



Foot-and-mouth Disease

Global risks and vaccine selection

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Acknowledgements: Valerie Mioulet, Nick Knowles, Anna Ludi, Britta Wood, Ginette Wilsden, Krupali Parekh, Andrew Shaw, Antonello Di Nardo, Nuredlina Prior, Jemma Wadsworth, Clare Browning, Mark Henstock, Deyzi Santos, Hayley Hicks, Victoria Chantler, David Paton, Dexter Wiseman, Ali Al-Rashed, Jozhel Baguisi, Harry Bull, Ryle Walter, Amy Sowood, Sarah Belgrave, Jessie Trussler



Pirbright receives strategic funding from BBSRC UKRI



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FMD Reference Laboratory

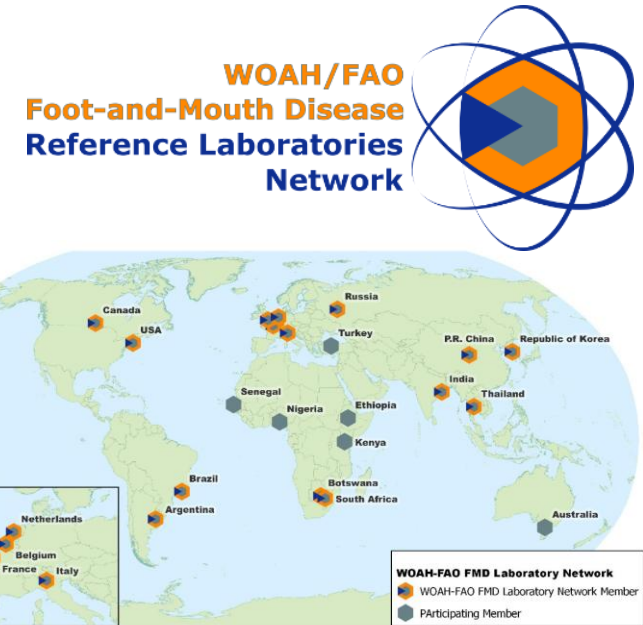
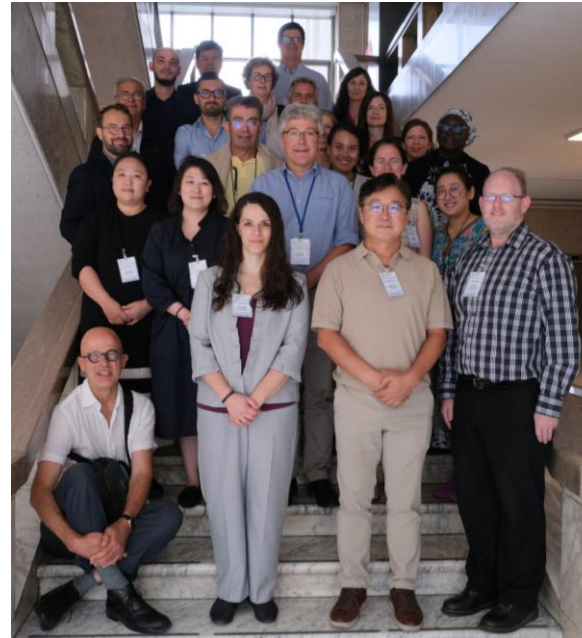


[**www.pirbright.ac.uk**](http://www.pirbright.ac.uk)

WOAH/FAO FMD Laboratory Network for FMD

www.foot-and-mouth.org

- Established in 2004
- 15 WOAH and FAO laboratories
- Important contribution of “affiliates” -leading regional laboratories in Africa and Asia where the disease is endemic
- Core activities of the Network:
 - **Using data shared between partners.....** to understand global epidemiology of FMDV and use these data to inform vaccine recommendations
 - To harmonise and improve the quality of laboratory testing

