

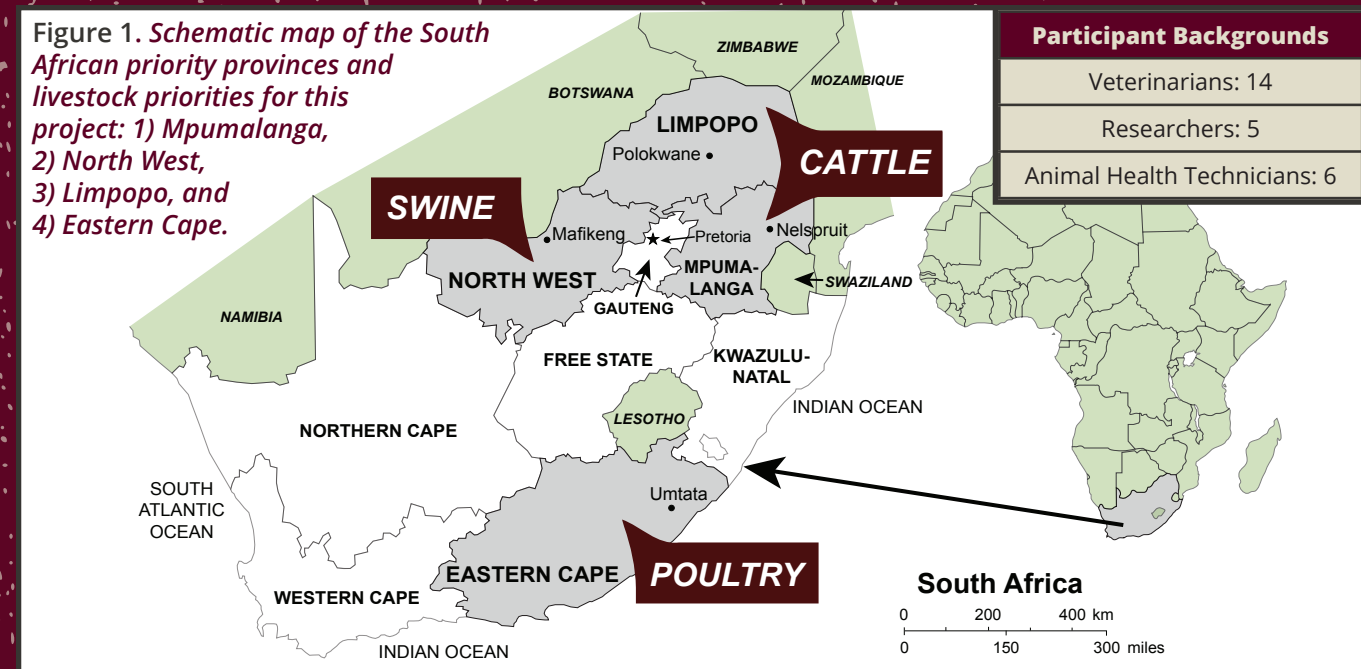


**Program Summary:** The second Train the Trainer course of the AgSecure Africa Programme™, “Postmortem in the Field,” took place in May 2018 with 25 state and local veterinarians, researchers, and animal health technicians from selected provinces of South Africa (see Figure 1) who received online and experiential training on how to conduct a postmortem examination in the field to enhance disease surveillance, proper sample collection, and disease control in Africa.

Support for the training was provided by the United States Department of Agriculture – Foreign Agricultural Services (USDA FAS) and developed by the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences (CVM), Texas A&M Global One Health, and the Institute for Infectious Animal Diseases (IIAD).

**Impact of the Program:** The program provided the skills to conduct a field postmortem on ruminants, swine, and poultry. Veterinarians, researchers, and animal health technicians who participated in the program now have a better understanding of protocols, biosafety procedures, and tissue recognition during a field examination to help reduce spread of disease. They also gained knowledge on sample collection and shipping based on disease-specific scenarios for avian influenza, brucellosis, tuberculosis, African swine fever, porcine cysticercosis, and foot-and-mouth disease.

Online instruction was supplemented by an introductory animation video and films of postmortem examinations conducted on a pig, chicken, and cow. The in-person training divided trainees into 5 groups of individuals from different provinces to first observe and then conduct postmortem examinations on goats, chickens, and pigs. Having teams made up of members from different parts of the country led to an exchange of ideas which will foster a more cohesive approach in the reduction of disease spread, benefitting the nation’s economic and health outlook.



At the end of the program, trainees were asked how they were planning to apply the knowledge and skills they obtained once they returned to the workplace. Examples of feedback follow:

*“I am going to organize an information day for all the animal health technicians in my area and do a field postmortem presentation for them to transfer the skills that I gained during this course.”*

*“I will apply the knowledge at my place of work by being extra vigilant and careful when conducting necropsies. I will also avoid shortcuts when doing necropsies and go through checks of all organs systemically.”*

**Trainee feedback about what they liked the most about the program:**

*“The hands on practicals were very great. I realised that I was doing ‘shortcuts’ and was not consistent during postmortems at work.”*

*“The presenters had a lot of in-field experience which they were able to share with us.”*

