rabies but are short of consumables to run the tests, especially the conjugates for the DFA. Although Afghanistan was supposed to contact WOAHA via their WOAHA Delegate with the request for support, the same could not be done due to some internal issues. Dr Hamidullah informed that they will soon submit request through the Delegate to WOAHA. It was informed that there are lots of samples from 24 provinces awaiting testing owing to lack of reagents. In the presentation that was shared separately (not presented at the meeting), Afghanistan is recording increasing cases of human rabies and passive surveillance has detected many cases which they report to WHO and Ministry of Public Health. Dog vaccination has been carried out in outbreak areas and awareness programs are conducted. In 2024, a total of 15475 dogs were vaccinated, 11885 dogs neutered and 1877 dogs euthanised for rabies control.

Bangladesh

Dr. Md. Mostofa Kamal and Dr. Md. Golam Azam Chowdhury joined the meeting. Dr Chowdhury informed that the Central Disease Investigation Laboratory (CDIL) does the diagnosis of rabies in animals. He informed that the Department of Livestock Services recently submitted a project proposal to Dhaka city and that there are plans for vaccination in Dhaka city. In the previous Network meeting, CDIL reported rabies positivity rate around 73% and CDIL also confirmed 3 human rabies cases using PCR. Bangladesh was interested in sending brain samples to KVAFSU, India and undertake proficiency testing with KVAFSU but this has not been done so far. On further inquiry during the meeting, Bangladesh wanted to know the procedure of referring brain samples to India.

Bhutan

Dr Sangay Rinchen, Dr Nirmal Kumar Thapa and Ms Pushpa Sharma from the Department of Livestock represented Bhutan. Dr Sangay updated that Bhutan neutered 100% of the free

roaming dogs in the country and vaccinated more than 95% of free roaming dogs. Their aim is to sustain this achievement. Recently, Bhutan started cat sterilisation and vaccination together with mass dog vaccination along the Indo-Bhutan border areas that is at high risk for rabies. During 2024/2025, Bhutan experienced 16 cases of rabies in dogs with spill over in cattle and small ruminants. Owing to risk of incursion, Bhutan is working closely with their counterparts in India (Assam and West Bengal States) and recently Bhutan vaccinated 500 dogs across the Indian border area (adjacent to Gelephu city of Bhutan).

It was informed that Bhutan faces high risk of rabies incursion along its southern border due to cross border movement of dogs that poses threat to their rabies elimination efforts.

Bhutan clarified that microchipping was done only in pet dogs after sterilisation and vaccination and not in free roaming dogs. Temporary identification methods are used in free roaming dogs during mass dog vaccination campaigns to measure the coverage.

India

Dr Susan Abraham, Dr Jyoti Misri and Dr Durlav Bora participated from India. Dr Susan informed that the Kerala State laboratory in 2024 has tested 271 animal samples of which 71 were positive. The test positivity comes about 26% that is slightly lower than the previous years (40% and 50% positivity) and that dogs continue to be the major reservoir of rabies virus in Kerala. Since 2022, on an average, Kerala reported 25 human cases annually. The State government undertakes year-round mass dog vaccination program in collaboration with local government, NGOs and Mission Rabies. The government is also planning mobile animal birth control clinics to cater to different areas as per need. The Centre for One Health, Department of Health and Family Welfare Kerala in collaboration with Department of Animal Husbandry Kerala jointly supported a workshop to develop Kerala's State Action Plan for Rabies Elimination. The state laboratory conducted a series of training on rabies diagnosis with special emphasis on brain sample collection using occipital foramen sampling and sample transport by FTA cards. Dr Isloor supplemented the progress in India with information that around 450 samples were tested at KVAFSU laboratory of which 70%

were positive to rabies. Dr Isloor also mentioned that the Government of India recently approved a project for development of oral rabies vaccines bait to be led by KVAFSU in coordination with other research institutes. They will use the G protein gene cloned in adenovirus vector to develop the vaccine which is expected to be developed in 3 years. KVAFSU also supported establishment of satellite rabies laboratories at Veterinary College Khanapara in Assam and in Pondicherry. KVAFSU also conducted two international trainings on rabies diagnosis including the one conducted jointly with the National Institute for Mental Health and Neuro Sciences with funding support from WOA and World Health Organisation. As per the recent publication on [human rabies burden](#) in India, it is claimed that human deaths due to rabies has drastically reduced to 5700 cases annually from 20,000 annually, reported about twenty years ago.

