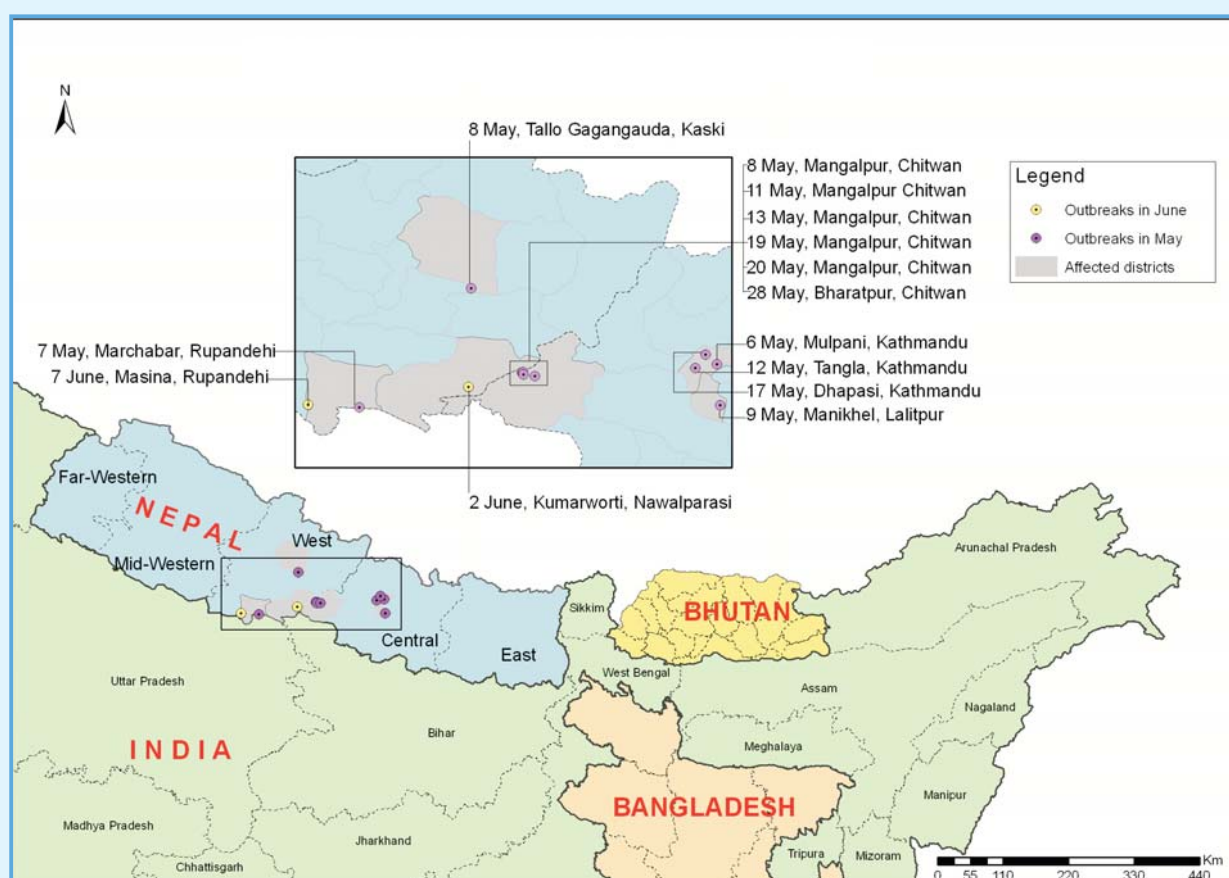


Major diseases situation in the Sub-region

Background

The sub-region continued to record existing highly pathogenic diseases like highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), anthrax and Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever (CCHF) in one or the other country. A new disease porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome (PPRS) was notified to OIE by India for the first time. Earlier in August 2008 PRRS was reported from Bhutan in a government pig farm. CCHF was continued to be reported from Pakistan as was anthrax in Bangladesh.

Map: HPAI outbreaks reported during May-June 2013



Overall situation of HPAI in South Asia

No new outbreak of HPAI was reported from Bangladesh, Bhutan and India during the period of May - June 2013, however several outbreaks of HPAI were reported from Nepal in the sub-region. India declared freedom from HPAI after experiencing a solitary outbreak in March 2013.

India

India had notified an outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza (H5N1) at Regional Poultry Farm, Lanka Tola,

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Madhubani, Purnea district, Bihar on 08 March 2013 (www.oie.int). After carrying out the regular and post-operation surveillance around the outbreak area and in the rest of the states, there has been no evidence of notifiable

avian influenza in any place. In view of the above, India declared itself free from notifiable highly pathogenic avian influenza on 15 June 2013 (www.dahd.nic.in) and submitted the final report to OIE (www.oie.int).

Nepal

Between May and June 2013, 14 new HPAI (H5N1) outbreaks were reported to OIE by the Government of Nepal. These outbreaks were confirmed in Chitwan (6), Kathmandu (3), Rupandehi (2), Kaski (1), Lalitpur (1) and Nawalparasi (1) districts (www.oie.int). Of the total reported outbreaks, five outbreaks occurred in commercial layer farms and four

outbreaks in commercial broiler farms. Outbreaks were also reported in ducks and backyard birds having native Giriraj chickens. A total of 3,844 poultry died and 19,800 were destroyed from the 14 reported outbreaks. The cleaning and disinfection activities in the infected premises were completed. Intensive surveillance activities are ongoing throughout the country. The details of the reported outbreaks are provided in the map and table 1 below.

