



DEPARTMENT OF VETINARY
PUBLIC HEALTH AND
PREVENTIVE MEDICINE

**ANNUAL
REPORT**

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PROFESSOR KABIRU BALA

THE VICECHANCELLOR AHMADU BELLO UNIVERSITY, ZARIA



DEAN FACULTY OF VETINARY MEDICINE



HEAD OF DEPARTMENT FACULTY OF VETINARY MEDICINE

LIST OF DEPARTMENTAL STAFF

MEMBERS OF DEPARTMENTAL ACADEMIC STAFF

1. Prof. M.K. Lawan Head of Department
2. Prof. J.K.P. Kwaga
3. Prof. JunaiduKabir
4. Prof. E.C. Okolocha
5. Prof. M. Bello
6. Dr. G.N.S. KiaReader
7. Dr. U.U. Bashir Senior Lecturer
8. Dr. Abubakar Suleiman Lecturer I
9. Dr. D.O. Esonu Lecturer I
10. Dr. M.S. Yusuf Lecturer I
11. Dr. M.B. Aliyu Lecturer I
12. Dr. F.L. YusufAssistant Lecturer

MEMBERS OF DEPARTMENTAL TECHNOLOGIST STAFF

1. Martin Mgbegha - Asst. Chief Technologist
2. Yahuzamaitala - Principal Technologist
3. Mahmud Abdulaziz - Snr. Lab. Assistant

MEMBERS OF DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

1. Mrs. Aiyejumo M. A. - Chief Conf. Secretary
2. Yahaya Musa - Chief Sec. Assistant
3. AbdoulayeAssoumane - Senior Computer Operator
4. AbubakarIliyasu - Snr. Officer Assistant
5. Hamidu A. Gani - Snr. Herdsman
6. HashimuAbdulhamid - Drive/Mechanic

Department of Veterinary Public Health and Preventive Medicine Annual Report: 2023

Subject: Annual Report for the Department of Veterinary Public Health and Preventive Medicine (2023).

Executive Summary:

Remarkable achievements and challenges have marked the year 2023 for the Department of Veterinary Public Health and Preventive Medicine. Our commitment to academic excellence, impactful research, staff development, and community service has continued to drive our success. Despite facing certain challenges such as financial constraints, staffing shortage, laboratory consumables, etc, which were effectively addressed through our strategic initiatives, staff determination and collaborative efforts from the MacArthur Foundation have contributed to a successful year of growth and development.

On behalf of the Department and Management of the University, we wish members of the University community and students a happy new year. I congratulate staff of the Department for successful completion of last year's academic session of 2022/2023, despite tremendous challenges faced by the Department especially regarding finance. However, the Department recorded a lot of achievements in the year of 2023, such as Graduating large numbers of postgraduate students (MSc and PhD), Staff promotions, Publications in reputable journals, workshop and training organized for postgraduate students and recognition of staff by various international agency.

This new academic year of 2023/2024 session is termed as year of collaboration and grant seeking. I look forward to all members of the department with high energy and support to achieve this year objective.

I wish to use this opportunity to thank Almighty God for his infinite mercy upon us to witness another new year and sincerely thank all members of the Department for their unconditional support. Also, I wish to thank the Vice Chancellor and the Management of the University for their support and guidance.

Department Overview:

The Department of Veterinary Public Health and Preventive Medicine remains a cornerstone in promoting animal and public health through research, education, and community engagement. We currently have 11 active academic departmental staff, 2 technologist, 1 laboratory attendant, 4 supporting staff, and one driver. The Departmental student enrollment for the session is as follows:

- 180 Undergraduate students of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (100 level)
- 20 Postgraduate students in MSc. Veterinary Epidemiology (MacArthur Centre of Excellence in Veterinary Epidemiology)
- 20 Postgraduate students in MSc. Veterinary Public Health and Preventive Medicine
- 10 Ph.D. students in Veterinary Public Health and Preventive Medicine.
- 50 students enrolled in the Industrial training program (SIWES) at the Department.

Our dedicated departmental skilled staff and enthusiastic students collectively contributed to our dynamic academic environment.

The departmental head initiated the establishment of four research clusters, namely Viral, Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), Food Safety, and Environmental groups. These clusters engaged academic staff within the Department with the overarching objective of formulating grant proposals tailored for submission to pertinent platforms. Despite the submission of several applications, the outcomes were unfavorable. To address this, the Department intends to strategically reassess its approach and enhance the forthcoming proposals by incorporating a multi-disciplinary framework.

Academic Programs:

In the academic year 2022/2023, aside from the regular undergraduate training for Doctor of Veterinary medicine (DVM), the Department offered training for a range of programs including an M.Sc in Veterinary Public Health and Preventive Medicine, M.Sc in Veterinary epidemiology and Ph.D degrees in Veterinary Public Health and Preventive Medicine, and the department was part of MPH in field epidemiology (IFELT-P) and fellowship programme of the college of Veterinary Surgeon Nigeria (CVSN). We observed a 30% increase in student applications and a 10% increase in student enrollment, reflecting the growing interest in our field. Curriculum enhancements, including the harmonization and improving the course contents of certain undergraduate courses, and the re-introduction of public health

administration and other advanced elective courses, have enriched the learning experience for our students. A notable influence of course content improvement was the scholarship award on blockchain won by a 400-level student due to their exposure to the course on computer applications in veterinary medicine.

