



## Major diseases situation in the Sub-region:

### **Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI)**

#### **Bangladesh**

No new outbreak of HPAI was reported from Bangladesh during the period of July-August 2012.

#### **India**

After carrying out post-outbreak surveillance around the outbreak epicentre of Bahanada in Mayurbhanj district in Odisha state no evidence of the presence of highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 was reported. Therefore, India declared the area resolved from HPAI on 11 July 2012 and report sent to OIE. (*Source: [www.dahd.nic.in](http://www.dahd.nic.in)*).

#### **Nepal**

On completion of the stamping out and disinfection of the outbreak in Saibu-5, Khadakagaun, Lalitpur on 30 March 2012, a post operative surveillance throughout the outbreak area and also in other adjoining risk areas (including live bird markets and wild water bird areas) of the country was carried out. During the surveillance period a total of 3,123 samples (1,516 tracheal and 616 cloacal swabs, 623 fresh faeces, 348 dead birds and 20 sera) were collected and tested. As none of the samples tested showed any evidence of HPAI virus, Nepal declared itself free from HPAI with effect from 8 July 2012. Follow-up report no. 5 (Final report) was sent to OIE (*Source: [www.oie.int](http://www.oie.int)*).

### **Newcastle disease (ND) in peacocks**

Newcastle disease (Ranikhet disease) has been raging in the poultry population of Pakistan with huge economic impact. Consequently FAO's Crisis Management Centre - Animal Health (CMC-AH) undertook an assessment mission at the request of Government of Pakistan in July 2012. The disease jumped to wildlife specifically peacocks in a greater geographic area of Pakistan and India during July-August 2012. In Pakistan the peacocks were affected in *Thar* Desert which extends in India (Rajasthan) touching the boundaries of Haryana state and adjoining areas.

#### **India**

Peacocks had been dying in the National Capital Region at Palwal and Manesar in Haryana and NOIDA in Uttar Pradesh due to an unknown disease during July-August 2012. In August, scientists at the Lala Lajpat Rai University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Hisar, and Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izatnagar confirmed the peacocks' deaths due to Newcastle disease virus (NDV).

#### **Pakistan**

Suspected cases of a virulent form of the NDV affecting the peacocks and poultry continued during July and August. The deaths of more than 50 peacocks in the *Thar* were reported as of 23 July which climbed to 110 by 2 August, including cases from Sindh province also. The disease, which has been killing peacocks over the last two years was confirmed as Newcastle disease by the government-run Sindh Poultry Vaccine Centre (SPVC), Karachi which is part of the Poultry Research Institute in July 2012.

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## Crimean-Congo Haemorrhagic Fever (CCHF)

### India

Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) had claimed seven lives in western Indian state Gujarat and about 18 people had been affected in the state. The state animal husbandry department has been engaged in implementing tick control in the animals as a precautionary measure.

### Pakistan

From early week of July to 15 August 2012, five new cases of CCHF were reported. As of August 11, a total of 36 suspected cases have been reported with 29 confirmed to date and 9 deaths. The case fatality rate (CFR) was 31.04%. More than 80% of the cases were reported from Balochistan and other parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh and Punjab provinces. As reported earlier, almost all the cases had some history of contact either with animal trading/handling, tick bite, another patient, tannery worker, butcher/animals slaughtering, or a traditional practice of wearing fresh animal skin (post). (*Source: Vol. 3, Issue 29, Wednesday 25 July 2012; Vol. 3, Issue 30, Wednesday 1 August 2012; and Epidemiological Week no. 32 [05 to 11 August, 2012]*).

## Workshop towards a strategic approach to communication against HPEDs including HPAI in the SAARC region, 2-3 August 2012, Kathmandu, Nepal

A regional workshop towards a strategic approach to communication against HPEDs including HPAI in the SAARC region was organised on 2-3 August 2012 in Kathmandu, Nepal. This was first such communication workshop involving officials from animal, human and wildlife sectors of the region. The specific objectives of the consultation workshop on communication were to:

- Reach agreement on a shared approach to communication and advocacy based on current understanding of HPEDs/EIDs, lessons learned from HPAI control and available resources and needs in the region;
- Identify needs and resources in communication and advocacy in the region, and

- Share regional communication strategy framework, "Seeing around corners", as a basis for developing a SAARC communication strategy.



Participants noting down country assessment information through gallery walk

During the inaugural session, Dr Lin Aung, FAOR, a.i. and WHO Representative to Nepal, Dr N B Rajwar, Director General, Department of Livestock Services, Nepal, Mr. Christian Touwaide, EU Delegation to Nepal, Mr. N P Chaudhary, Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture Development, Nepal and Dr. Mohinder Oberoi, Sub-regional Manager ECTAD and Coordinator, RSU, FAO spoke on the occasion and stressed on the need for a strategic approach to communication against highly pathogenic and emerging diseases (HPEDs) including HPAI in the SAARC region.

During the proceedings of the first day Dr Tareque Muhammad, Director, Agriculture and Rural Development, Transport and SDF of the SAARC Secretariat, Kathmandu interacted with the participants. Around seventeen officials nominated by SAARC member countries participated in the two-day workshop and recommended action points for the region to combat the threat arising from HPEDs.

