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The CLEAR Project in Cyprus

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Abstract

The CLEAR project described here is a scientific research initiative related to biosafety. The CLEAR project in Cyprus (Cryptosporidium spp. and Giardia duodenal is in Cyprus' Leafy Greens and Water Resources) is a research initiative aimed at improving food and water biosafety by detecting and understanding parasitic contamination in Cyprus' water and leafy green sources. The role of water and food in the epidemiology of cryptosporidiosis and giardiasis is well recognised. Due to the challenges of isolation and detection in environmental samples, currently available methods are difficult and costly, and their use by diagnostic laboratories is limited. The Key Aspects of the CLEAR Project are: a) The project, under the umbrella of One Health, examines the presence of Cryptosporidium and Giardia in water sources and leafy vegetables to ensure public safety in Cyprus; b) It aims to improve food and water security by mitigating the risks posed by these parasites. It is a research initiative aligned with the "co-develop" initiative in Cyprus, emphasising collaborative research. The goal is to develop a simple monitoring assay for Giardia and Cryptosporidium, the most prominent waterborne and foodborne protozoan parasites. Yet, water and vegetables, where ambient concentrations are expected, pose a particularly challenging detection problem. The prospect of simple, online, real-time monitoring of Giardia and Cryptosporidium in surface water and leafy greens is realistic. First and promising results will be reported.

Keywords: CLEAR Project, Giardia, Cryptosporidium, Contamination, Food, Water, Risk

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