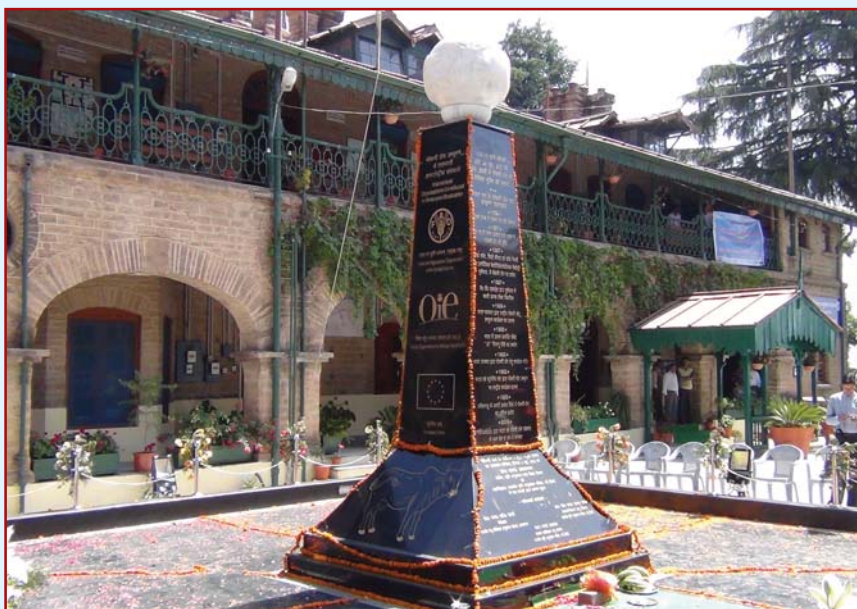




A tribute from India: Memorial to Global Rinderpest Eradication Programme

The "Global Rinderpest Eradication Programme" (GREP) was launched by FAO in 1994 in order to control and eradicate the disease "Globally", to which India was an active partner. To commemorate India's role in the Global Eradication of Rinderpest, the Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI), erected a "Global Rinderpest Eradication Memorial Stone" at Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Mukteswar-Kumaon, Nainital, Uttarakhand, India on 2 June 2012. This memorial stone will serve as a tribute to all the people who have contributed to the successful implementation of the Global Rinderpest Eradication Programme.



Global Rinderpest Eradication Memorial Stone at Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Mukteswar, India. The historic Rinderpest Laboratory is in the background
Photo Courtesy: IVRI, Mukteswar

Major diseases situation in the Sub-region

Highly pathogenic avian influenza

Bangladesh

No new outbreak was reported from Bangladesh. Since March 2007, 356 farms have been affected by H5 HPAAI virus from 49 districts (www.mofl.gov.bd).

Bhutan

No new outbreak was reported from Bhutan. The last notification to OIE was submitted on 20 April 2012.

India

Surveillance conducted in India between 16 April and 13 May 2012 detected 4 positive serum (by HI) and 4 chicken tissue samples positive by RT-PCR, real-time RT-PCR and virus isolation for H5N1 virus (www.dahd.nic.in).

India notified outbreak of HPAAI H5N1 at epicentre Williamnagar, district East Garo Hills, Meghalaya in January 2012. After conducting surveillance around the area of the outbreak since completion of the operation, no evidence of the HPAAI H5N1 was reported from any part of the state. In view of this India declared the epicentre of Williamnagar

Contents	Page No
▪ A tribute from India: Memorial to Global Rinderpest Eradication Programme	1
▪ Major diseases situation in the sub-region	1
▪ Regional Training on Proficiency Testing for Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratories in the SAARC region, 21-26 May 2012, Mukteswar, India	2
▪ Real-Time FMD Training in Nepal: Feasibility Study	3
▪ 2nd FAO/OIE Global Conference on Foot and Mouth Disease Control, 27-29 June 2012, Bangkok, Thailand	3
▪ RSU News	4
▪ New staff	4
▪ National Epidemiology Units	5
▪ Upcoming Events	5
▪ Prevent Rabies Leaflet	6

free from notifiable avian influenza with effect from 23 April 2012.

