



Disease Alerts on RSU website: Major disease outbreaks reported in the region now appear on the RSU website as a separate scroll at <http://www.saarc-rsu-hped.org/outbreak-alerts?id=06>.

Major diseases situation in the Sub-region

Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 outbreaks

During the month of November-December, HPAI outbreaks were reported from different parts in Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal in the region.

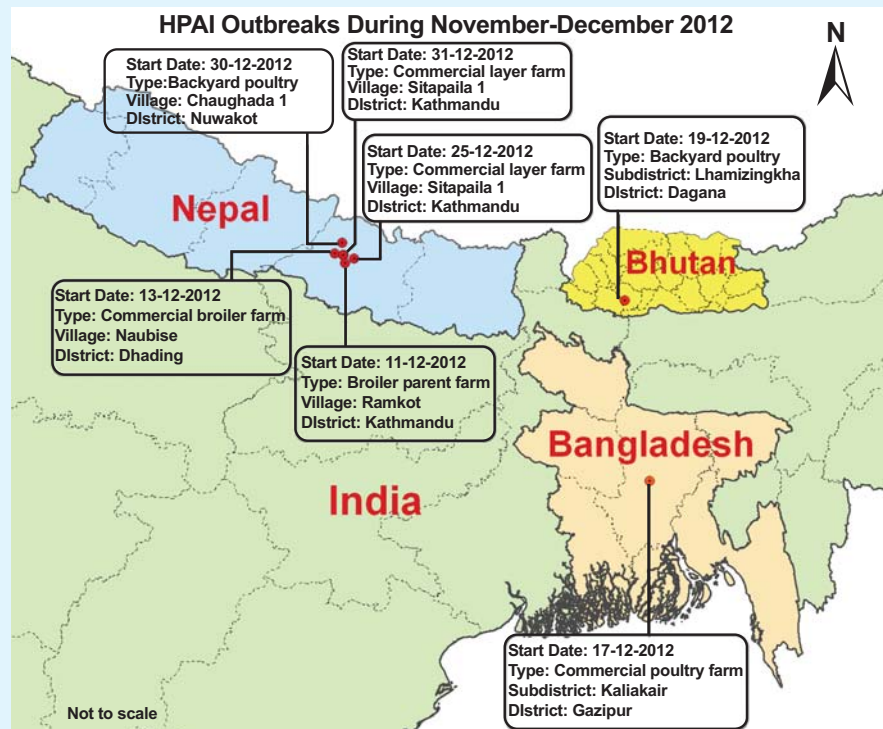
Bangladesh

A HPAI outbreak in Gazipur district was reported on 17 December 2012 in a commercial poultry farm in Kaliakair sub-district of Gazipur district. There were 1 53 477 susceptible birds at the farm out of which 8 509 birds died. The rest 1 44 968 birds were culled and buried by the authorities. Samples taken from affected birds were sent to Bangladesh Livestock

Research Institute, Savar, Dhaka (National Reference Laboratory) and Central Disease Investigation Laboratory, Dhaka (National laboratory) for diagnosis. The submitted samples were found positive on the basis of rapid antigen test and reverse transcription - polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR). The Chief Veterinary Officer of Bangladesh reported this new outbreak to OIE (www.oie.int).

Bhutan

From 19 to 30 December 2012, 18 poultry died in a backyard farm in a village of Lhamizingkha sub-district of Dagana district, bordering India in the south. All the affected birds were free-ranging. Ten birds had died in the village about a month before, but it was not reported at that time. Seven samples were collected from five houses in the vicinity which include 93 free-ranging birds and were sent to the National Centre for Animal Health (NCAH) for real-time PCR; two samples were found positive for HPAI. Out of the 970 susceptible cases, 18 deaths were reported while rest 592 birds were destroyed. Source of disease outbreak was inconclusive and was suspected because of illegal movement of animals. Trace-back investigations revealed that there have been poultry deaths in the area from 19 December 2012 although they were not reported immediately to the local veterinary authorities. Samples were also sent to High Security Animal Disease Laboratory, Bhopal, India (Regional OIE



Reference Laboratory) for real-time PCR which was found positive (www.oie.int).