Nepal

Dr Barun Sharma, Dr Pragya Koirala and Dr Anil Regmi joined from the Department of Livestock Services of Nepal. Dr Anil informed that their national strategic plan is yet to be approved and in 2023 they reported Arctic like lineage of rabies virus circulating in Nepal. They have one central, one provincial and 5 sub-national laboratories. The lateral flow assays are used in the peripheral laboratories and confirmation is done using DFA at the central laboratory which also has PCR facilities. One significant development noted is the upgradation of the diagnostic facilities at Dhangadi veterinary laboratory that has been recently refurbished to start DFA and molecular tests in two months. Following the WOA training in January 2023, the two trainees are confidently conducting brain sampling using the occipito-foramen sampling and providing cascaded training in enhancing rabies surveillance. Since June 2023, DLS conducted training on WOA-recommended brain sampling to 583 veterinarians and veterinary technicians.

Since 2022, Nepal has seen a surge in number of positive cases diagnosed with more brain samples tested. In 2024, Nepal saw rabies positivity cases rise to 82% of the samples tested in the laboratory. Besides domestic animals, rabies cases were diagnosed in mouse, red panda, jackals and other wild animals. In 2024, 491 schools covering 40891 students and teachers were

made aware of rabies prevention and control. Future plans include developing capacity for rapid fluorescent focus inhibition test (RFFIT) at the Central Veterinary Laboratory, develop the laboratory at Dhangadhi as the national reference lab for rabies diagnosis, establish DFA facilities in all sub-national Laboratories and participate in proficiency testing programs.

Cases in animals were correlated to cases in humans as when more cases are seen in animals, the same trend occurs in humans. However, not all human cases are reported to hospitals and these cases are missed. Recently, a case of rabies in human was diagnosed at the CVL which demonstrates good collaboration with human health sector using one health approach. Nepal also reported having repository of animal brain samples including from wild animals and they need to get approval from wildlife health authority before shipment can be done. Nepal plans to set up molecular and phylogenetic analysis on its own and therefore they are interested in doing proficiency testing with KVAFSU and were requesting PT panels from KVAFSU.

Key challenges included lack of dog population estimation, increasing dog population, increasing interaction between domestic and wild animals leading to increasing cases of rabies in wild animals.

Pakistan

Dr Muhammad Abubakar and Dr Ali Raza Nizamani attended the meeting. Dr Abubakar shared that Pakistan reports annual human deaths between 2,000 and 5,000 with 99% originating from dog bites. During the last six months period of 2024, around 170,169 dog bites were reported. Only 22% of the population are aware of rabies fatality and the PEP coverage in rural areas is less than 50%. In Karachi city alone, in 2024, 18 human deaths were reported with daily average of 160 dog bite cases. Major constraints include lack of one health approach, lack of sensitization of policy makers for animal rabies control, weak animal disease surveillance system, limited access to modern rabies vaccines and immunoglobulins, and limited budget for rabies control.



Sri Lanka

Dr E. R. R. Wimalasinghe and Dr W. M. A. D. Wanninayake (Anushika) attended the meeting. Dr Anushika informed that in Sri Lanka, rabies control at national level is being led by the Public Health Veterinary Services (PHVS) under the Ministry of Health in which awareness programs, mass dog vaccination and dog sterilisation are undertaken. They have programs on awareness for the public, mass dog vaccination, and the sterilisation program. The estimated dog population is around 3 million and vaccination coverage for 2023 is about 1,317,422 and for the 2024 about 1,281,990. Annually an estimated 250,000 dog bites are being reported of which about 100,000 individuals receive post exposure prophylaxis at government hospitals. In 2023 and 2024 they recorded 16 and 20 human deaths, respectively. Following the WOA-H-KVAFSU laboratory diagnosis training in 2023, national training was organised wherein 10 veterinary investigation officers were trained in Sri Lanka. In 2023, they could send 180 animal brain samples without having to send the whole animal head, a practice they followed up till the WOA-H training in 2023. In 2024, they could collect 250 brain samples of which 14 were positive to rabies. Thus, over the years, we see an increase in the number of samples being collected and tested for rabies. Under the Fleming Fund grant, they have plans to develop 5 peripheral laboratories of which one laboratory will be developed as a rabies diagnostic laboratory.

