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COUNCIL DECISION

of 28 December 1972

adopting a Community research programme into classical and African swine fever

(72/446/EEC)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community, and in particular Article 43 thereof;

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission;

Having regard to the Opinion of the European Parliament;

Whereas pursuant to Article 41 of the Treaty, provision may be made in particular for the effective coordination of agricultural research schemes so that the objectives of the common agricultural policy may be attained;

Whereas research into the virology of swine fever is a basic requirement of technical progress in pig rearing, and is essential to safeguard and increase productivity in pig rearing;

Whereas, to ensure that work in this field is properly coordinated, provision must be made for a plan of action designed to stimulate the necessary initiatives and to increase the efficiency of such work;

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

A Community research programme into classical and African swine fever is hereby adopted and shall be governed by the conditions and detailed rules laid down in the Annex.

Article 2

The Commission shall be responsible for the implementation of the research programme.

It shall, before 30 June each year, submit a report on the work carried out during the preceding year.

On conclusion of the research work carried out under the programme it shall submit a comprehensive report on the results thereof.

Done at Brussels, 28 December 1972.

For the Council

The President

T. WESTERTERP

ANNEX

In liaison with the scientific authorities of the Member States and with the approval of the Directors-General for agricultural research, a Community research programme into classical and African swine fever, of a duration of four years, is hereby established.

DESCRIPTION OF WORK

A. Classical swine fever:

- I. *Virology*: — The study of the properties of the classic swine fever viruses and its applications to diagnosis.
- II. *Pathogenesis*: — Study of live vaccines linked with differential diagnosis.
- III. *Immunology*: — Immunising response mechanisms of the pig towards the classic swine fever virus.

B. African swine fever:

- I. *Virology*: — Antigenic structure of the virus, characterisation of African virus strains.
- II. *Pathogenesis*: — Study of the subclinical or chronic forms of the disease linked with current problems of diagnosis in the case of acute or chronic evolutive forms.
- III. *Immunology*: — Study of the behaviour of the modified virus during the course of experimental immunisation and study of the mechanisms inhibiting multiplication of the virus (in vitro—in vivo).
— Study of the various fractions of the virus particle and location of the neutralising force by means of immune-serums prepared from these various fractions on which the techniques of haem-absorption, precipitation, fixing of the complement and of the fluorescent antibodies, are to be applied.

Furthermore, to permit:

1. the necessary scientific contacts to be made with laboratories specialising in the field of African swine fever,
2. the manipulation and study of virulent African swine fever viruses to be carried out without infringing health legislation where this expressly forbids such practices in countries free of the disease,

liaison with laboratories established in places infected with African swine fever is quite obviously essential. Since this arrangement has already shown itself to have considerable advantages in carrying out work under the preceding programme it has been not only repeated but also improved, in that provision has been made for close interdependence between the work of the Community laboratories and Madrid and Lisbon laboratories.

Overall research work covered by this programme shall be coordinated under the authority of the Commission with the assistance of a scientific adviser appointed for the purpose.

PARTICIPANTS:

The institutes or laboratories taking part in the Community programme are as follows:

Federal Republic of Germany:

- Institut für Virologie der Tierärztlichen Hochschule, Hannover.
- Bundesforschungsanstalt für Viruskrankheiten der Tiere, Tübingen.

Belgium

- Institut national de recherches vétérinaires, Uccle - Bruxelles.

France:

- Laboratoire central de recherches vétérinaires, Maisons-Alfort.
- Station de recherches de virologie et d'immunologie, Institut national de la recherche agronomique, Thiverval-Grignon.

Italy:

- Istituto zooprofilattico sperimentale della Lombardia e dell'Emilia, Brescia.
- Istituto zooprofilattico sperimentale dell'Abruzzo, Teramo.
- Istituto zooprofilattico sperimentale dell'Umbria e delle Marche, Perugia.

Netherlands:

- Centraal Diergeneeskundig Instituut, Afdeling Noord Lelystad (Flevopolder).
- Instituut voor Virologie — Faculteit der Diergeneeskunde, Utrecht.

Associated laboratories:

- Institute of Animal Biology, Madrid.
 - National Veterinary Research Laboratory, Lisbon.
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