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Nepal

On 13 December, a HPAI outbreak was reported in a commercial broiler farm in Dharke of Naubise¹ VDC-1 of Dhading district. Samples were sent to Central Veterinary Laboratory (National laboratory), Kathmandu for rapid test and PCR. Out of 3000 birds, 2850 were reported dead while rest 150 birds were destroyed. Control measures like stamping out, quarantine and movement control inside the country, disinfection etc were applied. Subsequent outbreaks were reported in Chaugada¹ VDC-1 of Nuwakot district and Sitapalia 1 of Kathmandu district shown in the map. Prior to these, there was one outbreak in broiler parent farm in Ramkot village of Kathmandu on 11 December and all these outbreaks were reported to OIE (www.oie.int).

Other diseases

Afghanistan

Afghanistan had reported the first outbreak of glanders on 28 August 2011 in Kabul area. A passive surveillance was launched in the target areas where glanders was reported and in other parts of the country as well. While notifying the final report of the event to OIE on 21 November 2012 the authorities informed that the national glanders surveillance programme will conclude by the end of February 2013. The Afghanistan Veterinary Laboratory will be able to perform serological tests (ELISA and CFT) in the near future. An active surveillance for glanders will be put in place as soon as possible (www.oie.int).

Pakistan

In the week of 18 to 24 November 2012, one new case of Crimean Congo Haemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) was reported from Balochistan province and a report was sent to WHO. So far, a total of 61 suspected cases have been reported throughout the country with 42 confirmed to date and 17 deaths (CFR is 40.48%). Twenty-four confirmed cases have been reported from Balochistan; 7 from Sindh; 6 from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and 5 from Punjab province. Approximately all the cases have contact history with animal trading/handling, tick bite, contact with patient, tannery worker, butcher/animals slaughtering, a traditional practice of wearing fresh animal skin (post) etc. These animals and their skins have continuous movement intra Pakistan and between neighboring countries (Afghanistan and Iran) posing risk of transmission (www.who.int).

¹ Village Development Council

RSU Workshops and Meetings

Regional training on vaccine matching for analyzing the homology of field isolates/strains in relation to the in-use vaccine strain(s) at RLDL for FMD, 28 October-9 November 2012, Mukteswar, India

A regional training on vaccine matching for analyzing the homology of field isolates/strains in relation to the in-use vaccine strain(s) of foot and mouth disease was held at Regional Leading Diagnostic Laboratory for Foot and Mouth Disease (RLDL-FMD), located at Project Directorate on FMD (PD-FMD), Mukteswar, India from 28 October-09 November 2012. The training was organized by the Regional Support Unit, Food and Agriculture Organization of United Nations (FAO), Kathmandu, Nepal and was funded under the European Union (EU) regional project entitled "Regional Cooperation Programme on Highly Pathogenic and Emerging Diseases (HPED) in South Asia-SAARC Component".

The training was held as a follow up of the recommendation drawn at the workshop to develop Foot and Mouth Disease-Progressive Control Pathway (PCP-FMD) for SAARC Countries in November 2011. The main objective of the training was to strengthen the diagnostic capacity of national laboratories through training on vaccine matching and post-vaccination surveillance. This thinking assumes importance to guide the vaccination policy, assessment of appropriateness of vaccine strains that are very much essential for the successful control of the disease.

A total 15 participants representing the SAARC Member States attended the training. The training was imparted

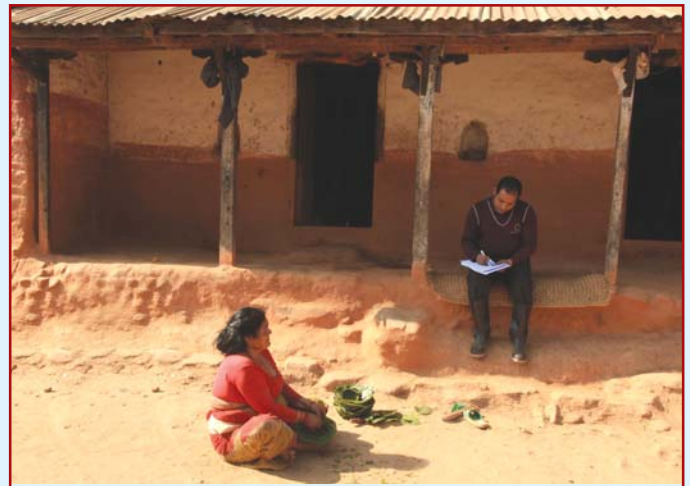


Participants attending regional training on vaccine matching in front of PD-FMD, Mukteswar, India

on the technologies for matching of FMD vaccine isolate(s)/strains. It was a mix of theory and extensive hands-on laboratory exercises using LPBE ELISA and 2D-virus neutralization tests (2D-VNT). Most of the participants requested for the supply of kits/reagents for FMD diagnosis. The laboratory provided the reagents/kits in sufficient quantities to the participants to take to their laboratories with a request for feedback/to share the information obtained upon testing.