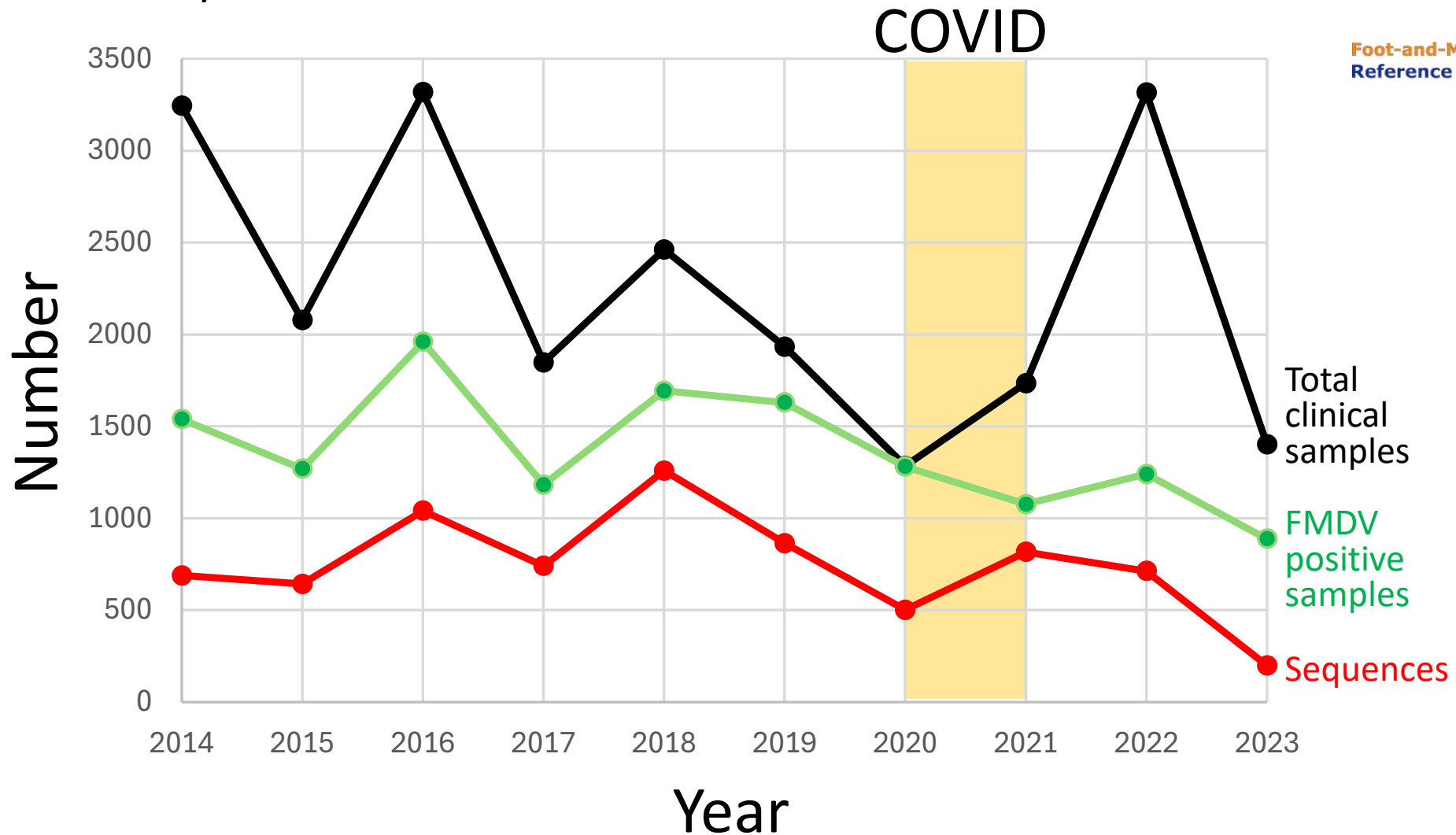


Network Meeting, Rome, September 2024

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Reported samples across the global Network

From clinical cases/outbreaks.....

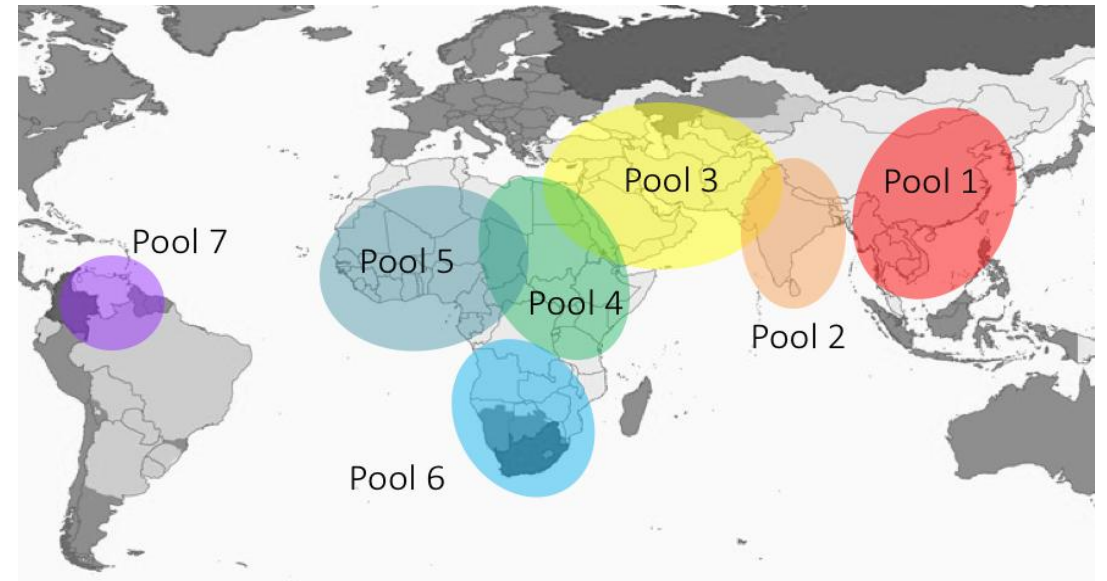
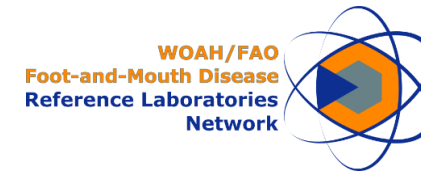


