



## Major diseases situation in the Sub-region

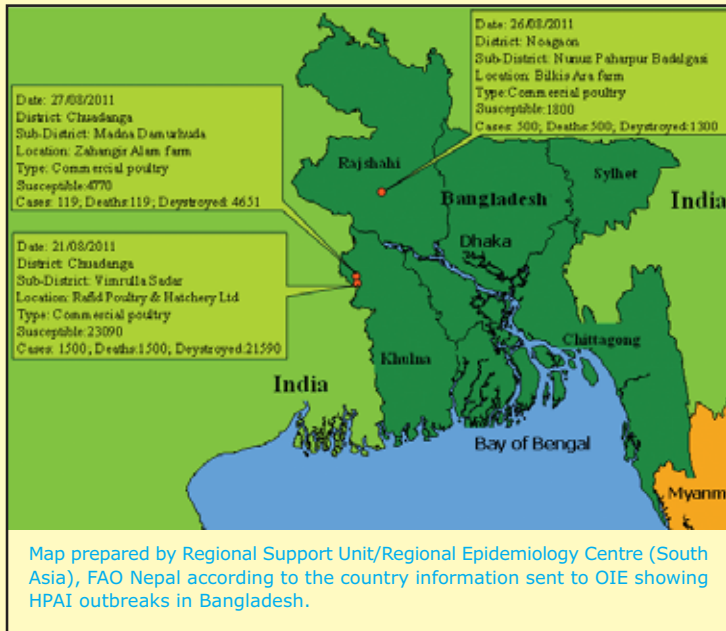
During the month of July and August, fewer outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) were reported from Bangladesh whereas India completed the post outbreak surveillance in Tripura state to declare itself free from disease in July 2011.

Afghanistan reported to OIE the first occurrence of glanders in the country.

No other highly pathogenic emerging disease was reported from the countries in South Asia.

### HPAI outbreaks in Bangladesh

No outbreaks of HPAI were reported in the month of July 2011 by Government of Bangladesh. In August 2011 however the Government of Bangladesh notified three outbreaks in commercial poultry farms to OIE. Two outbreaks were located in the Chuadanga district of Khulna Division. The third outbreak was in Noagaon district of Rajshahi Division. (Source: [www.oie.int](http://www.oie.int)).



### HPAI post outbreak surveillance in India

In February and March 2011 the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, Government of India reported to OIE about the occurrence of two outbreaks of HPAI in state poultry farms at R K Nagar and Gandhigram, near Agartala in Tripura state. Consequently the post outbreak surveillance was undertaken as per OIE international standards around the two epicenters. The samples were sent for testing to High Security Animal Diseases Laboratory, Bhopal. The swab samples were found negative for avian influenza virus by real time RT-PCR, RT-PCR and virus isolation. The sera samples were negative for avian influenza virus antibodies by agar gel immunodiffusion and haemagglutination inhibition tests. (Source: [www.dahd.nic.in](http://www.dahd.nic.in))

### Glanders in Afghanistan

In August 2011 the General Directorate of Animal Health and Production, Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock, Kabul, Afghanistan reported to OIE the 'First occurrence' of glanders, a listed disease, caused by bacterium *Burkholderia mallei*.

The disease affected three out of 130 equines, of which one died and two were destroyed. The occurrence of the disease was attributed to illegal movement of animals. The report to OIE stated that 130 equines came from Pakistan to Kabul with workers before June 2011. Two sick and one dead animal were found by the epidemiology team during the first visit. (Source: <http://www.oie.int/wahis>)

## SAARC Regional Leading Diagnostic Laboratories

### Peste des petits ruminants (PPR) laboratory in Bangladesh

The government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has identified the Virology Laboratory of Bangladesh Livestock Research Institute, Savar, Dhaka as the SAARC Regional Leading Diagnostic Laboratory for PPR. The contact details of the laboratory are, Tel :+88-02-7791670, Fax: +88-02-7791675, E-mail: [prrblrifp@yahoo.com](mailto:prrblrifp@yahoo.com), [alamjahan2003@yahoo.com](mailto:alamjahan2003@yahoo.com)

### Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) laboratory in Pakistan

The Government of Pakistan has identified the National Reference Laboratory for Poultry Diseases (NRLPD) at National Agricultural

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Research Centre, Islamabad as the SAARC Regional Leading Diagnostic Laboratory for avian influenza. The laboratory focal person identified is Dr Khalid Naeem, Chief Scientific Officer and Head of NRLPD. The contact details of the laboratory are, Tel +92-51-9255536, Fax +92-51-9255420, E-mail- [nrlpd@comsats.net.pk](mailto:nrlpd@comsats.net.pk)

### **Foot and mouth disease (FMD) laboratory in India**

The Government of India has identified Project Directorate on Foot and Mouth Disease, Mukteswar, Uttakhand state as the SAARC Regional Leading Diagnostic Laboratory for FMD. The laboratory focal person identified is Dr B Pattnaik, Project Director. The contact details of the laboratory are, Tel +91-5942-286004, Fax +91-5942-286307, Email- [pdfmd111@gmail.com](mailto:pdfmd111@gmail.com)

## **Other Leading Diagnostic Laboratories in the SAARC region**

### **Highly pathogenic avian influenza**

The High Security Animal Disease Laboratory (HSADL), Bhopal is working as OIE Reference Laboratory for avian influenza. The contact details for the laboratory are Joint Director, High Security Animal Disease Laboratory, Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Anandnagar, Bhopal-462 021, Madhya Pradesh (INDIA), Tel: +91-755-2759204, Fax: +91-755-2758842. More details can be found at <http://hsadl.nic.in>

### **FAO Reference Centre for haemorrhagic septicaemia for Asia and Oceania**

The Veterinary Research Institute, Peradeniya, Sri Lanka was designated as "the FAO regional Reference Laboratory for Haemorrhagic septicaemia for APHCA member countries" in September 1985. The mutually agreed functions were to provide consultants to assist in making a diagnosis and developing diagnostic capability in the affected country, production and standardization of diagnostic reagents, assistance in characterization of the causative agents and conduct trainings. The laboratory has been providing services and facilities especially serotyping of *Pasteurella multocida* isolates, supply reference cultures to other countries on request, production and standardization of reagents and providing trainings. The contact details of the centre are, Director (Veterinary Research), Veterinary Research Institute, Gannoruwa, Peradeniya, Sri Lanka, Tel +94-81-2388276, +94-81-2387375-7, +94-81-2388312, Fax +94-81-2388125, +94-81-2386144. (<http://www.vri.lk>).

## **2<sup>nd</sup> HPED Steering Committee Meeting and 5<sup>th</sup> GF-TADs Steering Committee Meeting, 20-22 July 2011, Tokyo, Japan**

The Highly Pathogenic Emerging and re-emerging (HPED)



2<sup>nd</sup> HPED Steering Committee Meeting in progress

Program in Asia is financially supported by the European Union (EU). Funds have been allocated to the three implementing organizations, including FAO, OIE, and WHO, with each organization having its own specific objectives. The Steering Committee was formed in 2010 to ensure harmonization and smooth coordination of the programme among the three partners.

The FAO/OIE Global Framework for Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs) is an important coordination framework for the control of TADs and EIDs. Under this initiative the regional steering committee for Asia convenes an annual meeting to discuss activities and coordination.

Both the 2<sup>nd</sup> HPED Steering Committee Meeting and the 5<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee Meeting of GF-TADs for Asia and the Pacific were jointly organized by FAO, OIE, and the Government of Japan (GoJ), with participation from WHO, ASEAN, SAARC, SPC and donors.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Steering Committee Meeting of the HPED Program in Asia**

Presentations were made on the progress of relevant activities implemented by FAO under the HPED program in 2010-2011, and under the FAO's programmatic approach for TADs and EIDs prevention and control. Several achievements toward realizing HPED program objectives were highlighted, for instance, the establishment of the ASEAN Regional Support Unit based in FAO RAP, and SAARC Regional Support Unit in FAO Nepal, tri-partite coordination among the implementing organizations, organizations of meetings, workshops, and trainings using the One Health approach to strengthen capacities at regional level to respond to HPED threats. The preliminary results of the mid-term evaluation of the EU HPED programme were presented by the EU representative, Ms Libuse Soukupova. The presentation focused on the overall outcomes of the evaluation without reference to a particular implementing organization, and covered the broad methodology used, disbursement of the programme, expected results, visibility, and recommendations to the implementing organizations.