Regional 'Field Epidemiology Training Programme for Veterinarians' for the SAARC countries, 26 November to 14 December 2012, Kathmandu

The first regional 'Field Epidemiology Training Programme for Veterinarians' for the SAARC countries was held during 26 November to 14 December 2012 in Kathmandu. This was a three-week course focusing on field epidemiology, its concepts and application targeted for field veterinarians of



A FETPV participant collecting data during field investigation in Lalitpur district



Dr N B Rajwar, Director General, Department of Livestock Services, Nepal (sitting 4th from the left), guests, faculty members and participants attending regional FETPV training in Kathmandu

the region. The training programme was conducted with the active support and collaboration of the Department of Livestock Services, Nepal, Patan Academy of Health Sciences, Central Zoo, Kathmandu and the community members of Lalitpur District. Based on the learning and feedback gained in earlier FETPV trainings in Thailand, India and other places, the curriculum and content of the training programme was finalized in consultation with the Senior Epidemiology Expert of FAO-RAP. The training programme was designed to train the veterinarians with One Health concept.

The course was divided into classroom sessions, fieldwork, analysis and briefing with community members. For field investigation, participants went to Bungmati and Chhampi

Village Development Committees (VDCs) of Lalitpur district adjoining Kathmandu city. Data collection from FMD outbreaks in those villages was completed with active support from district veterinarians, para-vets, outreach workers, community leaders, resource persons and RSU members.

A total 19 participants representing Bhutan, Nepal, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka attended the training programme. Help from external mentors from FAO-RAP, Animal Population Health Institute, Colorado State University, USA, ECTAD-India Unit and Wildlife Expert from India was garnered to successfully complete the training.

Workshops and Meetings Attended

3rd Regional Workshop on Multi-Sectoral Collaboration on Zoonoses Prevention and Control, 26-28 November 2012, Bali, Indonesia

Dr Mohinder Oberoi, Sub-regional Manager and Coordinator of RSU participated in the three-day workshop aiming to a) Review and update the progress and experiences in coordination and collaboration mechanisms between various relevant sectors at the international, regional and national levels; and the drafted 2012-2016 framework for collaborative activities to strengthen zoonoses prevention and control among international and regional organizations and member countries. b) to identify weaknesses and gaps that need to be addressed to further advance the progress thus far made in multi-sectoral collaboration

and coordination relevant to zoonoses prevention and control. c) To Update the group on various initiatives and activities in the region pertaining to One Health. d) Identify human-animal health issues that are a priority to the region, which will benefit with strengthened multi-sectoral collaboration, and e) Determine key actions required to advance the key elements of a One Health Strategy for both region and country levels, in accordance with the 2008 Strategic Framework for Reducing Risks at the Animal-Human-Ecosystems Interface, the 2010 Tripartite Concept Note, and the 2011 High Level Technical Meeting in Mexico; and outline the steps required using these key elements, to develop a One Health Strategy for the region. Recommendations were drawn at the end of workshop to guide the countries.

FMD-FAO Wide meeting, 11-12 December 2012, Rome, Italy

The EMPRES-FMD unit organized an FAO internal meeting on Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) on December 11th and 12th 2012 at FAO headquarters in Rome. Livestock officers from the decentralized offices covering all FAO regions were present to discuss the current FMD portfolio as well as gaps and needs of regions to roll out the Global FMD Control Strategy as presented by FAO and OIE during the Global Conference on FMD Control in Bangkok, Thailand in June 2012. Dr Subhash Morzaria, Regional Manager, ECTAD-RAP, Dr Mohinder Oberoi, Sub-regional Manager and RSU Coordinator and Dr Aniket Sanyal, National Consultant-Senior Scientific Officer SAARC Regional Leading Diagnostic Laboratory for FMD, India participated in the meeting. There was a joint presentation on the status of FMD activities in South East and South Asia. Some of the important topics dealt during the meeting included quick gap analysis to establish a regional FMD control programme including socioeconomic assessment, PCP training, country incentives, establishing or updating roadmaps and private-public partnership. The meeting also helped to understand the status of FMD in different parts of the world, PCP and Global Control strategy for FMD.

