ReLaIS is the Reference Laboratory Information System specifically developed for the OIE/FAO Foot-and-Mouth Disease Reference Laboratories Network. This loosely coupled constellation of software systems and databases gathers and combines epidemiological data in a semi-automated manner for sharing, querying and visualisation. Rather than force workers and information systems to adopt their style and data to a common format and workflow the ReLaIS system instead adapts external data sources and uses this normalised data for visualisation and querying through a set of web portals.

Our routine epidemiological work generates large amounts of data in various forms (e.g. outbreak reports, results of laboratory analyses, molecular sequences). This data is dispersed over a variety of isolated systems, using incompatible formats. The Institute needs to regularly summarise and disseminate information easily and semi-automatically, so as to:

1. Provide reports to our sponsors,
2. Inform policy makers,
3. Provide select information to the wider scientific community,
4. Ease the exchange of data with collaborating reference laboratories and agencies and
5. Provide visualisation and summary tools for our own use within the Institute.

A network of OIE and FAO FMD reference laboratories has been established under the secretariat of the FAO World Reference Laboratory, to facilitate the exchange of epidemiological data. Currently this network consists of:

- The OIE and FAO Reference Centre and EU Reference Laboratory for FMD, IAH-Pirbright, UK (WRLFMD);
- The OIE Regional Reference Laboratory for FMD for Eastern Europe, Central Asia and Transcaucasia, Russia (ARRIAH);
- The OIE FMD Regional Reference Laboratory for the Sub-Saharan Africa, Botswana, (RRRSAA);
- The FAO/OIE Reference Laboratory for FMD, Centro Panamericano de Fiebre Aftosa OPS/OMS, Brasil (PANAFTOSA);
- The OIE Reference Laboratory for Foot and Mouth Disease, Argentina (SENASA);
- The FAO FMD Reference Centre, Exotic Animal Health, ARC-Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute, South Africa (ACR-OVI);
- The FAO FMD Reference Centre, Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory, Plum Island Animal Disease Center, Greenport, USA (PIADC);
- The OIE Collaborating Centre for Validation, Quality assessment and Quality control of Diagnostic assays and Vaccine testing for Vesicular diseases in Europe, Belgium, (CODA-CERVA-VAR), and Department of Livestock Development, Pakchong, Thailand (RRLSEA);

Other FMD reference laboratories may be invited to join in the future and to date members from the National FMD Laboratory, Lanzhou Veterinary Research Institute, Lanzhou, China; the Indian Centre for Agricultural Research, Mukteswar, India have attended meetings as observers.

What can you find there?

www.foot-and-mouth.org is a free site that provides current information on FMD to the public and is the centre for information exchange for the network. You can search the database for outbreaks or sequences and map the results. You can also get current information on the world status of FMD by visiting the websites of reference laboratories, get news via the FMD News website, and an appreciation of ongoing research.

Information is available on:

- The Network
- Foot-and-mouth Disease
- FMDV and other viruses
- Via the IAH virus pages

Query our online databases for outbreak and other data.

Visualise the results on a world map.

http://www.foot-and-mouth.org