It was also clarified that Sri Lanka is still interested to pursue the piloting of oral rabies vaccination.

Updates from WOA-H RRAP

Dr Kinzang Dukpa provided the following update:

- Recent initiatives in the Asia Pacific region on rabies control including development of sub-national action plans in India, NSP developments in Cambodia, Bhutan, Lao PDR, Sri Lanka and plans in Pakistan to develop their NSP.
- Completion of piloting of oral rabies vaccination trials in Indonesia, Thailand, and Cambodia and Thailand using ORV as part of official vaccination program and Indonesia having **the Rabitec®** oral rabies vaccine now registered and officially approved for use
- WOA-H supported piloting of Oral Rabies Vaccination (ORV) in [Cambodia](#), February 2024



- [Asia-Pacific Rabies Meeting](#), 16-18 July 2024, Bangkok, Thailand after a gap of 6 years
- [Regional Training Workshop on Rabies Diagnosis for South-East Asia](#), 21-25 October 2024, Bengaluru, India wherein human and animal health staff joined the training using one health approach
- [2nd WOAHA Regional Training on Mass Dog Vaccination](#), November 2024, Chiangmai, Thailand. Key topics covered included Mass Dog Vaccination concepts, methods, tools (WVS App, Hand catching), Dog Population Management (dog population surveys), rabies surveillance (sampling and lateral flow assays)

Updates from KVAFSU

Dr Isloor made the updates as follows:

- KVAFSU will soon develop the SOPs in Word format and share with Members for sample submission to the Reference Laboratory for laboratory diagnosis and molecular characterisation purposes.
- Members were requested to preserve the brain samples in -20 or -80 degree refrigerators before sending to KVAFSU

There were several other activities undertaken by KVAFSU to support initiatives on rabies control in India.

Technical presentations

Two technical presentations were made to present issues of topical interest to the Network Members.

SOPs for submission of samples to KVAFSU - Dr Shrikrishna Isloor

KVAFSU as the WOAHA Reference Laboratory is mandated to provide referral diagnostic services to SAARC Members. However, it has been observed that Members find it difficult to send samples to KVAFSU owing to lack of information on different documentation processes to be completed. Therefore, there was a need to explain the process of shipping samples to KVAFSU given the various requirements of sender and recipient countries and other national, regional and international requirements such as International Air Transport Association (IATA) and World

Customs Organisation (WCO). As Rabies virus falls under Category A highly infectious substance (UN 2814) as per IATA, exporting countries should fulfil the documentation requirements as well as packaging requirements. The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying as the Competent Authority provided permission to KVAFSU to receive rabies samples from SAARC Members since 2022. However, pre- and post-import conditions need to be met. Details of sample collection, labelling, preservation, packing and documentation was explained including the use of FTA card (Flinders Technology Associates). FTA cards may be used to submit rabies RNA samples with negligible risk as rabies virus is inactivated but RNA can still be used for PCR. KVAFSU will develop detailed SOPs in Word documents and share with Members soon. Training on IATA requirements of laboratory technicians was highlighted.

Proficiency testing – enhancing quality assurance of rabies diagnostic laboratories

Dr Sharada introduced the topic of proficiency testing (PT) and explained the rationale for undertaking proficiency testing and how different it is from interlaboratory comparisons (ILC). Both are usually used for quality assurance of any diagnostic laboratory or any testing laboratory for that matter. One of the mandates as a WOA Reference Laboratory for KVAFSU is to build laboratory capacity in terms of quality assurance via proficiency testing of laboratories. Dr Sharada explained the reasons of PT in mainly ensuring quality and uniformity of diagnosis and diagnostics and to ensure consistency in the results produced regardless of external factors. Intra- and inter-laboratory testing comparisons can be done by any laboratory to enhance their quality assurance. Laboratories participate in ILC/PT to obtain/maintain accreditation status for their intended objectives. PT are usually done by WOA Reference Laboratories, and that the laboratory has to be a PT certified/accredited laboratory. Currently WOA Reference Laboratory in India is not accredited to be a PT provider (ISO 17043). If a laboratory must be accredited as per the national standards, then they have to participate in ILC and PT. Participating in PT schemes allow laboratories to assess their conduct of specific tests compared to similar laboratories and provide opportunity to compare data to minimize risk of errors, biases /differences which may occur when operating in isolation.