Similar outbreaks reported from epicentres in Keranga and Nayapalli (both in Khorda district), Odisha in January and February 2012 were resolved after post outbreak surveillance. In view of this India declared the epicentres in Keranga and Nayapalli of Odisha free from notifiable avian influenza with effect from 30 April and 5 May 2012, respectively. (www.dahd.nic.in)

Nepal

No new outbreak was reported from Nepal after the last outbreak in March 2012.

Pakistan

Monitoring of the AI situation in Pakistan is regularly conducted through sample testing from various regions of Pakistan at National Reference Laboratory on Poultry Diseases (NRLPD), Islamabad. During May-June 2012 the laboratory received samples as per following details:

Serum samples	- 1365
Tracheal/cloacal swabs	- 470
Morbid tissue samples	- 396

The test results indicated no serum HI antibody titers to H5 or H7 viruses. The morbid tissue samples and swab samples were tested using virus isolation and the PCR. But no H5 or H7 virus was isolated. However, 18 isolates of Influenza A/H9 virus were obtained.

Over all H9 virus infection in commercial flocks was causing damage in terms of poor growth, low egg production and high mortality especially when there was co-infection with Mycoplasma, infectious bronchitis virus (IBV) and Newcastle disease virus (communicated by NRLPD).

Crimean-Congo Haemorrhagic Fever (CCHF)

Pakistan

In 2012, total of 28 suspected cases of CCHF have been reported throughout the country with 21 confirmed to date and 6 deaths. The case fatality rate (CFR) is 30%. Seventeen cases have been reported from Balochistan, 4 each from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh and 3 from Punjab. Approximately all the cases had contact history with animal trading/handling, tick bite, contact with patient, tannery worker, butcher/animals slaughtering, a traditional practice of wearing fresh animal skin (posti) to treatment ailment. These animals and their skins have continuous movement intra Pakistan and between

neighboring countries (Afghanistan and Iran). (Source: *Weekly Epidemiological Bulletin published jointly by the National Institute of Health, Islamabad and World Health Organization (WHO), Pakistan for Week no. 25 (17-23 June 2012)*)

India

Unconfirmed report from a local hospital in Ahmedabad indicated that a resident doctor died of the CCHF on 22 June 2012. The doctor contracted the virus while treating a patient with unknown haemorrhagic viral fever. As per hospital information a positive report was received from the National Institute of Virology, Pune.

Newcastle disease

Newcastle disease continued to rage poultry farms in Pakistan. The National Reference Laboratory on Poultry Diseases (NRLPD), Islamabad isolated 18 virus isolates during May-June from the outbreaks.

Anthrax

One hundred and seven (107) human cases of cutaneous anthrax were recorded in Bangladesh between 20 May and 19 June 2012 in four districts, namely Shirajganj, Kushtia, Bogra and Tangail. (Source: <http://www.iedcr.org/>).

Regional Training on Proficiency Testing for Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratories in the SAARC region, 21-26 May 2012, Mukteswar, India

Proficiency testing (PT) forms an important part of building regional epidemiology and laboratory networks. Most laboratory accreditation bodies using ISO/IEC 17025 standard require that laboratories participate in such programs to be accredited. These requirements emphasize the need for proficiency test providers to demonstrate their competence. Having imparted training for staff from laboratories of member states in the laboratory diagnosis of FMD and a planned training on diagnosis of PPR by Regional Leading Diagnostic Laboratory (RLDL) of the Regional Support Unit, it was essential to take the capacity building to the next level by building the functional laboratory networks in the region for quality management of the laboratories.

Taking on the recommendations of the First Laboratory Directors' Meeting and Workshop on Laboratory Networking and Proficiency Testing for Priority HPEDs in SAARC Countries from 23-24 January 2012 in Dhaka, Bangladesh, the Regional Support Unit organized the "Regional Training on Proficiency





Participants from SAARC region attending Training on Proficiency Testing for Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratories in Mukteswar, India

Testing for Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratories in SAARC countries" at the SAARC Regional Leading Diagnostic Laboratory for foot and mouth disease at Project Directorate for FMD (PDFMD), Mukteswar, India with support from the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Government of India and Australian Animal Health Laboratory (AAHL), Geelong, Australia. The main objectives of this training were;

- i. To train RLDL staff as proficiency testing provider prior to the beginning of the proficiency testing round.
- ii. To train staff of National Laboratories of the member



Participants conducting and participating Proficiency Testing activities inside RLDL-PDFMD at Mukteswar, India

countries in conducting and participating in proficiency testing programmes.

