



INFORMATION *Bulletin*

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Strengthening cross border activities among Bangladesh, India and Nepal to control possible cross-border spread of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) (OSRO/RAS/701/USA)

Project objectives

The overall objective of the programme is to contribute to the elimination of the threat posed by HPAI due to cross-border activities in the Gangetic Plain sub-region of South Asia.

More specifically, the project will strengthen the capacity of the countries sharing an epidemiological environment in the Gangetic Plain sub-region to deal with the risks and threat of HPAI posed by cross-border activities.

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samples from 104 poultry carcasses, 760 tracheal swabs, 588 cloacal swabs and 37 fresh faeces from live poultry markets.

Activities undertaken

1. USAID annual review, Office of Health and Family Planning Partners meeting, 9 September 2009, Kathmandu, Nepal.
2. Sub-regional workshop on understanding and use of Value Chain Analysis in poultry production and marketing in context of cross border trading from 14 to 18 September 2009, Kathmandu, Nepal
3. USAID partners meeting to discuss the progress of the project, 24-25 September 2009, Bangkok, Thailand

Disease status in the sub region

- Bangladesh recorded one HPAI outbreak in August 2009 at a commercial poultry farm in Katroli, Doublemooring Upazila of Chittagong district. Out of 4000 birds 53 died and the rest 3947 were destroyed.
- Nepal submitted the final report to OIE on 9 August 2009 declaring the negative evidence of HPAI H5N1 (freedom from infection) through surveillance activities conducted between 20 February to 7 July 2009 in Jhapa district. The activities included clinical surveillance in commercial poultry farms and backyard poultry premises as well as laboratory testing of the

USAID Annual Review, Office of Health and Family Planning Partners Meeting, 9 September 2009, Kathmandu, Nepal

The project team participated and made presentation on the activities in the USAID annual review meeting of Office of Health and Family Planning Partners, held on 9 September 2009 in Kathmandu, Nepal. This meeting was organised to share information towards identifying best practices and developing synergy between USAID projects. Mr Rajendra Singh, Regional Animal Health Economist made a presentation on the major activities of the project.

Sub Regional Workshop on "Understanding and use of Value Chain Analysis in poultry production and marketing in the context of cross border trade" from 14 to 18 September 2009, Kathmandu, Nepal



Participants at Poultry Value Chain Analysis workshop

Within the framework of the project OSRO/RAS/701/USA Phase II, a regional workshop was conducted on understanding and use of Value Chain Analysis in poultry production and marketing in the context of cross border trading organized by FAO. The participants included the staff of the Ministry of Agriculture/Livestock from Bangladesh, India and Nepal with different backgrounds like administration, animal health, animal production and marketing. The participants also included the AI team from FAO HQ, RAP and staff based in Nepal and Bangladesh and experts from Royal Veterinary College, London. The workshop was hosted by the Government of Nepal.



Participants meeting the Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Government of Nepal

The objective of the workshop included:

- Value Chain Analysis and its application to poultry sector with particular focus to cross border movements and diseases risk reduction.
- Value Chain Analysis in bio-secured poultry production - a tool in tracking point of contamination and tracking the epicenter for spread of diseases.
- Value Chain Analysis in poultry marketing in cross border trading - A diagnostic tool for identification of point of initial contamination and the tracks of contamination.



Workshop participant's during their field visit to a hatchery in the Morang district, Nepal

The opening session proceeded under the Chairmanship of Dr. Hari Dahal, then Acting Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives, Government of Nepal. Dr. Dahal emphasized on the need to work collaboratively to make sure that adequate progress is made in the region on prevention, control and elimination of Avian Influenza. He hoped that the meeting would be fruitful in developing harmonized policy, common regional forum and areas of cooperation/collaboration to deal with the challenges that sub-region is facing today. Dr. Prabhakar Pathak, Director General, Department of Livestock Services delivered the welcome address on behalf of the host country.

During the workshop a field trip was organized to two bordering districts - Jhapa and Morang to understand the poultry production system, observe the border control and quarantine procedures and visit the site of first HPAI outbreak in Nepal.



A scene at the Kakarbhitta, Jhapa, (Nepal) and border crossing with West Bengal (India)

Workshop sessions were conducted through group work. The group recommendations will be further analyzed and a synthesis report will be produced as "a way forward" for combating the HPAI in the sub-region. The workshop was able to provide information on the HPAI situation in the Indo-Gangetic plain region vis-à-vis the cross-border area of Bangladesh, India and Nepal. In this context the participants agreed that the people concerned with HPAI should remain alert in the light of approaching winter season and take preventive measures. The outbreak response has been so far in containment and control, however it is being increasingly realized that unless safe poultry production practices are adopted it will be difficult to minimize the risk of disease. The ongoing pandemic of H1N1 should not distract our attention from HPAI H5N1 which is zoonotic in nature and still poses a threat of new pandemic.



Participants in group work during the Poultry Value Chain Analysis workshop

USAID partners meeting to discuss the progress of the project, 24 to 25 September 2009, Bangkok, Thailand

It has been over 4 years since USAID began supporting avian influenza (AI) prevention and control activities in the most at-risk countries in Southeast Asia and USAID funding also currently supports activities in South Asian countries.

USAID would like to capitalize on the strength of this planning process and draw together colleagues to develop plans for the upcoming year. USAID also would like to bring its partners together to discuss the progress made with FY 2008 workplan, examine the possible hurdles to completing these workplans, and share information about successes and challenges.

All USAID partners including FAO, WHO, AED etc participated in the meeting. Progress of activities of the South-Asia cross-border project was presented by Dr Mohinder Oberoi at the meeting.

Up coming project events

- Brain storming workshop to discuss the developed Standard Operating Procedures for emergency response to disease in high risk areas related to cross border trade
 - 4 November, Biratnagar, Nepal
 - 6 November 2009, Nepalgunj, Nepal

Major up coming events in the SAARC region

- APHCA meeting 26-28 October, Pokhara, Nepal
- FAO/OIE global FMD reference laboratories meeting, 23-27 November 2009, New Delhi, India.



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