Selection of Chair and Co-Chair

After detailed discussion, Nepal was proposed and accepted as the new Chair and Sri Lanka as the Co-Chair of the Network. It was also discussed and agreed that the TOR of the Network will be amended to include a clause that allows the serving Co-Chair to take over as the Chair upon the completion of the term of the current Chair. Nepal and Sri Lanka will serve as the Chair and Co-Chair for a term of ONE year as per the TOR of the Network.

Mentimeter Session

A short mentimeter session was held to make the meeting more interactive and to understand if the Network is serving its intended objectives and seek feedback to enhance the performance of the Network. Majority (8/12) of the respondents agreed that the Network is serving its intended purpose. There were unanimous suggestions to have in-person meetings to make the Network more active and interesting. Other suggestions were to initiate PT schemes and share research findings. For the topics to be covered in next meeting, the Members suggested to include molecular epidemiology, sharing of experiences (global), oral vaccines, vaccinology, and new diagnostic. Majority (5/9) selected the third week of August (18-22) as potential dates for the 4th SA-RABNET meeting. See annexure 2. for the full results of the *Mentimeter* session.

Table 1. Key issues and follow up actions

Issues	Follow-ups
<p>1. The lack of diagnostic kits and reagents for DFA and LFA in Afghanistan</p>	<p>1.1 Afghanistan to send formal request for support to WOAHRRAP through the WOAHD Delegate</p> <p>1.2 WOAHRRAP to explore for coordination with FAO/WHO in Afghanistan</p>
<p>2. Rabies as a transboundary issue. The need for cross-border collaboration and harmonisation rabies control across South Asia, especially amongst countries sharing borders</p>	<p>2.1 Members to continue communicating bilaterally through official platforms. For example, Bhutan WOAHD Delegate could reach out to Indian Delegate and AHC for possible harmonisation of dog vaccination along the international borders to sustain the recent efforts in Bhutan (100 percent sterilisation and vaccination of free roaming dogs and the recent initiatives on cat vaccination along the border).</p>
<p>3. Changes in the portfolio of Network Members and its effects</p>	<p>3.1 WOAHRRAP to follow up with WOAHD Delegates in reconfirming the list of Network Members and for nomination/renomination of Members as and when changes occur</p>
<p>4. Enhance rabies surveillance and generate quality</p>	<p>4.1 KVAFSU and WOAHD to continue to provide hands-on training to SAARC MSs and support transfer of technology and capacity building.</p>

<p>data for better understanding of rabies situation in South Asia</p>	<p>4.2 KVAFSU to develop SOPs for process/procedure of shipment of rabies suspected samples from Members to KVAFSU.</p> <p>4.3 Countries to ship rabies-suspected brain samples to KVAFSU for disease confirmation and further molecular studies to understand the epidemiology of rabies in South Asia (Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Nepal reported having repository of brain samples ready for shipment)</p> <p>4.4 Countries to store rabies-suspected brain samples in -20°C and below cold chain before shipment to KVAFSU.</p> <p>4.5 KVAFSU to initiate support for proficiency testing schemes once accredited as PT provider.</p>
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Next Meeting of the SA-RABNET

- 👍 The Network meeting will be held after six months, 3rd week of August 2025
- 👍 The topic (s) of the next meeting will be decided as per the *Mentimeter* findings and in consultation with all Members, WOA and KVAFSU.

Closing of the SA-RABNET Meeting

The Chair, Dr Sangay Rinchen, closed the meeting by extending his appreciation to the Members of the Network for their active participation and support. He thanked WOA RRAP and KVAFSU for the secretarial and technical support in steering the Network activities smoothly over the last few years. He extended his best wishes to the new Chair and Co-Chair of the Network and thanked all Members for their support.