A total of 20 participants from the SAARC Member States attended the proficiency testing training including staff from RLDLs, national laboratories and from OIE laboratory for HPAI in India. Three facilitators from Australian Animal Health Laboratory (AAHL) facilitated the training and discussions on proficiency testing. Participants from each country/laboratory worked in teams for serology and PCR laboratory work. The participants were guided to prepare a laboratory report for PT including trouble shooting and recommendations for corrective actions at the laboratory using PT results. They also analysed the data provided for avian influenza PT results and used statistical software for serology and PCR to prepare reports.

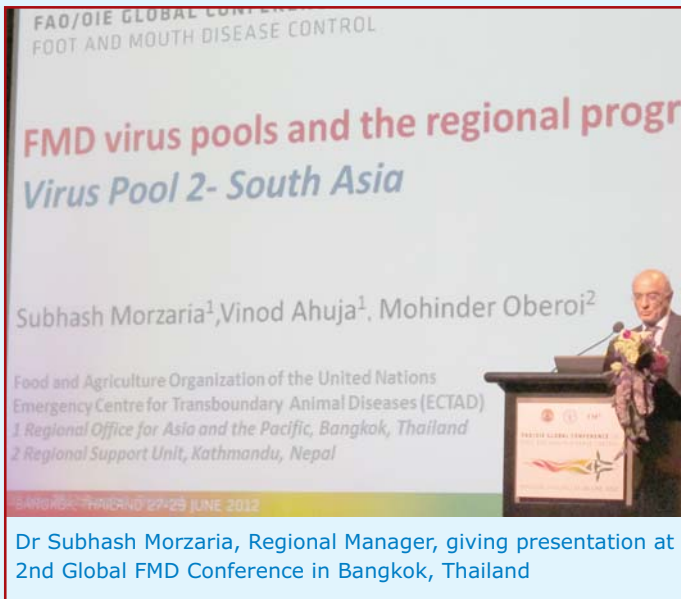
Real-Time FMD Training in Nepal: Feasibility Study

The feasibility study on Real-Time FMD training was organized by the EuFMD Commission Secretariat, working through the Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases/Regional Support Unit for SAARC countries, based in FAO Kathmandu, Nepal. The training course was assessed in Nepal in the week of 3-7 June 2012, by undertaking a pilot study. The course format followed involved 2 days in Kathmandu and 2 working days in the field. A total of ten participants participated, of which, 4 were international and 6 were from Nepal (including one veterinary epidemiologist from the Regional Support Unit, FAO-Nepal).

2nd FAO/OIE Global Conference on Foot and Mouth Disease Control, 27-29 June 2012, Bangkok, Thailand

The FMD global conference was jointly organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations





Dr Subhash Morzaria, Regional Manager, giving presentation at 2nd Global FMD Conference in Bangkok, Thailand

(FAO) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE). FAO and OIE jointly unveiled Global Strategy for control of foot-and-mouth disease to bring the devastating livestock disease under control. Over 600 participants from more than 100 countries attended the FMD/OIE meeting, including OIE national delegates, stakeholders, representatives of FAO and other partner International organizations, key global donors, non-governmental and farmers' organizations participated in the event. The purpose of the conference was to assess the updated control methods of the disease, the status of research on FMD, the application of disease surveillance methodologies, the application and development of vaccines and vaccine banks and the use, constraints and



South Asia group participants at the 2nd Global FMD Conference in Bangkok, Thailand

availability of diagnostic methods in susceptible species. The Sub Regional ECTAD Manager and RSU Coordinator, RSU Assistant Coordinator and Regional Epidemiology Centre Coordinator participated in the conference.

RSU News:

- Mr Rabin Karmacharya, Administrative and Finance Assistant attended Letters of Agreement (LOA) operations training in New Delhi during 3-4 May 2012. During the 2-day workshop, different component of FAO administrative manual were discussed.
- Dr. Ravi Dissanayake, Disease Information and Data Expert attended training on the use of EMPRES-i and GLEWS activities during 18-29 June 2012 in FAO HQ Rome. The main objectives of the visit were to learn disease intelligence and early warning activities performed by GLEWS at global level and to study technical aspects of EMPRES-i and Event Mobile Application (EMA) and learn the process of animal disease information management and analysis.

