



Offers on Biology, Medicine

Minimising the risk of pig enteric infections

The AEEC INECTIONS project, under the auspices of the LIFE QUALITY programme, set out to research the risk posed by attaching-effacing Escherichia coli (AEEC), a highly infectious group of bacterial pathogens.

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AEEC can infect both humans and animals and therefore improving the knowledge base on this group of bacteria and minimising the risk of widespread epidemics is a critical issue. Main route of infection appears to be contaminated food sources and intestinal pathologies are the most common manifestation of infection by these bacteria.

French-based project partner INRA- Laboratoire de Pharmacologie-Toxicologie researched the immune responses and potential ways through which pig populations can be protected. Initial studies showed that AEEC caused intestinal lesions in infected pigs and at the same induced a series of immune responses. One of these responses was the upregulated synthesis of a series of interleukin molecules.

The next step of the research, based on the findings of the immune response profile in many ways, was the development of DNA vaccines that could potentially offer long-term protection. Specific DNA fragments, encoding AEEC antigens and also pig immune system molecules, were used for a series of DNA constructs with the aim to develop a DNA vaccine for veterinary applications.

Trials were inconclusive regarding the suitability of the first set of DNA constructs to be tested; however, furthering this line of research could result in a new marketable product. Interested parties are invited for information exchange and training purposes.

Country: FRANCE

Information Source: Result from the EU funded LIFE QUALITY programme

Collaboration Sought: Information exchange/Training

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