WOAH/FAO
Foot-and-Mouth Disease
Reference Laboratories
Network

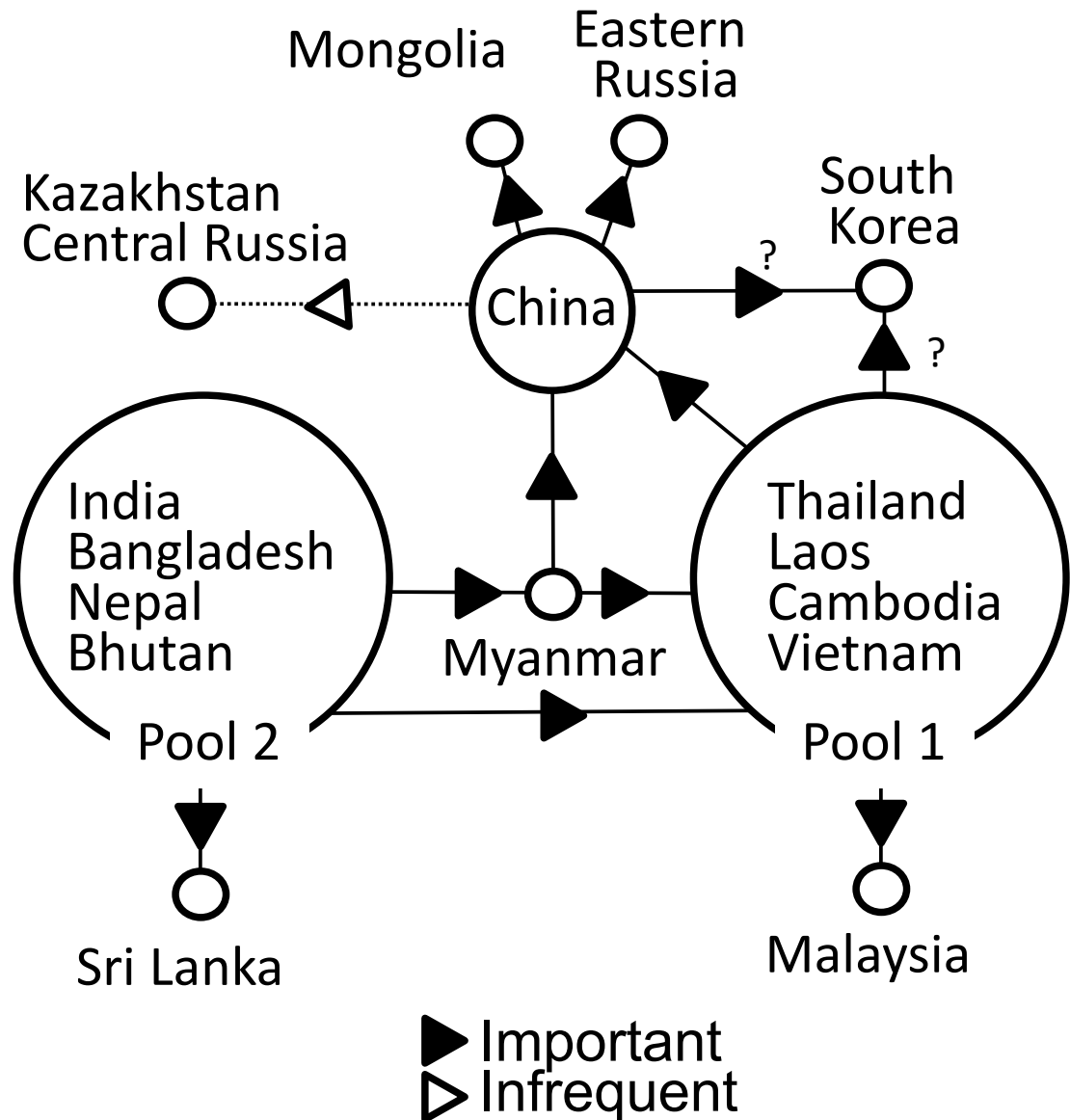


FMD epidemiology: global summary

- The epidemiology of FMD is dynamic; defined by:
 - Seven virus ecosystems (pools) that maintain specific FMDV strains requiring tailored diagnostics and vaccines
 - Six circulating FMDV serotypes with an unequal distribution (NB: Serotype C has not been detected globally since 2004)
 - Long-distance “trans-pool” movements of FMDV lineages which are often unpredictable
- **International partnerships are essential to collate, share and analyse data**



Conjectured FMDV connections: South Asia, Southeast/East Asia



Viral sequences highlight most frequent connections between countries (reflect trade and animal movements)

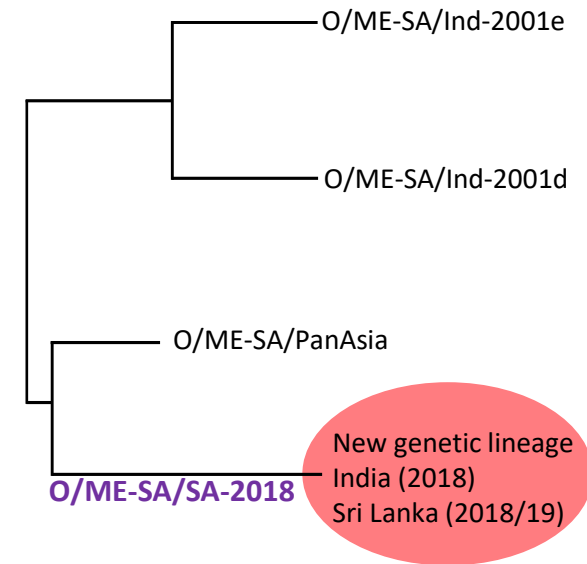
Potential risk pathways:

- Illegal imports
- Import of fodder
- Overseas workers
- Returning travellers
- Wildlife



Brewing up the next serotype O virus lineage from Pool 2

- History tells us that pandemic serotype O lineages emerge from **Pool 2**
- O/ME-SA/SA-2018 lineage detected in Pool 2 (India, Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka)
- Lineage estimated to represent ~ 40% of serotype O cases in India
- Detected in Pool 3 (UAE and Oman) in 2021 in small ruminants (and perhaps also in Iran?)
- Scope to spread more widely – following pathways for O/ME-SA/Ind-2001 (d and e)
- Vaccine matching for this lineage appears to be similar to O/ME-SA/Ind-2001e



<https://www.thinglink.com/scene/451911993104793602>

Emergence of O/ME-SA/SA-2018 in Pool 3

- Previous incursions into Pool 3 (UAE and Oman) in 2021 in small ruminants
- 2023/4: further evidence for infection in Iran, Palestinian AT and Türkiye
- **2025: cases due to this lineage detected in Iraq and Israel**
- Sequences from Palestine/Israel are distinct to those from Türkiye, Iraq and Iran (~4% nt dif.)
- **Data support multiple recent introductions of this lineage from Pool 2**
- **This lineage poses a risk for countries in Southeast Asia**



Vaccine Matching data
is available for 9 field
isolates from the O/ME-
SA/SA-2018 lineage

Isolate	O1-Manisa ^{BI}		O-TUR/5/09 ^{MSD}		O-3039 ^{BI}		O-Campos ^{BI}		O-PanAsia-2 ^{BI}		O-Campos ^{BB}	
	r1value	heterologous titre (log ₁₀)	r1value	heterologous titre (log ₁₀)	r1value	heterologous titre (log ₁₀)	r1value	heterologous titre (log ₁₀)	r1value	heterologous titre (log ₁₀)	r1value	heterologous titre (log ₁₀)
UAE/15/2021	0.56	2.15	0.69	2.32	0.75	1.94	0.28	2.19	0.47	2.30	0.51	2.63
UAE/9/2021	0.44	2.04	0.68	2.32	0.59	1.83	0.23	2.10	0.32	2.13	0.60	2.70
NEP/13/2022	0.63	2.33	1.00	2.32	1.00	2.02	0.40	2.28	0.57	2.35	0.51	2.65
NEP/26/2022	0.32	2.04	0.68	2.15	0.66	1.82	0.23	2.03	0.32	2.10	0.20	2.29
NEP/38/2022	0.98	2.45	0.89	2.29	0.84	2.00	0.45	2.17	0.50	2.31	0.66	2.71
NEP/13/2024	0.88	2.40	0.78	2.23	0.82	1.99	0.74	2.27	0.99	2.49	0.68	2.72
IRQ/10/2025	0.73	2.23	0.62	2.23	0.46	1.87	0.38	2.22	0.50	2.21	0.59	2.64
IRQ/21/2025	0.70	2.22	0.71	2.29	0.64	2.01	0.39	2.23	0.54	2.24	0.50	2.56
GER/1/2025	1.00	2.41	0.97	2.37	0.84	1.96	0.48	2.06	0.56	2.15	0.58	2.44