New Staff

Dr Aniket Sanyal joined as National Consultant-Senior Scientific Officer at the SAARC Regional Leading Diagnostic Laboratory for foot and mouth disease at Mukteswar, India. Dr Sanyal obtained his Master's and Doctorate degrees on characterization of FMD viruses. He has twelve years experience of working in FMD virus research.

Dr Md. Ataur Rahman Bhuyian joined as National Consultant-Senior Scientific Officer at the SAARC Regional Leading Diagnostic Laboratory for PPR at Bangladesh Livestock Research Institute, Savar, Dhaka, Bangladesh. Dr Bhuyian obtained his doctorate degree while working on the epidemiology, pathology and molecular characterization of PPR virus. He has about 21 years experience in various capacities.

Dr (Ms) Naila Siddique joined as National Consultant-Laboratory Technician at the SAARC Regional Leading Diagnostic Laboratory for HPAI at Islamabad, Pakistan. She obtained her doctorate degree by working on the molecular characterization of avian influenza viruses in Pakistan. She has about 9 years experience of working on avian influenza viruses.

Dr Basavaraj S. Mathapati joined as National Consultant-Laboratory Technician at the SAARC Regional Leading Diagnostic Laboratory for foot and mouth disease at Mukteswar, India. He obtained a doctorate degree in virology for his work on FMD virus.

National Epidemiology Units

The main mandates of establishing Regional Epidemiology Centre at Regional Support Unit is to organize and coordinate Epidemiology networks of national epidemiology units, identify a common disease information system for the sub-region, generate epidemiological information to support risk based planning for disease surveillance and targeted control.

As a result, National Epidemiology Units and focal persons were identified by the governments of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal to forge an epidemiology and surveillance network in the sub-region.

Afghanistan

Epidemiology Unit

Central Veterinary Research & Diagnostics Laboratory
General Directorate of Animal Health and Production
Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock
Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

Darul Aman Road, Sanatorium Street, Kabul

Focal Person:

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Central Veterinary Research & Diagnostics Laboratory
General Directorate of Animal Health and Production
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E-mail : sayed-10@yahoo.com

Bangladesh

Epidemiology Unit

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Pranisampad Bhaban
Department of Livestock Services
Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Krishi Khamar Road
Farm Gate, Dhaka-1215

Focal Person:

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Head, Epidemiology Unit
Department of Livestock Services
Krishi Khamar Road
Farm Gate, Dhaka- 1215
Tel: +880-2-9114528
Fax: +880-2-9114528

E-mail: azaddls@yahoo.com

Bhutan

Disease Prevention & Control Unit

National Centre for Animal Health (NCAH)

Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Livestock
Royal Government of Bhutan, P.O. Box: 155
Serbithang, Thimphu

Focal Person:

Dr. Kinzang Dukpa
Head, Disease Prevention and Control Unit
National Centre for Animal Health(NCAH)
Serbithang, Thimphu
Tel: +975-2-351083/93
Fax: +975-2-351095

E-mail: kinduk2009@gmail.com

Nepal

Veterinary Epidemiology Center

Directorate of Animal Health
Department of Livestock Services (DLS)
Ministry of Agriculture Development (MoAD)
Government of Nepal
Tripureshwor, Kathmandu

Focal Person:

Dr Kishan Chand Thakuri
Senior Veterinary Officer
Veterinary Epidemiology Centre
Tripureshwor, Kathmandu
Tel: +977-1-4250717
Fax: +977-1-4250717

E-mail: kishan_thakuri@yahoo.com

Website: www.dahepivet.gov.np

Upcoming events

- a) Sixth GF TADs and third EU-HPED project steering committee meeting, 17-19 July 2012, Bangkok, Thailand
- b) Regional workshop towards a Strategic Approach to HPED Communication against HPEDs including HPAI in the SAARC region Workshop, 2-3 August 2012, Kathmandu, Nepal
- c) Workshop on EMPRES-i Asia Information System, 11-13 September 2012, Bangkok, Thailand
- d) Regional Training on PPR Laboratory Diagnostic Techniques at BLRI, 7-12 October 2012, Dhaka, Bangladesh





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: Gorakh Bista



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

For further information, contact: Dr. Mohinder Oberoi, Sub-regional Manager ECTAD and Co-ordinator Regional Support Unit (South Asia) at mohinder.oberoi@fao.org, Tel: +977-1-5010209, Fax: +977-1-5010312