During the meeting it was highlighted that emphasis must be placed on regional coordination of country-based activities following the concept of the PCP-FMD. In order to achieve that, capacity building among FAO colleagues and implementing partners in the regions on a coherent application of the PCP is of paramount importance.

RSU News

Mr Simon Boas joins RSU as Programme Officer

Mr Simon Boas joined RSU/ECTAD Unit, Kathmandu as full-time Programme Officer in the month of November to provide operation support to the HPED project. Before joining RSU/ECTAD unit, Mr Boas spent almost three years as head of FAO's emergency office in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. He has a Master's Degree in Policy Analysis, and previously worked for NGOs and the public sector. He is British citizen, married and a keen cruciverbalist, an enthusiast of word games, especially of crosswords.



EU-ROM mission to RSU, Kathmandu

The funding partner of HPED project, the European Union (EU) initiated results-oriented monitoring (ROM) in the month of November. It is based on short, focused on-site assessments by independent experts of projects and programmes which are appraised - using a highly structured and consistent methodology. EU-HPED project with participation of the three international agencies (FOA, OIE, WHO) and ASEAN and SAARC and member countries including the national public health and animal health sectors were under the current ROM exercises being carried out. External consultant Mr Bruce Waring of EU-ROM mission visited RSU as a part of the Mission. Mr Waring interacted with RSU and REC colleagues and with different stakeholders in Nepal including Department of Livestock Services and participants of different training programmes conducted earlier by RSU. As a part of the mission, the consultant also interacted with SAARC secretariat. Later, the mission member travelled to India to have similar interaction.

Dr Aniket Sanyal, RLDL-FMD in Kathmandu

Dr Aniket Sanyal, National Consultant-Senior Scientific Officer SAARC Regional Leading Diagnostic Laboratory for FMD visited National FMD and TADs laboratory situated in Kathmandu and provided on bench training to the scientists before participating in the laboratory proficiency testing. Later, he participated in regional FETPV programme conducted in Kathmandu and involved in investigation and sample collection activities in field.

SAARC Regional Leading Diagnostic Laboratories

Three SAARC leading diagnostic laboratories, agreed to be based in Bangladesh (peste des petits ruminants), India (foot and mouth disease) and Pakistan (highly pathogenic avian influenza) have been established. These laboratories have the facilities to perform diagnosis of HPEDs and undertake characterization of virus isolates. In addition to providing confirmatory diagnostic facility, these laboratories form and coordinate a network of national diagnostic laboratories in the region.

The main activities of RLDLs are:

- Identify training needs and conduct training in appropriate diagnostic tests.
- Isolate and characterize viral strains in each country to define disease prevalence and provide appropriate information for vaccine strains to be used in the control programme.
- Supply laboratories with necessary reagents and other materials.
- Develop harmonized diagnostic procedures, standards and training related to HPED issues.

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.

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.

Foot and mouth disease laboratory in India

The Government of India has identified Project Directorate on Foot and Mouth Disease, Mukteswar, Uttarakhand 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.

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) Training course on Disease Risk Analysis and Management, 6-11 January 2013, Kathmandu, Nepal
- b) Laboratory training on Harmonization of diagnostic protocols for detection of HPAI and Newcastle disease viruses, 11-15 February 2013, Islamabad, Pakistan
- c) Good Emergency Management Practices training and 7th Annual Regional ECTAD meeting, 26 February-1 March 2013, Bangkok, Thailand
- d) 2nd Laboratory Directors' Networking Meeting, 12-13 March 2013, Colombo, Sri Lanka
- e) Risk based surveillance and understanding disease risk within value chains, 15-20 April 2013, India
- f) SAARC initiative for elimination of Human Rabies transmitted by dogs', 22-24 April 2013, 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



Wash Bite Wounds Immediately

Seek Immediate Medical Care

Have your Dog Vaccinated

Report Dog Bites To Authorities

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.

Photo Courtesy: Animal Nepal



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

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