



The Regional Support Unit wishes its readers a Very Happy New Year 2012

South Asia Weekly Animal Disease E-Information initiated

The Sub regional ECTAD and RSU started an ECTAD South Asia Weekly Animal Disease E-Information newsletter. The purpose of this E-Information is to strengthen the regional mechanism in early warning system for priority HPEDs and Transboundary Animal Disease (TAD) outbreaks and information sharing on real time basis between member states to support rapid response by the concerned country(ies). This "ECTAD South Asia Weekly Animal Disease E-Information" carries abstracts and link to the sources of information and related articles from the various official and non-official sources.

Major diseases situation in the sub-region

Four countries of the sub-region namely Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal recorded new HPAI outbreaks in poultry and wild birds. As predicted previously, it appears that the Indo-Gangetic plains will continue to experience outbreaks of HPAI in coming times. The situation is particularly getting serious in Bangladesh with the detection of a human case in a poultry handler in the live bird market of Dhaka.

The island country Sri Lanka also reported for the first time the presence of low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI) H5N2 in a commercial poultry farm in North Western Province. Newcastle disease is emerging in a more virulent form in Pakistan. Bangladesh also reported human cases of Nipah virus in Joypurhat district in January 2012.

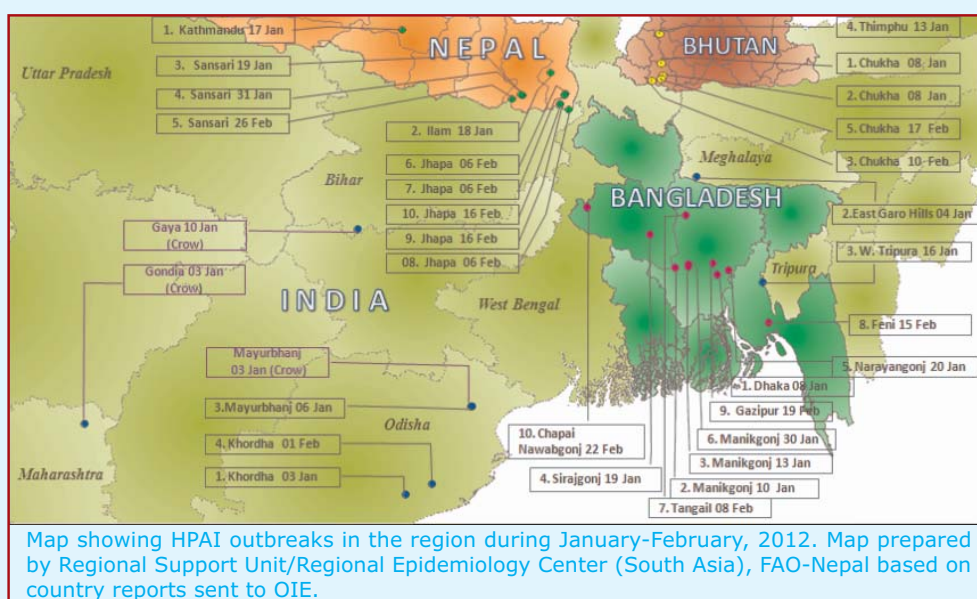
HPAI

Bangladesh

A total of 10 HPAI H5N1 outbreaks were reported during the period, January (Dhaka Division 4, Rajshahi Division 1) and February (Chittagong Division 1, Dhaka Division 3, Rajshahi Division 1). (Source: www.oie.int)

Bhutan

On 30 December 2011, HPAI H5N1 outbreaks occurred in backyard poultry in four villages near national highway of Chhukha district. The disease was found on 8 January in two villages in Chhukha district, and on 13 January at the Changedaphu (Kalabazaar) labour camps in the capital city Thimphu. Meanwhile, 15 crows were found dead in Phuentsholing on 19 January; about three weeks later, outbreaks in backyard poultry occurred in the sub-district. Another outbreak occurred in Bongo sub-district on 17 February.