### 5<sup>th</sup> FAO/OIE Regional Steering Committee Meeting on GF-TADs for Asia and the Pacific



Group Photo of 5<sup>th</sup> FAO/OIE Regional Steering Committee Meeting

Dr. Mohinder Oberoi, Sub-regional Manager and Coordinator RSU presented the progress of activities toward achieving FMD Progressive Control Pathway status in South Asian countries. The emphasis was given to FAO assistance to South Asian countries to assess their current status. Dr Carolyn Benigno from FAO RAP provided a presentation summarizing FAO activities on TADs control at regional level. The meeting well noted active engagement of FAO under the GF-TADs umbrella. The meeting discussed concerns over the occurrences of HPAI in endemic countries as well as outbreaks in previously HPAI-free countries, which highlighted the need for continuing effort and vigilance to control the disease. The re-emergence of FMD in proven FMD-free countries in East Asia and the presence of FMD endemic countries in South and South-East Asia was discussed and the need to strengthen regional and sub-regional cooperation was emphasized. With regards to FMD control, the meeting also discussed on issues related to vaccines and vaccination, and assessment of socio-economic impact, essentially providing important foundation for the Global FMD Conference (back-to-back with a pledging conference) to be held in Bangkok, Thailand in July 2012.

### Consultative Workshop on Regional Epidemiology and Laboratory Networking in the SAARC Region, 27 -29 July 2011, Kathmandu, Nepal

With a view to take forward the mandate of the HPED project and the recommendations from the inception and the high level workshops organized during September-October 2010 and in January 2011, respectively, a "Consultative Workshop on Regional Epidemiology and Laboratory Networking in the SAARC Region" was organized from 27 to 29 July 2011 at Kathmandu. The main objectives of the consultative workshop were to:

- Sensitize the relevant participants and stakeholders on the broad workplan of the RSU, REC and leading laboratories.
- Identify the national epidemiology units in the different

SAARC member states and also document the weaknesses and strengths of such units in the different countries.

- Identify the animal disease information systems being used by the different SAARC member states with possible harmonization of a common system for the countries.
- Advocate on the development of roadmaps for the control of priority HPEDs/TADs in SAARC member states.
- Develop relevant recommendations for the project and the member states to implement.

The workshop was attended by 43 participants from the eight SAARC member states and seven resource persons from various organizations including FAO, WHO and OIE. The participants included epidemiology and laboratory experts and also focal persons from wildlife department and communication sector.

Presentations were made on the mandates and progress made on 'Regional cooperation programme on HPEDs in South Asia', importance of epidemiology networking in the region, South East Asia plus China Foot and Mouth Disease (SEACFMD) campaign, laboratory networking in Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), epidemiology networking at human-animal interface, regional coordination mechanism for animal health in ASEAN, information system such as FAO's TADinfo, Livestock Disease Information System (LDIS) in Bangladesh and National Animal Disease Referral Expert System (NADRES) in India, EMPRESi-Asia, wildlife disease surveillance, and communication strategy for HPEDs. Country presentations were made on the HPED control and the epidemiology and laboratory settings in the SAARC member countries by the participants from each country. These presentations were followed by structured group discussions on epidemiology networking, information system and HPEDs control and laboratory networking and communications and the outcomes of these group discussions were presented to the house with recommendations.



Participants attending Consultative Workshop on Regional Epidemiology and Laboratory Networking in the SAARC Region, 27 -29 July 2011, Kathmandu, Nepal

The main recommendations were;

1. A functional and sustainable regional epidemiology networking mechanism for the region be established.
2. A national epidemiology network be identified or set