The graduation rate for the Department was as follows;

- 23 MSc students
- 13 Ph.D. students

Research and Publications:

Staff and students in our Department have been actively involved in high quality research. Notable projects this year include a study on "Molecular characterization of Reovirus in broiler chickens" and "Evaluation of anti-rabies vaccine." The Department produced 15 research publications and delivered 10 presentations at national and international conferences, contributed to authorship in books published by Elsevier, CABI, etc

Outreach and Community Engagement:

The Department has sustained its commitment to community service through the annual rabies vaccination of dogs across rural communities surrounding the University. We also organized a research methodology workshop for postgraduate students of not just the Department, but also extended to PG students of other Departments and faculties. Collaborative partnerships with local NGOs such as War Against Rabies (WAR) facilitated impactful community projects addressing public health challenges. The staff of Department also routinely organized Public enlightenment by engaging butcher’s association of Zaria Abattoir (Zango) on improvement of sanitary conditions of the abattoir and meat hygiene.

Infrastructure and Facilities:

Our facilities received a facelift in the previous year, especially after the completion of laboratory renovations carried out during the tenure of Prof. M. Bello. The prolonged power outage presented an opportune period to defrost our freezers and refrigerators, while diligently sanitizing the laboratories. The operationalization of the MacArthur Molecular Epidemiology Laboratory facilitated the provision of cutting-edge resources to students, fostering practical learning and research in molecular studies. Infrastructure was also fortified

through the acquisition of a 60-litre vertical autoclave, a multi-channel pipette from a Zoetis grant, and other equipment such as shaker incubator and other chemical reagents from the MacArthur Foundation. However, challenges persist in maintaining aging infrastructure such as water distillers, centrifuges, etc. As part of our proactive approach, we are actively seeking and pursuing supplementary funding to address these challenges, with a primary focus on acquiring a solar power supply for the Departmental office and key facilities in the laboratories.

Staff Development:

Our departmental members achieved significant milestones, with Prof. J.K.P. Kwaga appointed as a member of Joint Expert Committee on Microbiology Risk Assessment (JEMRA) organ of FAO. Prof. JunaiduKabir and Dr M.S. Yusuf are now certified fellow of International Federation of Biosafety Association (IFBA) this certification is a great achievement to the Department and University at large as this can lead to certification of our laboratories internationally by IFBA. We also wish to report the promotions of Dr. M.K. Lawan to the rank of a Professor, Dr. U.U. Bashir to the rank of Senior Lecturer, and Dr. M.B. Aliyu to Lecturer I. Also, Dr. G.N.S. Kia received a travel award grant from the University of Glasgow, while Dr. F.L. Yusuf was awarded an Erasmus+ student mobility award to the University of Life Sciences, Timisoara, Romania. Staff development programs, including workshops and training sessions, were attended in different fields such as Biorisk, Statistical analysis using R, etc to enhance the skills of our dedicated team.

Challenges and Recommendations:

Challenges encountered this year included budget constraints and limited resources for maintaining infrastructure, as well as shortage of academic staff and laboratory technologists. To address these issues, we recommend immediate employment of academic staff and lab technologists, we shall also explore external funding opportunities, engaging in public-private partnerships, and importantly we are advocating for increased departmental allocations, especially from the School of Postgraduate Studies. The table below is a summary of staff status at the departmental laboratories;

Table:1.0 List of technologist staff and status

SN	NAME	JP/P.N	RANK	STATUS	REMARK
1	Mathias Bello Odaba	P11438	Chief Technologist	Retired	Request for replacement
2	Mrs. J.C. Atowdi	P.16945	Ass. Chief Technologist	Transfer of service to another university	Request for replacement
3	Mr. J.H. Damsa	P.17534	Technologist II	Demised	Request for replacement
4	Mr K.C. Iwuanyanwu	P.16407	Chief Technologist	Retired	Request for replacement
5	Mr. M.M. Mgbegha	P.16842	Ass, Chief Technologist	Due to retire in August, 2024	Request for replacement
6	Mr. Y. Maitala	P.21888	Snr. Technologist	Active	overworked
7	Mr. M. Abdulaziz	JP.18118		Active	overworked

From the above table, it is evident that the Department is in serious need of additional laboratory technologists.

Financial Report:

The financial report for the year 2022/2023 reflects prudent financial management, considering the little funds allocated. Our budget considering the programs and number of students was far beyond the allocated fund, with major of expenditure directed towards laboratory consumables, conduct of examinations, transportation of clinic students for field practicals, research projects, and infrastructure maintenance. The MacArthur Foundation has been contributing positively to our financial needs.

Future Plans:

Looking ahead, the Department of Veterinary Public Health and Preventive Medicine is poised for continued growth. Our strategic goals for the next year include applying for grants through collaborations with Departments beyond the Faculty of Veterinary, securing grants for infrastructure development (Especially our solar power project), and further enriching our academic programs to attract more prospects. We anticipate an exciting year of innovation and progress.

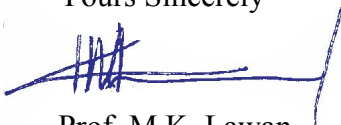
Diagnostic Laboratory

The Department is planning to develop a diagnostic laboratory to cover services for other diseases such as malaria, salmonellosis, and common neglected tropical diseases. This will help in generating revenue for the Department as well as expanding services to the University community and also ease the burden and overcrowding of patients waiting for malaria and Salmonella tests in the Sickbay. The Department can only achieve this ambition if the University supports us by recruiting more technologists staff in our laboratory as highlighted in the table (1.0).

We appreciate the continuous support from the University Management and look forward to building on our successes in the coming academic year. Our commitment to excellence in education, research, and community service remains unwavering.

Thank you for your attention to this report. Additional information could be made on all matters raised in the report as may require.

Yours Sincerely



Prof. M.K. Lawan
Head of Department