

Concept note

WOAH-CC joint training on translating epidemiological evidence for policy design

Background:

In the veterinary epidemiology short training in Rakuno Gakuen University (RGU) for professional veterinarians in 2023 in Japan, participants expressed strong interest in future trainings on critical appraisal of peer reviewed epidemiological publications to support evidence-based policy design and decision making. This feedback highlighted the importance of critical reading and analysis of epidemiological papers in designing well-targeted and rational disease prevention and control and revealing a gap in the provision of such training opportunities.

Purpose:

This training program offers an opportunity to policy makers at an early career stage to familiarize themselves with translating critical epidemiological evidence for policy development and decision making. It is a mission for the WOAHC Collaborating Centre (CC) to support capacity development of the WOAHC Members, and collaborations between the WOAHC CCs are encouraged. This program will be jointly conducted between the WOAHC CC for Veterinary Epidemiology and Public Health at the EpiCentre, Massey University, New Zealand, and the WOAHC CC for Food Safety at the RGU, Japan. The training materials will consist of published scientific articles from various fields related to veterinary epidemiology. The speakers will guide participants to facilitate understanding of the critical insights and factors that determine the efficacy of a disease control program.

Date: 22 (Wed) – 23 (Thu) July, 2026

Venue: Hybrid (Massey University zoom), physical venue is RGU, Hokkaido, Japan

Expected outcomes:

Participants understand the meaning of key results, methodological strengths and limitations of epidemiological paper in the context of disease transmission/incidence/disease control.

Participants are able to design a disease control program and make decisions based on peer-reviewed epidemiological evidence.

Target participants: 30+

The anticipated participants include early career officers at both central and local government for animal health and/or public health authorities in the Asia and Pacific region who engage in disease



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School of Veterinary Medicine

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for Food Safety



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prevention and control in animals and humans, students and other professionals, who are ready for active engagements in reading and discussions. Day 1 focuses on animal health, and Day2 food safety. Participants can choose the interested day(s). Participation for both dates also is an option.

Speakers (both in person and online):

Dr. Kohei Makita (RGU)

Dr. Shingo Asakura (RGU)

Dr. Naomi Cogger (EpiCentre)

Dr. Masako Wada (EpiCentre)

Donor acknowledgement:

This program is supported by the Japanese Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

Certificate of attendance:

A certificate of attendance will be awarded to participants who attend the full duration of either day, or both days, of this two-day training programme.

Schedule:

Registration period: - 22 June, 2026 (using Microsoft Forms accessed through URL in invitation or website)

Reading selected articles: 23 June – 21 July, 2026

Training program: 22 – 23 July, 2026, 9am – 4pm, Japan standard time (JST)



Day 1: 22 July, 2026 (Wed) Animal Health

Time	Contents	Speaker
8:30 – 9:00	Registration	
9:00 – 9:10	Background, purpose, and objectives	Kohei Makita
9:10 – 9:15	Self-introduction	Kohei Makita
9:15 – 9:20	Photo of Day 1	Shingo Asakura
9:20 – 9:50	Lecture: Key points of critical reading in Animal Health	Naomi Cogger
9:50 – 10:00	Break	
10:00 – 10:50	Animal health topic 1 (2 papers) Interpretation of key results	Naomi Cogger Breakout room: Shingo, Masako, Kohei
10:50 – 11:00	Break	
11:00 – 12:00	Animal health topic 1 Designing disease control exercise	Naomi Cogger Breakout room: Naomi, Kohei
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch break	
13:00 – 13:50	Animal health topic 2 (2 papers) Interpretation of key results	Masako Wada Breakout room: Naomi, Kohei
13:50 – 14:00	Break	
14:00 – 15:00	Animal health topic 2 Designing disease control exercise	Masako Wada Breakout room: Naomi, Kohei
15:00 – 15:10	Break	
15:10 – 16:00	Discussions for the application of critical reading	Naomi Cogger



Day 2: 23 July, 2026 (Thu) Food Safety

Time	Contents	Speaker
8:50 – 9:00	Registration	
9:00 – 9:10	Background, purpose, and objectives	Kohei Makita
9:10 – 9:15	Self-introduction	Kohei Makita
9:15 – 9:20	Photo of Day 2	Shingo Asakura
9:20 – 9:50	Lecture: Key points of critical reading in Food Safety	Kohei Makita
9:50 – 10:00	Break	
10:00 – 10:50	Food Safety topic 1 (2 papers) Interpretation of key results	Kohei Makita Breakout room: Shingo, Masako, Naomi
10:50 – 11:00	Break	
11:00 – 12:00	Food Safety topic 1 Designing disease control exercise	Kohei Makita Breakout room: Shingo, Masako, Naomi
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch break	
13:00 – 13:50	Food Safety topic 2 (2 papers) Interpretation of key results	Shingo Asakura Breakout room: Masako, Naomi
13:50 – 14:00	Break	
14:00 – 15:00	Food Safety topic 2 Designing disease control exercise	Shingo Asakura Breakout room: Masako, Naomi
15:00 – 15:10	Break	
15:10 – 16:00	Discussions for the application of critical reading Training evaluation	Kohei Makita