Updated FMD risks for Pool 3 (since 2020)

New virus introductions
from South Asia and
East Africa:

Estimated
number of
incursions

Lineage	x
SAT2/XIV	5
SAT1/I	2-3
O/EA-2	1
O/EA-3	2
A/AFRICA/G-I	2

East Africa
(Pool 4)

West Asia,
Gulf States and ME
(Pool 3)

Endemic FMDV lineages:

- O/ME-SA/PanAsia-2*
- A/ASIA/Iran-05
First cases in Türkiye in six years
(09/24)
- Asia 1

*Note: New O/ME-SA/PanAsia-2
designations are proposed by Jamal et al.,
(2025) Emergence of new sublineages of
serotype O foot-and-mouth disease viruses
circulating in Pakistan during 2012-2021.
Virology **605**: 110455

South Asia
(Pool 2)

Lineage	x
O/ME-SA/SA-2018	~5
O/ME-SA/Ind-2001e	
A/ASIA/G-VII†	

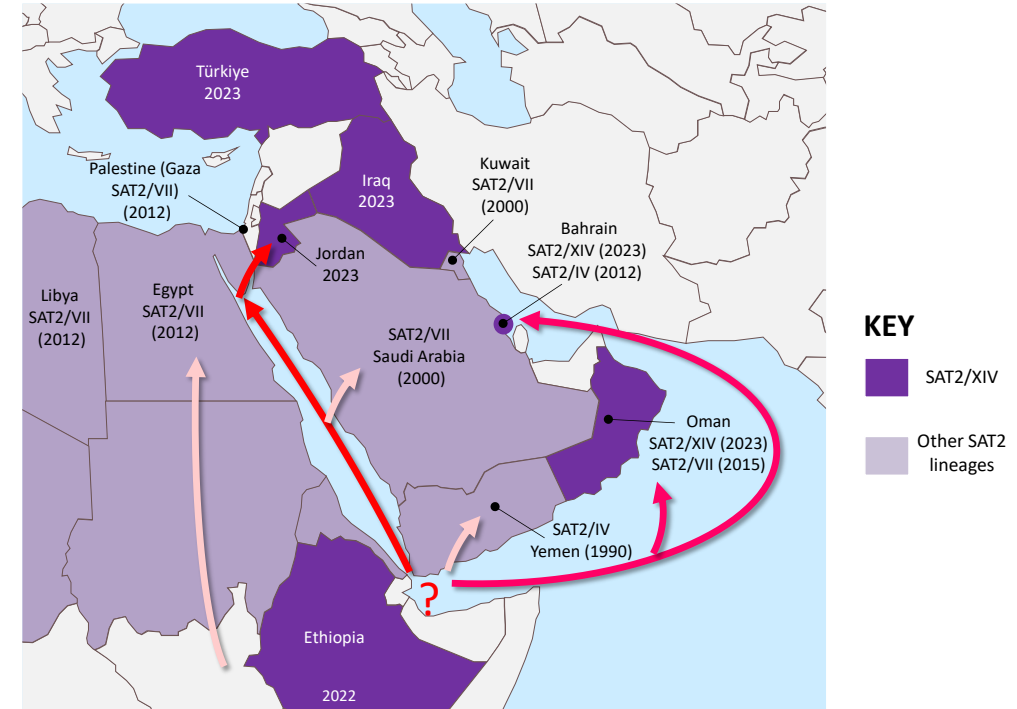
†Last reports cases in Pool 3 were in 2018 (Iran)

2023: New FMD outbreaks due to the SAT2/XIV topotype

- VP1 sequence data and samples:
kindly shared by colleagues at: Central Veterinary laboratory and Researches Veterinary Dept, Iraq; FMD (ŞAP) Institute, Türkiye; JUST, Jordan, Central Laboratory of Animal Health, Oman; Sultan Qaboos University, Oman; ANSES, France and AHI, Ethiopia



- Most closely related to sequences recovered from samples collected in SW Ethiopia in 2022
- To our knowledge, this is the first time that serotype SAT 2 has been detected in Iraq, Jordan or Türkiye
- Topotype XIV has been detected on only one other previous occasion – in 1991



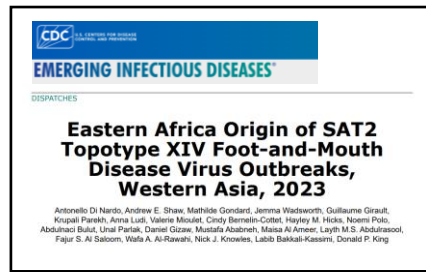
Arrows represent putative transmission pathways in the region (based on sequence relationships for previous outbreaks)

Recent detection of other East African FMDVs in the Gulf States (since 2020):
A/AFRICA/G-I Bahrain (2021)
O/EA-3 Bahrain (2021)
SAT 1 – Qatar (2023)

