

Key outcomes from the 4th SA-RABNET Meeting

29 October 2025

5th South Asia Rabies Laboratory Network (SA-RABNET) Meeting

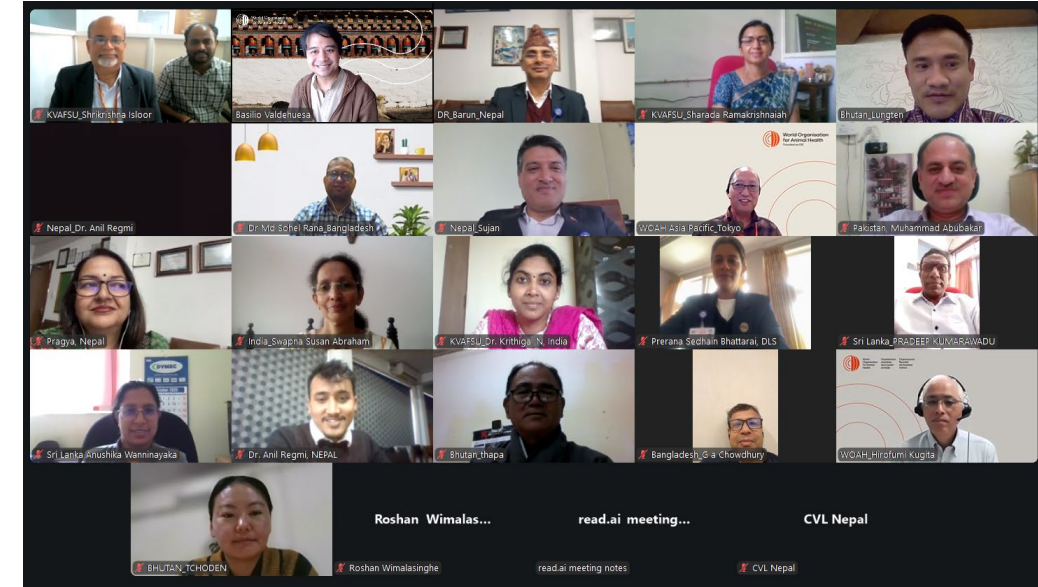
13 May 2026, 3 PM Japan time (Virtual)

Kinzang Dukpa
Regional One Health Coordinator

Key outputs from the 4th SA-RABNET Meeting

Wednesday, 29 October 2025, Zoom®, 3 PM
Japan Time (GMT+9)

- 24 attendees, including 16 Network Members
- Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka
- Members updated since the 3rd Meeting in March 2025
- A technical presentation from WOAHP Reference Laboratory (KVAFSU) on use of molecular epidemiological techniques to support rabies prevention and control.
- Member Updates
 - **Afghanistan** need support for LFAs/diagnostic kits
 - **Bangladesh** – DLS proposal for funding for dog rabies vaccination submitted to government
 - **Bhutan** – second phase of DPM, inclusion of cats and proactively addressing cross-border threats.



- **India** - Several trainings on animal brain sampling were held across India and rabies samples were submitted to State-level laboratories. Wildlife sampling and testing.
- **Nepal** - set up of DFA and PCR testing capacity at Dhangadi and DFA at Pokhara. Challenges in vaccine production
- **Pakistan** - big challenge in diagnosis and surveillance especially in animal sector.
- **Sri Lanka** – trained 6 veterinarians on brain sampling and use of LFDs



Recommendations from the 4th SA-RABNET Meeting

• Sharing of resources and learning experiences	Bangladesh to share its IBCM guideline with the rest of the Members for information and usage (pending approval from steering committee)
• Increasing incidences of rabies in wild animals	KVAFSU to support Members on rabies epidemiological studies in rabies cases in wild animals to understand if sylvatic cycle is present in South Asia.
• Rabies as a transboundary issue and use of risk-based approaches for dog vaccination	Members to make use of disease epidemiology to focus mass dog vaccination based on risks. Example: Bhutan could continue focussing its MDV along the international border where disease incidence and incursion is high and also establish contacts with authorities in India for collaborative actions for joint vaccination and rapid information sharing.
• Use of molecular techniques	KVAFSU to organise virtual training/consultations on specific molecular techniques with laboratory officials working on rabies diagnosis in South Asia.
• Lack of diagnostic kits and reagents for DFA and LFA in Afghanistan	a. Afghanistan to send formal request for support to WOAHRRAP through the WOAHR Delegate b. KVAFSU to explore sending some conjugates c. WOAHRRAP to explore for coordination with FAO/WHO in Afghanistan
• Proficiency testing	KVAFSU to support Members in conducting proficiency testing (PT) for rabies diagnostic tests

