


ARMS Processing – Lab Preparation

 Because the DNA of the ARMS communities will be extracted and analyzed as bulk samples, great care must be taken during the processing steps to not introduce exogenous DNA. Gloves must be worn at all times and the laboratory environment should be as free as possible from potential contaminations. It is also important to bleach all the material between ARMS or to use single-use supplies when bleaching is not possible.

Materials:

- 25-Liters tub filled with 10% bleach solution (22.5-Liters of water, 2.5-Liters Bleach). Top-up with fresh bleach every day.
- Fresh water
- Kimwipes
- Sponges
- Bleach
- Gloves

Procedure:

1. Before the ARMS is brought back, clean meticulously the processing station with 10% bleach.
2. Place all equipment that is not pre-sterilized in the bleach for 20 minutes and rinse carefully. Make sure to wear gloves at all time when handling the materials
3. Allow equipment and bench to air dry before use.
4. Keep all the containers upside down and wrap small equipment in kimwipes to avoid contamination.

Illustrations:



Example of lab set-up