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Table: List of HPAI outbreaks in the sub-region during January-February 2012

Country	Date	State/ Division/ Zone	S. No. in the Map	District	Sub-district/ Block/Village	Type of poultry
Bangladesh	08 Jan	Dhaka	1	Dhaka	Para dogair, Matuail, Demra	CP
	10 Jan	Dhaka	2	Manikgonj	Chhoto Boali, Shibalaya	CP
	19 Jan	Rajshahi	4	Sirajgonj	Sirajgonj	CP
	20 Jan	Dhaka	5	Narayangonj	Brahmandi purbapara, Araihasar	CP
	30 Jan	Dhaka	6	Manikgonj	Joyra, Jagir	CP
	8 Feb	Dhaka	7	Tangail	Raujan Kadamtali, Dhanbari	CP
	13 Feb	Dhaka	3	Manikgonj	Andharmanik, Manikgonj sadar	CP
	15 Feb	Chittagong	8	Feni	Enaetpur, Etimkhana bazar	CP
	19 Feb	Dhaka	9	Gazipur	Jirani	CP
	22 Feb	Rajshahi	10	Chanpai Nawabgonj	Jahid nagar, Rohonpur, Gomostapur	CP
Bhutan	08 Jan		1	Chhukha	Bjabcho	BYP
	08 Jan		2	Chhukha	Chapcha	BYP
	13 Jan		4	Thimphu	Chang	BYP
	10 Feb		3	Chhukha	Phuntsholing	BYP
	17 Feb		5	Chhukha	Bongo	BYP
India	03 Jan	Odisha	1	Khordha	Khordha	BYP
	04 Jan	Meghalaya	2	East Garo Hills	William Nagar	State PF
	06 Jan	Odisha	3	Mayurbhanj	Betnoti	BYP
	16 Jan	Tripura	3	West Tripura	Lembucherra	ICAR PF
	01 Feb	Odisha	4	Khordha	Nayapalli	Govt. PF
	03 Jan	Maharashtra		Gondia	Sadak Arjuni	Crow
	03 Jan	Odisha		Mayurbhanj	Keranga	Crow
	10 Jan	Bihar		Gaya	Fatehpur	Crow
	17 Jan	Bagmati	1	Kathmandu	Kathmandu Municipality-31	Crow
	18 Jan	Mechi	2	Ilam/Panchthar	Ilam/Panchthar	BYP
Nepal	19 Jan	Koshi	3	Sunsari	Khanar VDC-4	CP
	31 Jan	Koshi	4	Sunsari	Bajraha	CP
	06 Feb	Mechi	8	Jhapa	Arjundhara	BYP
	06 Feb	Mechi	7	Jhapa	Charpane	CP
	06 Feb	Mechi	6	Jhapa	Pathamari	BYP
	16 Feb	Mechi	9	Jhapa	Tagandubba	BYP
	16 Feb	Mechi	10	Jhapa	Khumarkhod	BYP
	26 Feb	Koshi	5	Sunsari	Narsinghatappu	BYP

CP-Commercial poultry, BYP-Backyard Poultry, PF-Poultry Farm

So far, all outbreaks have been reported from backyard poultry farms near national highway in Chhukha district. The Ministry of Agriculture and Forests (MoAF) has implemented the 3D operation (Depopulation, Disposal and Decontamination), vehicle disinfection, door-to-door mass awareness campaigns highlighting the various bio-security measures. The Ministry has agreed to pay the compensation to farmers. (Source: www.oie.int)

India

On 3 January 2012, HPAI H5N1 outbreak occurred in backyard poultry in Khordha district, Odisha state. On the same day, deaths of crows (*Corvus macrorhynchos*) were observed in Mayurbhanj district, in the same state; three days later, an outbreak was detected in the same district in backyard poultry. Deaths of crows also occurred in Maharashtra in west and Bihar in east in the same week, although these are at approximately 750km and 400km distance from Mayurbhanj district of Odisha state.

About a month later, an outbreak in a government poultry farm was also reported in Khordha district. There were also HPAI H5N1 outbreaks reported in East Garo Hills, Meghalaya and Lembucherra, West Tripura district, Tripura during the month of January. These states are in the North and the East to Bangladesh, respectively. (Source: www.oie.int)

2012. It was reported to OIE following confirmation by the national veterinary laboratory. The outbreak affected two small layer farms in Panawewa village in Bingiriya, district Kurunegala, with apparent morbidity and mortality rate of 0.68 percent and 100 percent case fatality rate. The affected farms were depopulated by culling 14500 birds. Surveillance was carried out in a 3 km area and no further outbreaks were identified. The final report was submitted to OIE after resolving the event. (Source: www.oie.int)

Fourth H5N1 human case in Bangladesh

A 40 year old male was diagnosed as fourth case of human avian influenza (H5N1) in Bangladesh. This case was reported from live bird market surveillance system in Dhaka city on 26 February 2012. The patient is a live bird market worker.

