

Zambia's Central Veterinary Research Institute Accredited

The Zambia Central Veterinary Research Institute (CVRI) laboratories have been accredited by SADCAS in the scope of chemical analysis, bacteriology and serology. The Accreditation covers various tests namely: Detection of heavy metals in bovine serum using AAS in the scope chemical analysis; Determination of contagious Bovine Pleuro-pneumonia (CBPP) by complement fixation and competitive Elisa in the scope bacteriology; and Determination of Foot and Mouth Disease using Elisa in the scope serology. Through this accreditation the CVRI's Laboratory has been granted the unique accreditation number VET 002 indicating that CVRI's Laboratory is now a SADCAS accredited testing laboratory. Central Veterinary Research Institute is the 2nd veterinary laboratory and the 5th facility in Zambia to be accredited by SADCAS. The CVRI certificate which was issued on 14 August 2017 is valid for 5 years and expires on 13 August 2022. During the validity of the certificate SADCAS will undertake surveillance assessments to check continued accreditation.

The certificate was handed over during a ceremony held on 16 November 2017 at the CVRI Offices in the outskirts of Lusaka in Zambia. In his opening remarks the Chief Veterinary Research Officer (CVRO), Dr Paul Fandamu gave a brief overview of the CVRI outlining its organizational structure, role, main activities and achievements over the years including the production of vaccines. He then outlined the journey towards accreditation which started in 2011 and culminating with accreditation in August 2017. The CVRO also informed the gathering of the intention to extend scope of accreditation and prioritizing those scopes where Zambia currently sends samples for testing to South Africa and Botswana due to lack of international recognition. He noted the savings that would be made if the CVRI was accredited in these tests. The Director Veterinary Services, a Department under the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, Dr Yona Sinkala highlighted the significance of the accreditation achievement to the nation as a whole, the Government, the Ministry, CVRI and all its clients. In particular he highlighted the role that accreditation plays in enhancing competitiveness of products and access to markets thus facilitating trade especially the export of meat and meat products, milk and milk products. He also touched on the importance of credible laboratory services in support of CVRI's diagnostic services.



Mrs Maureen P Mutasa handing over the certificate to Honourable Mr Michael JZ Katambo with Dr Y Sinkala looking on

Speaking during the certificate handover ceremony Mrs Maureen P Mutasa, the SADCAS Chief Executive Officer advised the delegates that SADCAS, the first multi economy accreditation body in the world is signatory to the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation Mutual Recognition Arrangement (ILAC MRA) for the testing/calibration/medical laboratories and inspection bodies accreditation programmes. Signatory status in the ILAC MRA was achieved in November 2015 for the testing and calibration programme and extended to medical and inspection recently on 28 October 2017. “With these achievements, the accreditation certificate which has been issued to CVRI is internationally recognized”, she said. She reiterated the importance of accreditation in enhancing the competitiveness of goods and market access thus facilitate trade. “Accreditation contributes towards national social and economic development. Ultimately accreditation helps reduce poverty and improves the quality of our lives” she added. Mrs Mutasa then advised of the ongoing revisions of ISO/IEC 17025, the standard that CVRI have been accredited to which is expected to be published by end of November 2017. She further informed the CVRI that ILAC had already agreed on a three year transition from date of publication of the revised version of ISO/IEC 17025 and that SADCAS will, as soon as the new standard is published, issue a transition policy which the CVRI together with all other testing laboratories accredited under ISO/IEC 17025 will be required to meet failing which the accreditation certificate will expire at the deadline of the transition period.



Proudly displaying the accreditation certificate are Honourable Mr Katambo Minister of Fisheries and Livestock on the Left picture and Dr Fandamu and Mrs Charity Kasoma NAFAP – Zambia

In his address the guest of honour, Honourable Michael JZ Katambo (Member of Parliament) and Minister of Fisheries and Livestock, congratulated the CVRI for the achievement. He acknowledged the importance of accreditation to the national economy making reference to the recently launched 7th National Development Plan which prioritizes fish and livestock for economic diversification. He noted the important role played by the CVRI and internationally recognized accreditation to this endeavour. The Minister thanked the CVRI team for their hard work and dedication towards goal achievement. He encouraged CVRI to maintain their accreditation and to extend their scope of accreditation and reiterated his Ministry’s continued support to the CVRI. The Minister then thanked UNIDO who supported the CVRI in their journey towards accreditation. He also thanked Mrs Mutasa for her time to attend the ceremony.

A vote of thanks was given by Dr Maureen Dziva and marked the end of the ceremony. The handover ceremony was attended by about 30 CVRI management and staff, Government officials and the media. The SADCAS CEO was accompanied to the ceremony by the National Accreditation Focal Point for Zambia Mrs Charity Kasoma from the Ministry of Commerce Trade and Industry here the NAFP is housed.

Prior to the ceremony the delegates went a tour of the CVRI facilities laboratories and the Vaccine producing Unit. The CVRI is responsible for providing solutions to the livestock business through innovative veterinary service and that its services covers a wide range of technical disciplines including animal health, veterinary services, research, diagnostics, vector control, training, public health and epidemiology. Through its services the CVRI contributes towards safeguarding Zambia animal health and public health by providing timely and accurate diagnostic laboratory support. At the very core of the CVRI's business as a veterinary diagnostic research institute testing is a key support activity. ISO/IEC 17025 is the international standard that veterinary testing laboratories have to comply with in order to be accredited.