Network of Genetic Diversity

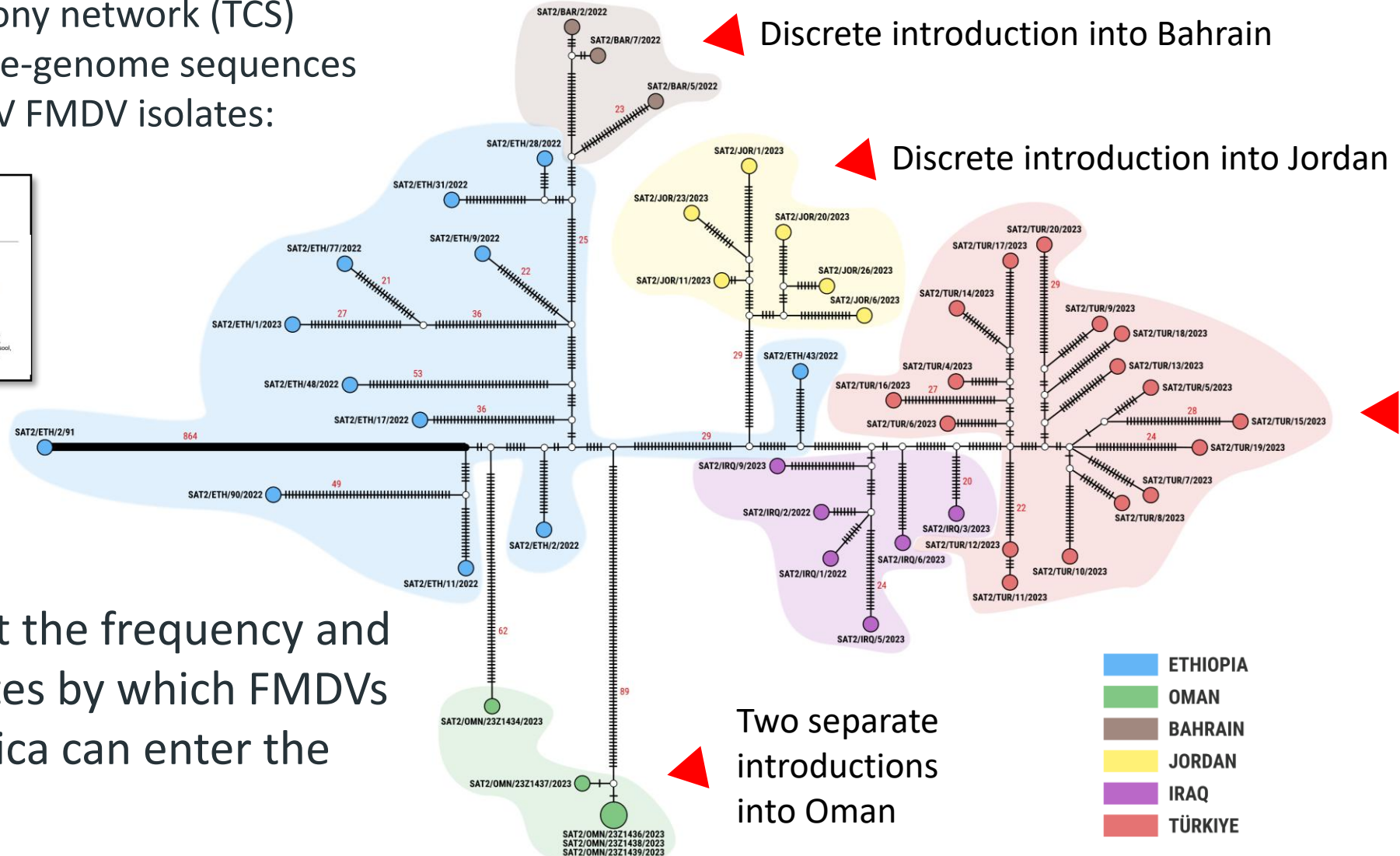
evidence for 5 introductions of the SAT2/XIV topotype

Statistical parsimony network (TCS)
based on 51 whole-genome sequences
(WGS) of SAT2/XIV FMDV isolates:



Published:
Di Nardo et al., (2025) *Emerging Infectious Diseases* 31 (2)

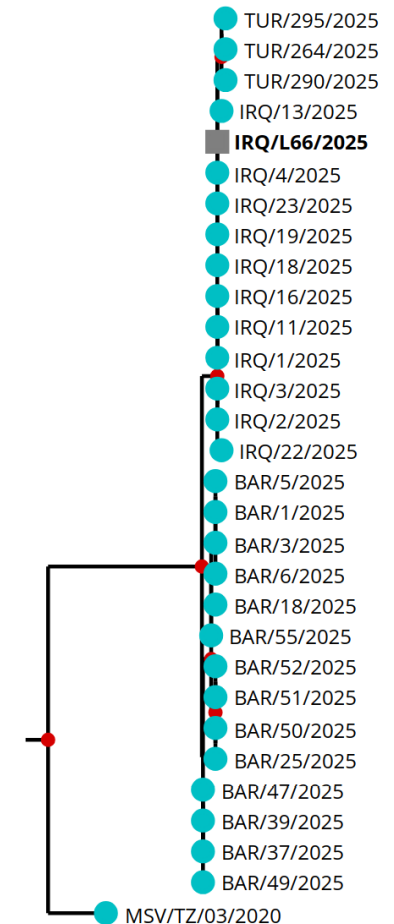
Data highlight the frequency and different routes by which FMDVs from East Africa can enter the Middle East