In Bangladesh the first human case was detected in 2008, second and third cases were found in 2011, and fourth case was found on 26 February 2012.

Nepal

A total of ten HPAI H5N1 outbreaks were reported during this period. Starting on 17 January 2012, H5N1 virus was detected in crows found dead in the capital Kathmandu. In the eastern part of the country, outbreaks in Mechi Zone and two outbreaks in Sunsari district, Koshi Zone were reported during the latter half of January. In February, six outbreaks occurred in Jhapa district, Mechi Zone and Sunsari district, Koshi Zone. Both Sunsari and Jhapa districts share porous international border with India's Bihar state where deaths of crows on 10 January 2012 were reported. (Source: www.oie.int)

Sri Lanka (LPAI)

Sri Lanka experienced an outbreak of low pathogenic notifiable avian influenza (H5N2) for the first time in the country on 20 January



Nipah Outbreak at Joypurhat, Bangladesh in January 2012

In January 2012, two clusters of Nipah virus infection were identified in the Joypurhat municipality area and Khetlal sub-district of Joypurhat district. A joint team of Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR) and the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR, B) identified 3 cases from the municipal area and 2 cases from Khetlal till 23 January 2012. In all the cases, there was report of human death. Laboratory tests for Nipah were done in IEDCR.

Neighbouring countries

Myanmar

A HPAI H5N1 outbreak occurred in February 2012 in Myothit Quarter, Chaung U Township, Monywa district, Sagaing Region. Out of 1 060 susceptible birds, 61 birds died and 999 were culled.

First Laboratory Directors' Meeting and Workshop on Laboratory Networking, Jan 23-24, 2012, Dhaka, Bangladesh

The "First Laboratory Directors' Meeting and Workshop on Laboratory Networking and Proficiency Testing for Priority HPEDs in SAARC Countries" was organized on 23-24 January 2012 in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The meeting included plenary presentations followed by a workshop on laboratory networking and proficiency testing that focused on facilitated and structured discussions. The meeting and the workshop came out with a set of recommendations: (i) laboratory capacity building and networking activities be coordinated by Regional Leading Diagnostic Laboratories (RLDLs) in South Asia; (ii) the Regional Guiding Principles for the priority diseases (FMD, PPR, HPAI) be prepared; (iii) regional quality assurance scheme must be a priority and be supported to include institutional commitment to carry out proficiency testing and sharing of results among network laboratories; (iv) guidelines for sample collection, transportation, submission, interpretation of diagnostic result be developed, and awareness be created among all stakeholders accordingly; (v) the Laboratory Directors' Forum be institutionalized and the meeting be held annually with participation from the National and Regional Leading Laboratories; (vi) the Laboratory Directors Forum could provide guidelines for all laboratories in a number of areas, e.g. biosafety, quality assurance, testing requirements for laboratories at each level in the region and country.

The recommendations of the workshop on Proficiency Testing include: (i) the RLDLs should receive training on proficiency testing provider prior to the beginning of the proficiency testing round; (ii) the RLDLs can supply small quantity of internal quality control (IQC) reagents to national laboratories upon request. After which the national laboratories can produce their



Officials from South Asia & Multilateral agency attending First Laboratory Directors' Meeting and Workshop on Laboratory Networking, Jan 23-24, 2012, Dhaka, Bangladesh

own IQC from local strains; (iii) proficiency testing should be organized annually for the real time PCR and HI for HPAI; ELISA for FMD and PCR for PPR; (iv) the recipient laboratories should use both reagents supplied by RLDL and reagents available within their own laboratories for proficiency testing to identify if there is any problem with in-house reagents; (v) RLDLs will provide confirmatory testing and carry out backstopping missions to other laboratories to address trouble shooting and provide in-house training; (vi) quality assurance system needs to be implemented and supported. National laboratories should seek accreditation from their own country; (vii) the RLDLs will supply SOPs and Regional Guiding Principles for diagnosis of FMD, HPAI and PPR; (viii) the RLDLs should consider to participate in recognized proficiency testing programme and be accredited as PT providers; and (ix) create SAARC Working Groups for Priority Diseases.