- up including networking with the sub-national units/centers with clear roles at each level by the respective member countries.
3. REC/RSU facilitate capacity building of national epidemiology networks through training and technical support; such as fielding participants to FETPV trainings and consultancies as and when requested by Governments.
  4. Enhanced national passive surveillance system and reporting mechanisms including a secure disease information system (e.g TADinfo) in the member states is established or strengthened.
  5. Case definitions for the reportable diseases are developed for uniformity of reporting.
  6. The veterinary authorities are encouraged to undertake epidemiological studies to promote and enable evidence based policy decisions by the policy makers for prevention and control of HPEDs/TADs by the member states in the region.
  7. Information sharing on HPEDs/TADs between the member states on 'real time' basis is put in place and facilitated through the REC.
  8. Formal linkages and mechanisms be developed between the veterinary epidemiology unit and the Departments, agencies or organizations concerned with wildlife conservation and wildlife disease surveillance.
  9. In order to enhance efficient exchange of information the countries in the region are encouraged to use a uniform national disease information system such as TADinfo. Those countries using other disease information systems (e.g. LDIS for Bangladesh and NADRES for India) are encouraged to make these systems compatible with TADinfo.
  10. National laboratory networks be identified or set up including networking with sub-national laboratories with clear roles at each level by the respective member countries.
  11. The national laboratories for HPEDs/TADs in all member states be strengthened in respect to equipment.
  12. Laboratory information management system be established in all member states.
  13. Mechanisms for effective linkage between national laboratory network and epidemiology network are developed with clear mandates and responsibilities of both the networks to facilitate efficient surveillance and outbreak investigations. Appropriate SOPs should be developed for the purpose.
  14. Uniform disease reporting formats are developed for use by all the members states.
  15. FMD Progressive Control Pathway approach may be used as a model to develop control strategies for other priority HPEDs/TADs in the region.
  16. Member countries review or update their legislative provisions to support HPEDs/ TADs control in the respective countries.
  17. A consultative workshop with the national experts from the member states be conducted to develop regional plans for each of the priority TADs, beginning with FMD and PPR.
  18. HPAI communication models may be adopted for developing national and regional communication

strategies for HPEDs and other priority TADs.

19. The member states establish monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for communication in HPEDs and TADs control.

## Workshops and Meetings attended

### **Workshop on "Putting One Health to Work", 9-10 August, 2011, Bangkok**

Mr Prakash Nayak, Communication Expert from RSU, Kathmandu attended the workshop and contributed to the advocacy strategy development process. The purpose of the workshop was to work on the advocacy strategy for the region with respect to One Health. Participants from ASEAN countries and SAARC were involved during the 2-day workshop. Among others, representatives from FAO, WHO SEARO, OIE, USAID, EU and other agencies were present and contributed on the occasion.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Consultative Meeting of Epidemiology Consortium for HPAI, emerging zoonotic and TADs control in Asia, 16-17 August 2011, Bangkok, Thailand**

The objective of the consultative meeting was to mainly bring together all the existing and new epidemiology consortium members for updating activities of the consortium members, establishing a resource inventory and support systems for building epidemiology capacity in Asia under One Health approach. It was also to review complementarities of activities for both existing and new partners under a One Health agenda with consideration for strengthening epidemiology networks and frameworks. Around thirty eight members from Asia attended the workshop, including existing consortium members and some new members/observers including the three staff from Regional Support Unit/Regional Epidemiology Centre, Kathmandu (SAARC).



Group photo of participants attending Consultative Workshop to Develop a Strategic Framework and Plan for Veterinary Epidemiology Capacity in Southeast Asia

Existing consortium members, who are the experts from ASEAN, Australian Animal Health Laboratory, Australian Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Chulalongkorn University, CIRAD, Colorado State University, DAI (RESPOND), Department of Livestock Development, Thailand, International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), IZSve Padova, Massey University, Ministry of Public Health, Thailand, Murdoch University, OIE, Royal Veterinary College, WHO, USAID, US Center for Disease Control and Prevention, US Department of Agriculture and Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (both HQ and regional offices) were present.

### **Initiation of a Five Year Strategic Plan for Veterinary Epidemiology Capacity Development for South East Asia, 18-19 August 2011, Bangkok, Thailand**

The Consultative Workshop to develop a strategic plan for veterinary epidemiology capacity development in South East Asia (SEA) with the expected outcomes of identifying goals, objectives and action plan including roles, responsibilities, and timelines a strategic framework and plan for veterinary epidemiology capacity in Southeast Asia was organized from 18 to 19 August 2011. The workshop was facilitated by Emeritus Professor John Edwards and inaugurated Mr. Man Ho So, FAO Deputy Regional Representative, Bangkok.

