

TAIEX training on Antibiotics at the Food Technology Laboratory

The Chemistry section of the Food Technology Laboratory hosted a second regional training programme under the TAIEX programme from the 2nd to 6th December 2024. The objective of the training was to enhance the capacity of official laboratories in Madagascar, Mauritius and Seychelles in the implementation of methods of analysis for the detection of residues of antibiotics in foodstuff, namely sulphonamides and tetracyclines. Twelve trainees participated in the training session: 6 from different laboratories of Mauritius, 3 from Madagascar and 3 from Seychelles.

The training was delivered by Dr. Dominique Hurtaud-Pessel from Agence nationale de sécurité sanitaire de l'alimentation, de l'environnement et du travail, Fougères/France. She was assisted in the practical sessions by Mr Benoit Glaud, facilitator under the SANOI programme. To note that the training organized at FTL was co-financed by two initiatives of the European Union, namely: the SANOI project which is providing a wide range of technical assistance to the Indian Ocean Commission and its member countries; and the TAIEX programme. TAIEX is a EU mechanism aimed at facilitating the mobilization of high level expertise from EU institutions and EU Member States to disseminate technical knowledge and serve as a basis for cooperation between authorities. The SANOI (Programme régional d'appui à la Sécurité Alimentaire et Nutritionnelle de L'Océan Indien) aims to reduce malnutrition and food insecurity in the Indian Ocean region (Mauritius, Comoros, Madagascar, and Seychelles), budgeted to the tune of 16 million Euros under the 11th FED and is being implemented in partnership with the Commission de l'Océan Indien, till March 2025.

The workshop consisted of both theoretical and practical sessions. The following topics were covered:

- An overview on the EU legislation applicable to the detection of residues of antibiotics in foodstuff
- Validation of analytical methods applicable to antibiotics
- Practical training in the method of analysis of sulphonamides in muscle by LC- MS/MS
- Practical training in the method of analysis of tetracycline in milk by LC- MS/MS

During the practical sessions one chicken sample and three milk samples were analysed with controls as spiked samples. The analytical methods set up were successful. The samples analysed were negative i.e. did not contain any sulphonamides or tetracyclines that were analysed for.