Training on TADinfo and GIS/spatial epidemiology training workshop 24 January to 3 February 2012, Bangkok, Thailand.

Two important trainings related to disease information were held in Bangkok. The first one was on TADinfo, during 24-31 January and the second one was on GIS/Spatial Epidemiology, during 1-3 February 2012.



Participants, RSU Team Members Dr. Subhash Morzaria, Regional Manager, ECTAD-RAP during TADinfo training workshop in Bangkok, Thailand.

The immediate objectives of the training workshop were to:

1. impart hands on training in TADinfo software including aspects related to management of a database system.
2. impart hands on training in GIS/spatial epidemiology for the analysis of spatial epidemiological data.
3. introduce a draft generic 'animal disease reporting format' which is compatible with TADinfo and which could be adopted by countries with certain modifications.
4. assess the different level of TADinfo usage in different countries and share experiences of current TADinfo users with other participants.
5. identify a mechanism for sustainable use of TADinfo at country level including at sub-national level for epidemiology networking in the region.
6. build epidemiology capacity in the region and information flow between the member states and at regional and global levels, and to take forward the process of establishing animal disease database.

The training/workshop facilitated by a TADinfo expert from FAO HQ and a consultant for GIS component supported by two technical staff from RSU were conducted at the FAO-RAP facility. TADinfo database training covered all five modules-observation, active surveillance, abattoir, vaccination and census modules apart from the system configuration, data management and administrative tools modules. In GIS/spatial epidemiology, participants were given basic training about GIS, spatial analysis of animal disease data and the use of spatial analysis for epidemiological work.

Scientific Developments and Technical Challenges in Progressive Control of FMD in South Asia, 13-15 February 2012, New Delhi, India

Members of Regional Support Unit participated in a 3-day International Conference on "Scientific developments and Technical challenges in progressive control of foot-

and-mouth disease (FMD) in South Asia". The purpose of the conference was to review the progress made in the field of FMD vaccine manufacturing and vaccination programme, diagnostics, and the science of progressive control (risk management, decision making and programme optimization). It was also to identify priorities for investment in science that would have greatest impact for regional and global control efforts, which would then be presented at the FAO/OIE Global Conference on FMD Control in June, 2012. The Sub Regional Manager/RSU Coordinator chaired a technical session and made an oral presentation on the progressive control pathway (PCP) and long term FMD control in South Asia. The other staff facilitated the working group sessions and worked as rapporteurs for various sessions. The report of 'Workshop to develop foot and mouth disease-progressive control pathway (PCP-FMD) for SAARC countries, 22-24 November 2011' was distributed among all the participants and dignitaries. Scientists and animal health experts from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Director Agriculture and Rural Development from SAARC Secretariat also participated in the conference.

Workshops and Meetings attended

The Second Regional Workshop on collaboration between Human and Animal Health sectors on Zoonoses Prevention and Control, Chang Mai, 16-18 January 2012

FAO, OIE, and WHO jointly organized the 2nd Regional Workshop on collaboration between the animal and human health sectors on zoonoses prevention and control from 16 to 18 January 2012 in Chiang Mai, Thailand. The workshop aimed to develop a draft framework for collaborative activities to strengthen zoonoses prevention and control among the international and regional organizations and member countries for the coming five years (2012-2015). A total of 93 delegates representing the animal and human health sectors of 17 countries from Asia and the Pacific, regional organizations, international organizations, donors, and international NGOs participated in this workshop. From SAARC region, Director Agriculture and Rural Development of SAARC secretariat and nominated officials from, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka and RSU participated.

ASEAN/FAO/OIE/WHO Rabies Workshop, Chang Mai, 19-20 January 2012

A workshop on Rabies titled, "The ASEAN/FAO/OIE/WHO Rabies Workshop" was organized on 19-20 January 2012 in Chang Mai, Thailand. The workshop aimed to collaboratively assess the ASEAN member countries' accomplishments and progress, and attempt to initiate a unified effort through the development of regional strategy for rabies control. Sixty-three participants from animal and human health sectors of 12 countries, including ASEAN Member States, PR China, Timor Leste, and Mongolia, as well as FAO, OIE, WHO, and partner organizations attended the workshop. From SAARC region, the Director Agriculture



Indian Minister of State for Agriculture, Food Processing and Parliamentary Affairs, Mr Harish Rawat addressing delegates of FMD conference in New Delhi, India.

and Rural Development from SAARC Secretariat and RSU staff participated in the workshop. FAO, OIE, WHO, and ASEAN Secretariat agreed that ASEAN/FAO/OIE/WHO representatives from the region would form a working group and FAO would take lead in initiating the first meeting of the working group to discuss details of the pathway for a step-wise approach for rabies control in South-East Asia by the end of March 2012.

