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Background:

A study was conducted to assess the status of biowaste management (BWM) at the College of Veterinary Medicine, FUNAAB. This study was in fulfillment of a biorisk management (BRM) project that was conceived when attending a BRM systems implementation workshop in Dec 2020 by DTRA-BTRP and Sandia National Laboratories. The study was intended to identify gaps and present opportunities for reform using BRM best practices. It is also to be leveraged in creating a roadmap for the establishment of a functional BRM system within the college.

Study Method:

Data was collected from 83 consenting respondents spread across nine Vet departments and Veterinary Teaching Hospital VTH (on-line questionnaire) and cleaning department (face-to-face). The cross-sectional survey was carried out using pre-tested questionnaire comprising five sections as follows: Demographic profiles, Policy and Oversight, Operations and Documentation, Resources and Personnel, and Training. Data was analysed using descriptive and Pearson chi square statistics.

Results:

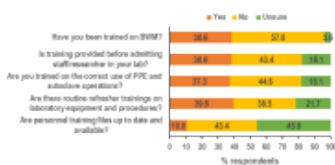
Policy and Oversight



Resources and Personnel



Training



Operations and Documentation



Conclusions and Next Steps:

- Although some elements (PPE, autoclave, incinerator) of waste management exist, there is no established program for biowaste management at the college
- Administrative controls and oversight of BWM is needed (no policies, no training, staff health and safety, signages, inadequate financing etc)
- Majority of personnel have no formal training or Standard Operating Procedures on BWM.
- The study identified important components of a biological waste management program that are lacking at the college. Participants became aware of different components that are needed in a BWM program.
- The detailed findings were presented to the college management and identified different programmatic features needed for a BWM system.
- These findings were leveraged to advocate for the formation of an institutional biorisk management committee to train and promote biosafety and biosecurity practices among staff and students in the College.

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