WOAH Updates since October 2025

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Publications from United Against Rabies

Methodologies for Dog Population Estimation

Version 2, April 2026



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Training of Trainers on Mass Dog Vaccination, 2-4 February 2026

Training of Trainers on dog handling and vaccination skills, 5-6 February 2026

For MDV

- Strengthen country capacity in implementing a high quality and comprehensive MDV programme to support control of dog-mediated rabies
- Enhance capacity of the key agencies in mounting effective MDV campaigns anchored on MDV principles, concepts, tools and methods.

the **first part** (2-4 February) focusing on the professionals working on rabies control in terms of planning, coordination, implementation and monitoring of rabies prevention and control activities at national, provincial and district levels.

The **second part** of the training (5-6 February) was targeted at the dog vaccinators, public health inspectors and field assistants from animal and human health sectors who were provided hands-on training on essential elements of vaccine handling, practical skills in vaccination, dog handling skills, dog catching skills, communication and education



WVS



MISSION
RABIES

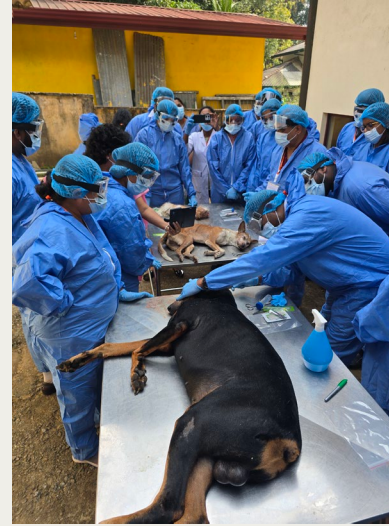




Training of Trainers on Animal Rabies Diagnosis, 9-12 February 2026

For rabies diagnosis

- Provide hands-on training on animal brain sampling and rabies diagnostic tests (lateral flow assays, direct fluorescent antibody tests, direct rapid immunohistochemistry, and molecular tests)
- Strengthen country capacity on animal rabies surveillance to support control of dog-mediated rabies.





WOAH endorsement of official control programme for dog-mediated rabies



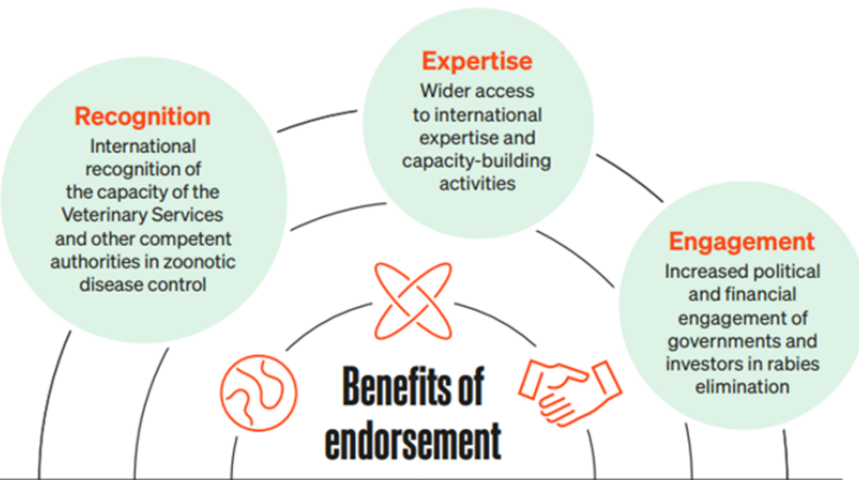
Benefits of WOAH Endorsement

2

Signifies:

1. Strong partnership with and support of national public health authorities in control of zoonotic diseases
2. Contribution to 'Zero by 30'
3. Commitment to the One Health approach
4. 4 countries achieved so far:
 - Philippines
 - Namibia
 - Zambia
 - Tanzania

Bhutan
presentation



Maximise your country's efforts against rabies

Apply for endorsement of your official control programme for dog-mediated rabies