Annual ECTAD Meeting, 20-22 February 2012, Bangkok, Thailand

The Sixth Annual Regional ECTAD Meeting (AREM), was held during 20-22 February 2012 in Bangkok. The main focus of meeting was on stock taking, current practices and future plan in a depleting funding situation. The meeting



Participants attending 6th Annual ECTAD Meeting

was attended by ECTAD country teams consisting of the team leaders and key technical and operations officers, FAO-RAP team members, members from sub-regional ECTAD for South Asia and FAO-HQ. All the members from RSU- SAARC participated and actively involved in group works and general discussions. The meeting highlighted the HPAI situation in 2005, situation now (as of February 2012), major quantifiable inputs, major outcomes and impacts, best practices, lessons learned, sustainability and future at country and regional levels. In addition, the meeting also threw light on the transition strategy from HPAI to broader emerging infectious diseases (EID) arena and ECTAD's best approach to positioning itself to ensure full participation in the future One Health related opportunities while ensuring alignment to FAO's action plan for animal health.

DAFF Inception Workshop, 27-28 February 2012, Bangkok

The inception workshop, funded by the Australian Government, on the project titled "Partnership on Global Animal Health and Biosecurity Initiatives" was organized to finalize the project activities and work plan. Dr. Pasang Tshering, Regional Epidemiology Centre (REC) Coordinator from RSU attended the workshop.

RSU support to SAARC member states

Bhutan: Facilitated by the HPED project a Veterinary Officer from Bhutan participated in the month long 'Veterinary field epidemiology in action' (FETPV) training in January-February, 2012 at Bangkok, Thailand.

India: Dr. Venkatasubbarao Mandava, Laboratory Coordinator, supported OSRO/IND/802/USA in India for various activities like three 2-day surveillance training programmes for field veterinarians and a 3-week long FETPV organized at National Institute of Epidemiology, Chennai. He also supported the visiting CMC- AH mission in connection with crow mortality in Jharkhand.

Laboratory Assessment in Pakistan: Dr. Muhammad Akram, Assistant REC Coordinator visited Pakistan in January 2012 to undertake assessment of the SAARC Regional Leading Diagnostic Laboratory for Avian Influenza and National Veterinary laboratories (FMD and PPR) in Pakistan.

RSU News

Mr Guido Agostinucci joins as Operations Consultant

Mr Guido Agostinucci from FAO-HQ joined RSU till 15 March as Emergency Programme Consultant on a backstopping mission.

GIS facility procured and installed in REC

The ArcGIS 10 with spatial analyst extension was procured and installed in REC which would enable Regional Epidemiology Center to cater regional needs. Understanding the spatial distribution and dynamics of occurrences of priority diseases in the region will help in planning outbreak control strategies and designing regional control strategies for progressive control of HPEDs.

Upcoming events

- a) Workshop on Highly Pathogenic and Emerging Diseases Surveillance in the SAARC Region, 5-7 March 2012, Jaipur, India
- b) Regional Training on Proficiency testing for Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratories in SAARC countries, May 2012
- c) FAO/OIE global conference on foot and mouth disease control, 27-29 June 2012, Bangkok, Thailand



Eliminating Animal Health Risks

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

PREVENT RABIES
CARE FOR YOUR DOG AND IT WILL TAKE CARE OF YOU



WHAT TO DO WHEN BITTEN BY AN ANIMAL ?

- 🌐 **Immediately run water on the wound for a good 15 minutes after washing it thoroughly with soap or hydrogen peroxide.** This will remove as much saliva (hence virus) as possible from the wound and will greatly decrease chances of infection (do not clean the wound with alcohol).
- 🌐 **Seek medical treatment or go to hospital without delay for appropriate medical attention and post-exposure vaccination if required.**
- 🌐 **Any suspected rabid animal should be confined and put under veterinary observation according to the country's legislation.**

Photo Courtesy: Gurakh Bista



Afghanistan



Bangladesh



Bhutan



India



Maldives



Nepal



Pakistan



Sri Lanka

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