From RSU, Dr. Pashang Tshreing, Regional Epidemiology Centre (REC) Coordinator, Dr. Muhammad Akram, Assistant REC Coordinator and Dr. Ravi Dissanayeke, Disease Information Data Expert of Regional Support Unit, Kathmandu participated and involved in group works and presentations in both the workshops.

## Visitors



ECTAD - RAP Team lead by Dr. Subhash Morzaria, Regional Manager with RSU Team Members on 29 July 2011, Kathmandu, Nepal

## New Staff

Dr Akram Muneer joined in August as National Consultant (Senior Scientific Officer-HPAI) at the SAARC Regional Leading Diagnostic Laboratory for avian influenza at Islamabad, Pakistan. He has extensive experience in the field of avian influenza control in Pakistan.

## News from SAARC Secretariat

At the beginning of July 2011 Mr Riaz Hamidullah, Director, Agriculture and Rural Development at the SAARC Secretariat completed his tenure and repatriated back to Bangladesh. Mr Hamidullah was instrumental in getting the HPED project on board for SAARC countries. The Regional Support Unit wishes him well in his new assignment.

Mr Tareque Muhammad from Bangladesh joined as the new Director, Agriculture and Rural Development at the SAARC Secretariat. The Regional Support Unit welcomes him and wishes him well in his new assignment. We hope to have closer association in the coming years.



## Upcoming events

- a) Wrap up meeting of the South Asia cross border project, 16 September 2011, Kathmandu, Nepal
- b) ASEAN-SAARC RSU: Informal Consultation on Coordination of OH at Regional and Country Levels, 19-20 September, Bangkok, Thailand
- c) USAID Regional AI Partners' Meeting, 4-5 October 2011, Bangkok, Thailand
- d) The Second Regional Workshop on Collaboration between Human and Animal Health Sectors on Zoonoses Prevention and Control, 8-10 November in Bangkok, Thailand
- e) ASEAN-SAARC RSU M & E Training, 14-18 November 2011, Bangkok, Thailand
- f) Workshop to develop SAARC Regional Roadmap for Progressive Control of Foot and Mouth Disease, 22-24 November 2011, Kathmandu, Nepal
- g) Workshop to develop SAARC Regional Roadmap for Progressive Control of Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR), 28-30 November 2011, Kathmandu, Nepal



## Eliminating Animal Health Risks

### Regional Cooperation Programme on Highly Pathogenic and Emerging Diseases (HPEDs) in South Asia

#### ► Goals

Contribute to the strengthening and empowerment of SAARC in its ability to prevent, control and eradicate HPEDs, including HPAI, through improved veterinary and public health services and inter-sectoral collaboration on a regional basis.

#### ► Objective

Capacities and capabilities of SAARC to prevent, control and eradicate HPEDs, including HPAI, at regional level are enhanced.

#### ► Outputs

- ⊕ **Regional Support Unit (RSU)** established with mechanism for Regional Cooperation and collaboration to facilitate regional policies and technical activities under Global Framework for the progressive control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs).
- ⊕ **Regional Epidemiology Centre (REC)** established with networks of national epidemiology units including socio economic analysis organized and coordinated.
- ⊕ **Regional Leading Diagnostic Laboratories** strengthened with the networks of national laboratories in order to provide technical support to improve the laboratory diagnosis of the priority HPEDs and backstop epidemiological studies to develop rational disease control strategies.



#### ► Expected Impact

- ⊕ An early warning network established contributing to improve strategies for control of HPAI and HPEDs in the region.
- ⊕ A network of regional diagnostic laboratories and epidemiological teams established to facilitate exchange of disease information and maintain uniform standards through regular quality assurance.
- ⊕ Animal health services become more central to the business of governments in the region as part of core capacity to deal with zoonotic public health emergencies.
- ⊕ A mechanism established for information sharing between animal and human health agencies.



Afghanistan



Bangladesh



Bhutan



India



Maldives



Nepal



Pakistan



Sri Lanka

Regional Support Unit and Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases for South Asia  
FAO, Kathmandu, Nepal

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