2025: Emergence of serotype SAT1/I in the Middle East

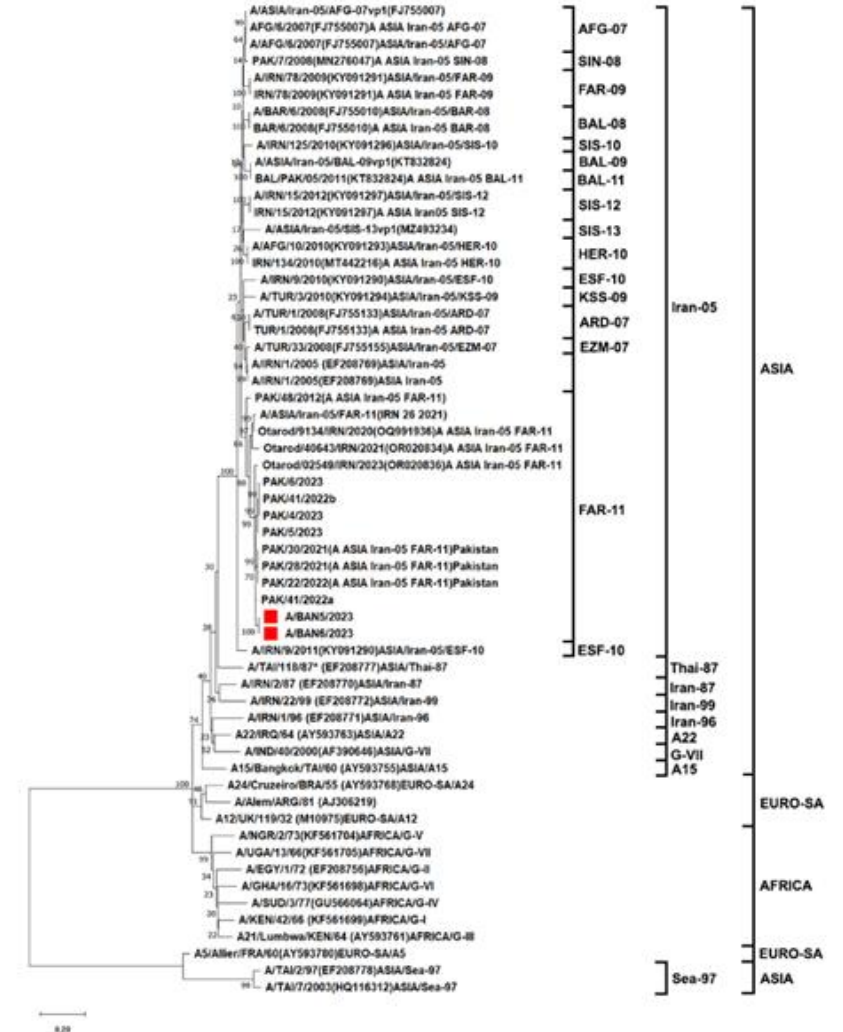
Bahrain, Kuwait, Iraq and Türkiye

- Reports of an upsurge of FMD outbreaks in Iraq where local testing (by agELISA) identified serotype SAT1 and O viruses
- **SAT1/I detected in samples sent to WRLFMD**
- Closest genetic relative from Tanzania 2020
- >15% nt difference to the sequences from Qatar (2023)
- Animals are naïve to this serotype - potential for rapid spread
- **ALERT FROM FAO** (<https://doi.org/10.4060/cd5055en>)
- **Monitoring the spread of this exotic virus – data sharing is critical**
- SAT1 also reported (WAHIS) for outbreaks in Kuwait (April 2025) and Türkiye (May 2025)
- SAT1/I lineage-specific real-time RT-PCRs and Ag-ELISA are able to detect and discriminate viruses from this topotype

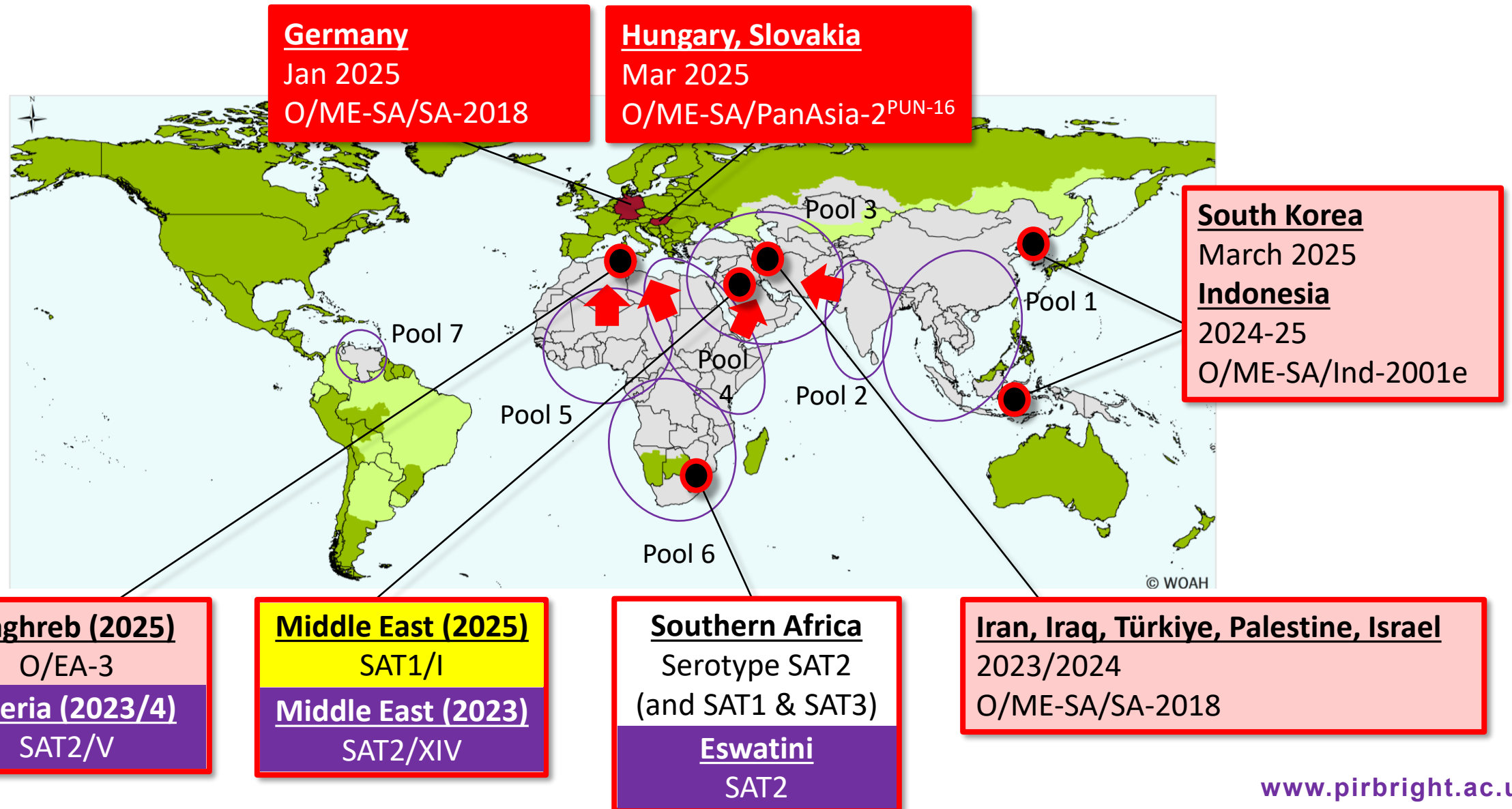


Detection of A/ASIA/Iran-05 in Bangladesh

- Viruses that originate from Pool 3 are not normally detected in Pool 2
- A/ASIA/Iran-05 has been historically confined to Pool 3, particularly within Iran, Pakistan, and the Western Asia region
- 2023 – two samples of A/ASIA/Iran-05^{FAR-11} detected in Bangladesh
- Most closely related to viruses from Pakistan (2021-2023)
- Provides evidence for connectivity between Pool 3 and Pool 2



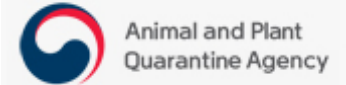
Headline global status for FMD (new events: August 25)



Pool 1: Status in 2025 – what is missing?

