

ITC CONFERENCE GRANT SCIENTIFIC REPORT

This report is submitted for approval by the grantee to the MC Chair.

Action number: CA15116

Conference title: 4th GARA Workshop 2018

Conference start and end date: 11/04/2018 to 14/04/2018

Conference attendance start and end date: 12/04/2018 to 14/04/2018

Grantee name: Imbi Nurmoja

ACTIVITIES DURING YOUR ATTENDANCE AT THIS CONFERENCE:

GARA is a Global African Swine Fever Research Alliance whose mission is to establish and sustain global research partnerships that will generate scientific knowledge and tools to contribute to the successful prevention, control and where feasible eradication of African Swine Fever (ASF). Thus, the GARA workshop is considered one of the most prominent events in the world on the field of ASF research.

My thesis on the subject: "Epidemiology of African swine fever in Estonia and characterisation of circulating virus strains", are fully in accordance with the topic of the GARA scientific workshop. Furthermore, Estonia is one of the ASF infected countries in Europe and therefore, our field experience as well as the results of our research activities have been very welcomed to the workshop.

At the workshop, I gave an oral presentation on "Molecular characterization of African Swine Fever Virus (ASFV) strains circulating in Estonia". In addition to listening the lectures from other researchers, I attended the group discussions on Vaccines and epidemiology in Europe. Last day of the workshop, I participated on the technical tour to the infected area and in the workshop on ASF eradication from Sardinia. This workshop was very interesting and valuable, as provided a complete overview of the control measures applied by Sardinian authorities.

GARA scientific workshop provided a comprehensive overview on epidemiology of ASF both in Europe and Africa. Furthermore, the researchers from all over the world introduced their ongoing research project and the latest research results. Face to face communication and personal discussions with colleagues from neighbouring countries and partner institutions enriched remarkably the view and understanding of the disease and epidemics. In addition, this workshop allowed me to share information about different aspects of the ASF epidemics experienced by our country.

IMPACT ON YOUR RESEARCH AND FUTURE COLLABORATIONS (if applicable)

GARA workshop was very important for me as provided the possibility to meet colleagues from the collaborative institutes like Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut (FLI), Germany and European Union reference laboratory for ASF (CISA-INIA), Spain. While, our comprehensive co-operation will continue, we could discuss about our future plans and activities.

Also, there were good discussions with colleagues from other affected countries like Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Czech Republic with aim to share the best practices and lessons learnt. As, up to now, I have been a quite active member of the ASF-STOP COST network the workshop provided the possibility to improve this co-operation as well.

The possibility to attend the GARA meeting was very important and valuable for me as it supported very much my research activities.