Dr. Nitish Chandra Debnath of FAO- ECTAD, Bangladesh shared experience of One Health movement in Bangladesh: its progression, activities and way forward while from the Department of Livestock Services(DLS), Nepal, Dr. Pradip Chandra Bhattarai, Senior Livestock Development Officer presented "Communication during avian influenza outbreak: simulation exercise" in the country. Mr. C Y Gopinath, Regional Communication Coordinator, ECTAD, FAO Regional office for Asia and the Pacific facilitated the workshop and introduced



Mr. NP Chaudhary, Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture Development, Nepal (sitting 5th from left) along with dignitaries and participants in the inaugural session

"Seeing Around Corner"- a regional communication strategy framework against infectious diseases in Asia and the Pacific.

Other than the country assessment gallery walk,

interactive sessions and two group work activities were carried out. The participants representing member states agreed to have a regional communication and advocacy approach for HPEDs.

## Workshops and Meetings Attended

### *3rd HPED and 6th GF-TADs meeting in Bangkok, Thailand*



SAARC officials and RSU members attending 3rd HPED steering committee meeting in the inaugural session. Dr. Tareque Muhammad, Director-Agriculture and Rural Development, Transport and SDF of SAARC sitting extreme to the right in the front row.

**Two back- to-back meetings were held in Bangkok:** The 3rd meeting of EU-HPED Steering Committee (17 August 2012); and 6th FAO/OIE Regional Steering Committee Meeting on GF-TADs for Asia and Pacific (18-19 July 2012). Dr. Mohinder Oberoi, Sub regional Manager, Prakash Nayak, Communication Expert, Dr. Muhammad Akram REC Assistant Coordinator and Dr. Ravi Dissanayake Disease Information & Data Expert participated in the meetings.

The progress made so far under EU-HPED project against the recommendations of 2nd meeting of



Participants attending 6th Regional Steering Committee Meeting of GF-TADs for Asia and the Pacific regions in Bangkok, Thailand.

steering committee and findings of Mid-term Evaluation Report were discussed in detail and outlined future plan of action. Both the RSUs (SAARC and ASEAN) displayed posters to highlight their activities.

Similarly recommendations of the 5th meeting of the GF-TADs Steering Committee and draft Regional GF-TADs 5-year Action Plan were discussed in addition to updates from regional organization.

Posters were displayed highlighting the salient activities accomplished during preceding years especially last year by FAO, OIE and WHO in SAARC, ASEAN and SPC regions under EU-HPED and other related programmes.

## RSU News

### *EU-HPED review mission visit to RSU*

EU-HPED review mission led by Mr. Hans Schoof, Programme Manager-External Relation of the European Commission and Mr. Christian Touwaide, EU Delegation to Nepal visited RSU on 13 July 2012 and interacted with the team members and took stock of the activities.

### *Other Visitors*

During this period, One Health Project Coordinator South Asia of Massey University, Dr. Joanna McKenzie visited RSU and discussed about One



Mr. Christian Touwaide, EU Delegation to Nepal and Mr. Hans Schoof, Programme Manager-External Relation of the European Commission and (standing 4th and 5th from left) along with RSU members

Health initiatives in the South Asian region. In her discussion, she focused on one health approach developed for in-country capacity development in epidemiology for the region.

Other than this, Ms Sarah Valentine, Programme Manager- Companion Animal, of World Society for Protection of Animals visited RSU and briefed on rabies control and management activities in Nepal.

## 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: +88-02-7791690, Fax: +88-02-7791675, Email: [pprblrifp@yahoo.com](mailto:pprblrifp@yahoo.com).

### *Highly pathogenic avian influenza laboratory in Pakistan*

The Government of Pakistan has identified the National Reference Laboratory for Poultry Diseases (NRLPD) at National Agricultural 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, Email: [nrlpd@comsats.net.pk](mailto:nrlpd@comsats.net.pk).

### *Foot and mouth disease 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).

## OIE Reference Laboratory for Avian Influenza in the SAARC Region

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>.

## Upcoming events

- a) Proficiency Testing of National FMD Laboratories, September 2012 onwards
- b) Workshop on EMPRES-i Asia Information System, Bangkok, 11-13 September, 2012
- c) Regional Training on Laboratory Diagnosis of *peste des petits ruminants* (PPR) in RLDL, BLRI, Dhaka, Bangladesh, 7- 12 October 2012
- d) 4th Chief Veterinary Officers(CVOs) Meeting, Islamabad, Pakistan, 8-9 October 2012
- e) Training Programme on Vaccine matching on FMD, Mukteswar, India, 30 October-7 November 2012
- f) Training course on Disease Risk Analysis and Management, Kathmandu, Nepal, 5- 9 November 2012
- g) Regional FETPV Training Programme, Kathmandu, Nepal, 26 November- 14 December 2012



## 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 ?

- 1. 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).
- 2. Seek medical treatment or go to hospital without delay for appropriate medical attention and post-exposure vaccination if required.
- 3. Any suspected rabid animal should be confined and put under veterinary observation according to the country's legislation.



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

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