MEETING MATERIALS

The agenda and presentations are available at the WOA Regional Representation website at

[Third Meeting: South Asia Rabies Laboratory Network \(SA-RABNET\) - WOA - Asia](#)

Annexures 1. List of attendees

Members	Name	Designation and Affiliation	Remarks
Participants from the countries of South Asia			
Afghanistan	Dr Mohammad Ibrahim Froten	Head of Epidemiology Department	Attended (new Member)
	Dr Hamidullah Tawfiq	Head, Diagnosis Laboratory, General Directorate of Animal Health and Production	Attended
Bangladesh	Dr. Md. Mostofa Kamal	Director of Research, Training, and Evaluation at the Livestock Research Institute, Department of Livestock Services, Dhaka	Attended
	Dr Md Golam Azam Chowdhury	Principal Scientific Officer Central Disease Investigation Laboratory Department of Livestock Services	Attended
Bhutan	Dr Sangay Rinchen	Deputy Chief Veterinary Officer National Centre for Animal Health Department of Livestock	Attended
	Dr Nirmal Kumar Thapa	Head, Laboratory Services Unit National Centre for Animal Health Department of Livestock	Attended
	Mrs Puspa Maya Sharma	Laboratory Services Unit National Centre for Animal Health Department of Livestock	Attended
India	Dr Jyoti Misri	Principal Scientist Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare	Attended
	Dr Swapna Susan Abraham	Disease Investigation Officer State Institute for Animal Diseases Kerala	Attended
	Dr Durlav Prasad Bora	Department of Microbiology Assam Agriculture University	Attended
Nepal	Dr Barun Kumar Sharma	Central Veterinary Laboratory	Attended
	Dr Pragya Koirala	Senior Veterinary Officer, Central Veterinary Laboratory	Apologies



Members	Name	Designation and Affiliation	Remarks
	Dr Anil Regmi	Central Veterinary Laboratory	Additional participant
Pakistan	Dr Khurshid Ahmad	Director General National Veterinary Laboratory	Apologies
	Dr Ali Raza Nizamani	Senior Research Officer (Virology) Central Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, Sindh Province	Attended
	Dr Muhammad Abubakar	Senior scientific officer National Veterinary Laboratory, NARC Gate 2, Park Road Islamabad, Pakistan	Attended
Sri Lanka	Dr E. R. R. Wimalasinghe	Veterinary Investigation Officer Department of Animal Production and Health	Attended
	Dr W. M. A. D. Wanninayake	Veterinary Research Officer Department of Animal Production and Health	Attended
Organisers			
Karnataka Veterinary Animal & Fisheries Sciences University	Dr Shrikrishna Isloor	Professor and Laboratory Director, WOAH Reference Laboratory for Rabies Veterinary College, KVAFSU	Attended
	Dr Sharada Ramakrishnaiah	Associate Professor and Quality Manager, WOAH Reference Laboratory for Rabies, Veterinary College, KVAFSU	Attended
	Dr N. K. Shivakumar Gowda	Dean Veterinary College, KVAFSU, Bengaluru	Attended
WOAH	Dr Hirofumi Kugita	Regional Representative, WOAH RRAP	Attended
	Dr Kinzang Dukpa	Regional One Health Coordinator, WOAH RRAP	Attended
	Dr Pondpan Suwanthada	Regional AMR Project Officer, WOAH RRAP	Attended
Observers			
Hong Kong SAR	Dr Lucia Law	WOAH RRAP Intern	Attended
WOAH	Thitiwan Patanasatienkul	WOAH RRAP	Attended