Characterisation of different FMD virus lineages

Based on data from WRLFMD, RRLSEA, the WOAHA/FAO Lab Network, publications* and reported @SEACFMD



Country	O					A		Asia-1
	ME-SA/Ind-2001e	SEA / Mya-98	CATHAY	ME-SA / PanAsia	ME-SA/ PanAsia-2	ASIA / Sea-97	ASIA/Ind	
Cambodia	2024	2016		2024		2016		
Laos	2020	2017		2023		2018		
Malaysia	2022	2016	2005	2023	2009	2022		
Myanmar	2021	2021				2021	2010	2017
Thailand	2024	2018	2012	2019		2022		
Vietnam	2023	2023	2018	2023		2017		2007
PR China	2023	2020	2022	2019		2019		2009
Indonesia	2025							
Mongolia	2022	2018		2017		2016		

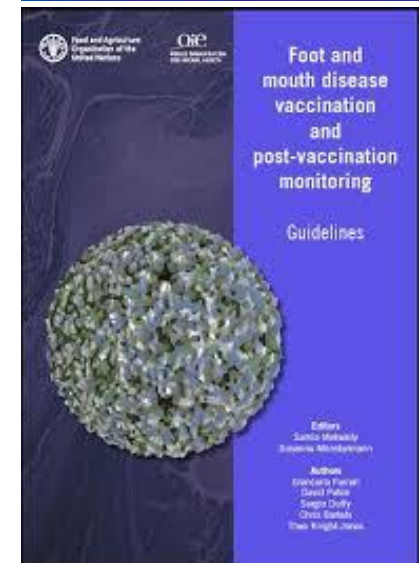
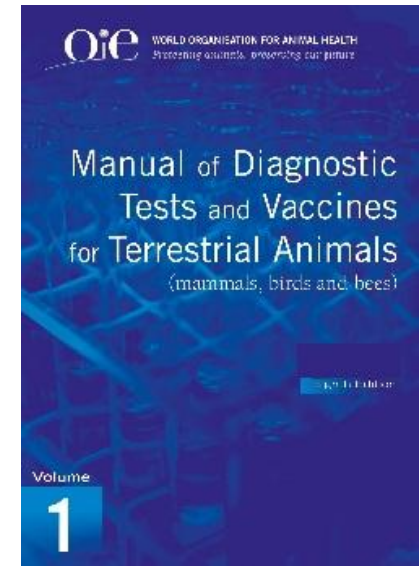
*Recent papers: Khanh et al., (2025)

Vaccine selection for endemic settings (gaps and challenges)

1. Homologous/monovalent QA/QC (WOAH Terrestrial Manual) vs heterologous vaccine performance **in the field** with multivalent products
2. Vaccine-matching (r_1 -values) considers strain suitability but NOT the quantity/quality/combinations of antigens in a final product (and is limited due to access to vaccine strains and BVS)

Proposed testing:

- Increased focus on measurement of heterologous responses
- Using final formulated product supplied to customers
- Use common/standardized FMDV viruses (Antigen Panels) representative of the antigenic threats in a region – proposal for reference antigens for East Africa
(<https://www.wrlfmd.org/node/2096/>)



The important question about vaccine quality.....

- Paper published in May 2025:

npj | vaccines

Published in partnership with the Sealy Institute for Vaccine Sciences

Article



<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41541-025-01128-7>

An antigen panel to assess the regional relevance of foot and mouth disease vaccines

