

The four Pasteur Institutes (Iran, France, Tunisia, and Morocco) meet in Akanlu

November 5-6, 2016

This was a two-day long meeting, held in Research Centre for Emerging and Reemerging Infectious Diseases (RCERID) in Akanlu, Hamadan, Iran. Attendees were from France and three countries of the region (i.e., Iran, Tunisia, and Morocco). Iranian attendees were from different institutes, including Ministry of Health's CDC office, Pasteur Institute of Iran (Departments of Epidemiology, Malaria and vectors and Arboviruses and Viral Hemorrhagic Fevers), and Qom University of Medical Sciences.

The main targets of the meeting were as follows:

- To provide the opportunity for participating Institutes to share their country status in the field of vector borne diseases
- To exchange knowledge and experience between participating Institutes regarding monitoring, prevention and/or control of vector borne diseases
- To define joint projects that address vector borne health issues in the region.

Four attendees described their experience about the Akanlu meeting as bellow:



Dr. Ali Bouattour, DVM, PhD

Entomologist

Department of medical entomology, Pasteur Institute of Tunisia

"I highly appreciate the RCERID's capacity in monitoring and surveillance of vector borne diseases, especially the monitoring and control of the plague", he said. He looks forward to the exchange of knowledge and expertise in this area between RCERID and Pasteur Institute of Tunisia.



Dr. Anne Derbise, PhD

**Microbiologist and expert in plague
Department of molecular and medical bacteriology,
Laboratory of the Yersinia, Pasteur Institute of France**

She declared that she was more than impressed with the RCERID's capacity in field practices. She looks forward to defining joint projects with RCERID in near future.



**Dr. Fadila Amraoui, PhD, Post Doc,
Entomologist**

Institute Pasteur of Morocco, Rabat, Morocco

She was pleased to meet people with full of energy and happiness. She thought visiting Akanlu and the center was a big chance for an entomologist like her.



Dr Youmna M'Ghirbi, PhD

Institute Pasteur of Tunisia

"It was a great pleasure for me to visit Iran, and especially Akanlu village", she said. She was greatly impressed by the hospitality of people and their great generosity. She thinks that we can be all the vector borne diseases group involved in many projects to share knowledge's, experiences and techniques.

This two-day meeting was followed by the "[MATI Regional Meeting 2016](#)", which lasted for three days (November 7-9).

At the end of the MATI meeting, and based on discussions made in Akanlu and Tehran, attendees came up with the idea of a joint project, which targets to map areas in the MATI region where *Nairovirus* (causative agent for CCHF), *Yersinia Pestis* (causative agent for Plague), *Coxiella burnetii* (causative agent for Q fever), *Borrelia* (causative agent for Borreliosis), and/or *Bartonella* (causative agent for Bartonellosis) are active. With the collaboration of all parties, the concept sheet of the project will be finalized by December 2016.

The project will be started in 2017.

Photos



Attendees visited the field and being notified about rodent trapping methods (1st day in Akanlu)



Group discussions and brainstorming about vector borne health issues in the region, and priority areas for research (1st and 2nd days in Akanlu)



A group photo taken in the field.