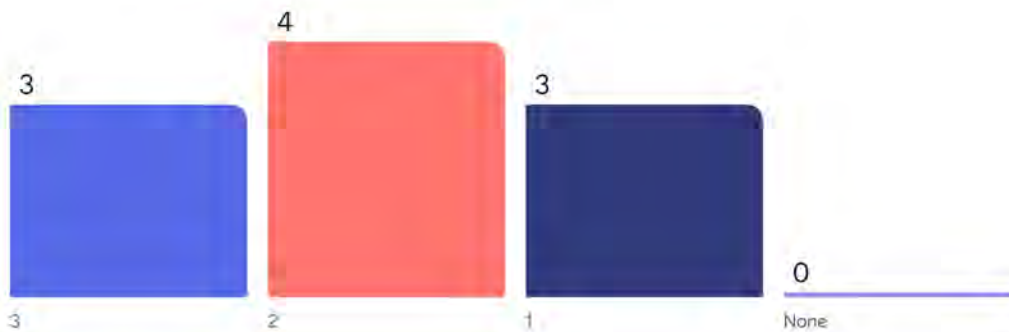
Annexures 2. Agenda

Topics	Speaker	India Time (+5.5 GMT)	Duration
Welcome	Dr Kinzang Dukpa, WOAHR RAP Dr Shrikrishna Isloor, KVAFSU	2 PM	5 min
Adoption of agenda	Dr Sangay Rinchen, Chair, SA-RABNET	2:05	5 min
Adoption of the Meeting Report of the 2 nd SA-RABNET and discussion on follow-ups	Chair, SA-RABNET	2:10	10 min
Members' updates on follow-up actions from 2 nd SA-RABNET and other recent actions/progress on rabies diagnosis, prevention and control activities	All Members in alphabetical order (5 mins each x 7) Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka	2:20	35 min
KVAFSU and WOAHR's updates on follow-up from 2 nd SA-RABNET	KVAFSU/WOAHR	2:55	10 min
Discussion	Chair	3:05	10 min
Health break/ Intermission		3:15	5 min
SOPs for submission of samples to KVAFSU	KVAFSU	3:30	10 min
Discussion	Chair	3:40	10 min
Interlaboratory proficiency testing – enhancing quality assurance of rabies diagnostic laboratories	KVAFSU	3:50	10 min
Discussion	Chair	4:00	10 min
Selection of new Chair and Co-Chair of the Network	Chair	4:10	15 min
AOB	Chair	4:25	10 min
Discussion and wrap up	Chair	4:35	5 min

Annexure 3. Results of mentimeter session

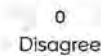
Mentimeter

How many meetings of the South Asia Rabies Laboratory Network (SA-RABNET) have you attended including today's meeting?



Mentimeter

Do you agree that the SA-RABNET is achieving its goal of enhancing rabies surveillance and control through collaboration and coordination?





Mentimeter

Do you have any suggestions to make the SA-RABNET more useful and interesting?

Practical implementation of joint surveillance activity among member states	sometimes physical meet would be beneficial	Yes...there should be one physical meeting once in a year.	Open physical meetings. More frequent
Initiate Proficiency testing	Experince sharing, PT,, recognizing leaders.	Legal basis	Share research findings



Mentimeter

Do you have any suggestions to make the SA-RABNET more useful and interesting?

More coordination physical meeting	Physical meeting once a year
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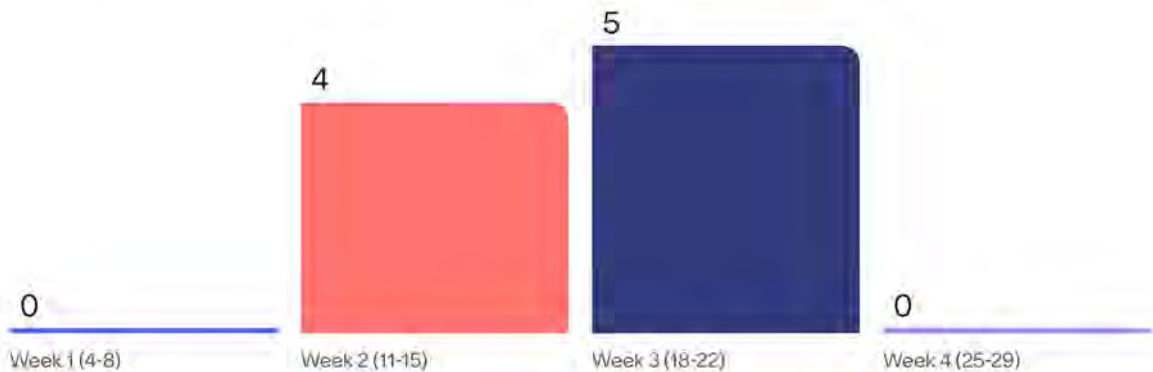
Please suggest potential topics for the next SA-RABNET meeting

13 responses



Mentimeter

Please select the week best suited for the 4th SA-RABNET meeting in August 2025



Annexure 4. Meeting participants