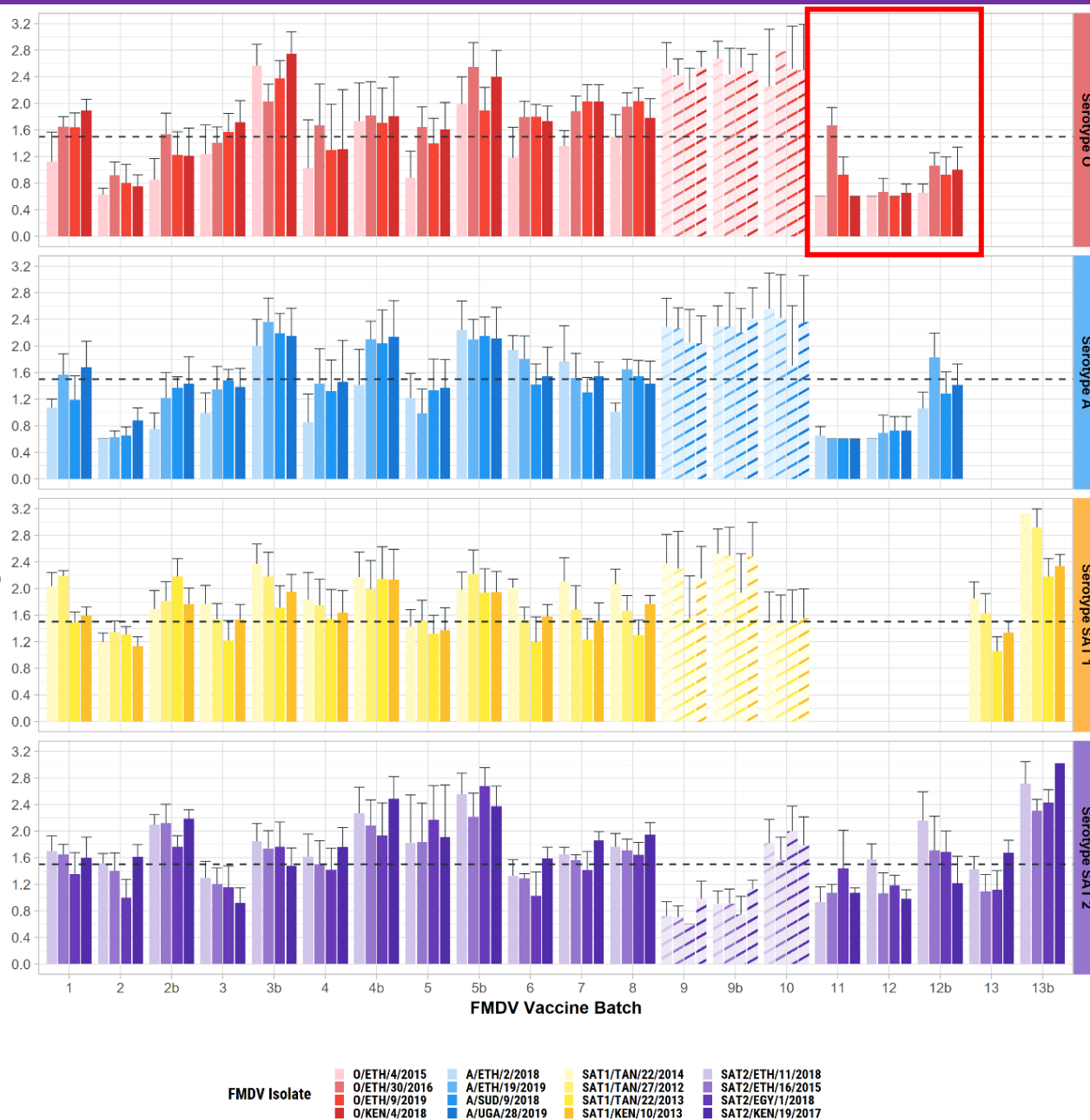


Check for updates

David J. Paton¹✉, Ginette Wilsden¹, Clare FJ Browning¹, Efrem A. Foglia², Antonello Di Nardo¹, Nick J. Knowles¹, Jemma Wadsworth¹, Simon Gubbins¹, Ethel Chitsungo³, Cisse Rahamatou Moustapha Boukary³, Gelagay Ayelet³, Charles S. Bodjo³, Nick Nwankpa³, Emiliana Brocchi², Santina Grazioli², Anna Ludi¹ & Donald P. King¹



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Independent testing

- Data for commercial FMD vaccines used in East Africa
- Data for 5 suppliers (13 batches)
- Cattle sera (minimum of 5 animals) primary course (+/- booster)
- VNT 1.5 log₁₀ cut-off for four antigens/serotype
- Important to recruit seronegative animal
- Identifies vaccines with poor responses, and reinforces the benefits of booster vaccination

Advantages of “heterologous” testing pipeline

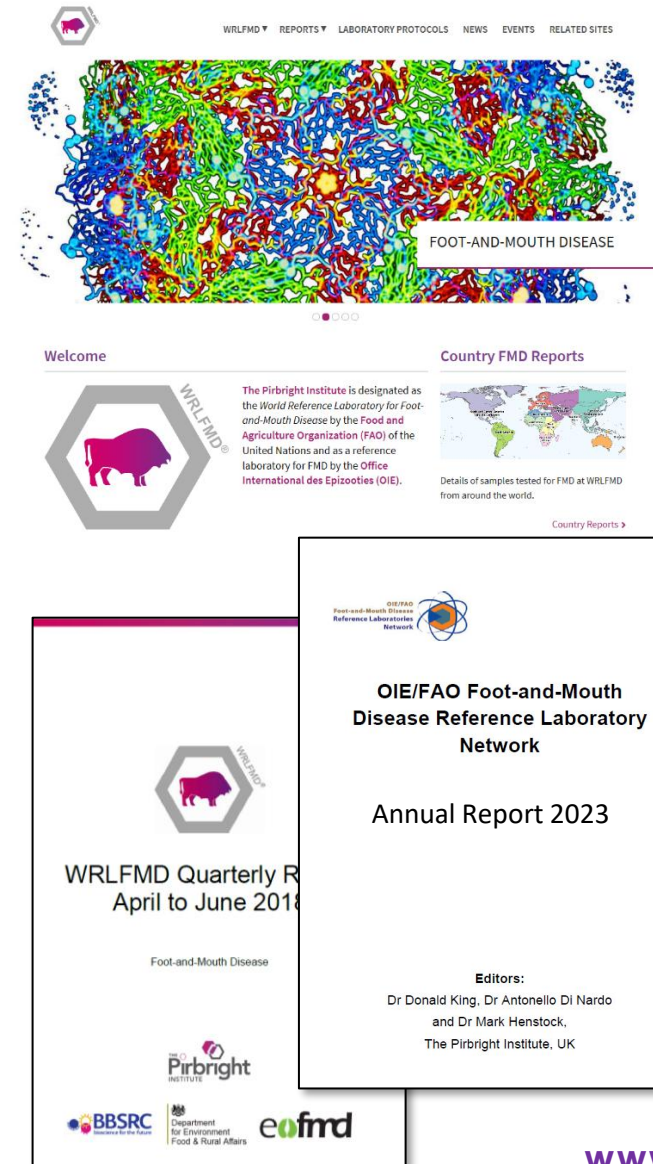
1. Serological performance is assessed using the **formulated vaccine** which may contain multiple FMD vaccine antigens
2. Data can be used to compare responses for different vaccines
 - But need to adopt standardized protocols for sera (numbers of animals and sampling time points [including booster doses])
3. Testing can be designed to assess animal-to-animal variability of responses in target host populations (incl. different species)
4. Once generated, the reference sera can be used to assess the suitability of the vaccines in other regions or against emerging virus lineages
5. Reference antigen panels can be developed in partnership with regional networks
 - **Proposal for Pool 1 shortly**

Talk summary

- Epidemiology of FMD is very dynamic
- New patterns due to virus incursions from East Africa and southern Asia
- Circulation of different FMD virus lineages impact the selection of appropriate vaccines to control outbreaks
- **New risks for countries in Southeast Asia**
- Sampling of field outbreaks is critical.....
- WRLFMD and the WOAHA/FAO Lab Network welcome sample submissions
 - Testing is free of charge
 - Contact: donald.king@pirbright.ac.uk
- Testing/evaluation of FMD vaccines is important
 - Vaccine matching
 - Heterologous testing
 - Small scale immunogenicity studies and evaluation of FMD vaccines in the field

Further information.....

- FMD reports and lab testing (<https://www.wrlfmd.org/ref-lab-reports>)
 - *Genotyping reports, Vaccine matching and Serotyping reports*
- Other data sources:
 - Quarterly WRLFMD/EuFMD report (<https://www.wrlfmd.org/ref-lab-reports>)
 - Annual report of the WOA/FAO FMD Laboratory Network (<http://foot-and-mouth.org/>)
 - OpenFMD (www.openfmd.org) – sequences, genotyping, vaccine selection and surveillance



Thanks:



- Collaborating FMD Reference Laboratories and field teams
- Partners within the WOAHA/FAO FMD Lab Network
- Support for the WRLFMD and research projects
- IAEA