Table 1: HPAI outbreak occurred in Nepal during May-June 2013

SN	Zone	District	VDC/Municipality, Ward and Village	Unit	Start date	Farm type
1	Bagmati	Kathmandu	Mulpani VDC - 3	Farm	06/05/2013	CPL
2	Lumbini	Rupandehi	Marchabar VDC - 8	Farm	07/05/2013	CPB
3	Narayani	Chitwan	Mangalpur VDC - 3	Farm	08/05/2013	CPL
4	Gandaki	Kaski	Lekhnath Municipality - 13, Tallo Gagangauda	Farm	08/05/2013	CP Giriraj
5	Bagmati	Lalitpur	Manikhel VDC - 1	Farm	09/05/2013	CPB
6	Narayani	Chitwan	Mangalpur VDC - 9	Farm	11/05/2013	CPL-Parent
7	Bagmati	Kathmandu	Kirtipur Municipality - 1, Tangla	Farm	12/05/2013	CPB
8	Narayani	Chitwan	Mangalpur VDC - 3	Farm	13/05/2013	CPL
9	Bagmati	Kathmandu	Dhapasi VDC - 6	Farm	17/05/2013	CP and D-mix
10	Narayani	Chitwan	Mangalpur VDC - 3	Farm	19/05/2013	CPL
11	Narayani	Chitwan	Mangalpur VDC - 3	Farm	20/05/2013	CPL
12	Narayani	Chitwan	Bharatpur Municipality - 12	Farm	28/05/2013	BYP-Giriraj
13	Lumbini	Nawalparasi	Kumarwoti VDC- 5	Village	02/06/2013	BYP
14	Lumbini	Rupandehi	Masina VDC - 8	Farm	07/06/2013	CPB

- **Legend:** BYP= Backyard Poultry, CP & D= Commercial Poultry and Duck, CPB= Commercial Poultry Broiler, CPL= Commercial Poultry Layer
- **Note:** 12 outbreaks (SN 1-12) occurred in May 2013 and two outbreaks (SN 13-14) reported in June 2013.
- VDC= Village Development Committee; each VDC has 1-9 wards, Village = smallest unit in the VDC/Municipality

Bangladesh

Anthrax

Bangladesh has been reporting human cutaneous anthrax cases since 2009. One hundred three cutaneous anthrax

cases were reported to Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR) from four Upazilas (sub-districts) of three districts during May - June 2013 (Table-2). A total of 117 cases have been reported from the beginning of this year (www.iedcr.org). A case of cutaneous

anthrax is defined as any person with acute onset of skin lesions ranging from papule, vesicle, ulceration or formation of central black eschar surrounded by inflammatory oedema

along with history of handling sick or dead animals (e.g. cow, ox, sheep, goat) or meat of sick slaughtered animal within last 3 weeks (www.iedcr.org).

Table 2: Number of Cutaneous Anthrax Cases in Bangladesh during May -June 2013

District	Upazila (Sub district)	Month		Total
		May	June	
Tangail	Tangail Sadar	32	1	33
	Gopalpur	34	3	37
Meherpur	Gangni	0	29	29
Sirajganj	Shahjadpur	0	4	4
Grand Total		66	37	103

Source: www.iedcr.org

Pakistan

Crimean-Congo Haemorrhagic Fever (CCHF)

Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever (CCHF) is one of the serious zoonoses caused by a *Nairovirus*. The virus is usually transmitted from infected animals especially sheep to human by tick bite; however human can also be exposed to disease agent while having direct contact with crushed ticks and or with blood, secretions or tissues of the viraemic human or animal. A 45 year old female and a 18 year male (Tannery workers) from Balochistan were tested positive for CCHF during week 23 and 25 respectively of 2013. Both had contact with animals.

During 2013, 13 confirmed human cases of CCHF have been reported until week 25. Highest number of CCHF cases (23) were reported from Balochistan province followed by Sindh (7) and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (6) and Punjab (5). (<http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Weekly-Epidemiological-Bulletin>).

India

Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS)

For the first time, in the history of India, porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome was identified and confirmed from the North Eastern state of Mizoram. The PRRS has never been detected earlier in the state and the country, but was prevalent in some Asian countries including

neighbouring Myanmar with which the state shares a 404-km-long border. The outbreak was confirmed initially as classical swine fever however samples were sent to the laboratory where the presence of PRRS virus was also diagnosed. The presence of PRRS virus was confirmed based on reverse transcription - polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) and virus isolation (type 2 virus) by High Security Animal Disease Laboratory, Bhopal. The disease occurred in the regional pig-breeding farm, Mizoram on 18 March 2013. There were 307 susceptible pigs at the farm of which, 57 pigs were affected/sick (18.69% morbidity) and 10 died with apparent mortality of 3.28% and case fatality of 17.54% (www.oie.int). Porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome (PRRS) can manifest as lowered farrowing rates, a marked increase in abortions, stillborn, mummified and weak live born piglets and deaths. There is also respiratory disease in which mortality may be heavy due to complications with secondary infection.

Workshops and Meetings Attended

National Consultation Workshop of One-Health Partners in Nepal, 3 May 2013, Kathmandu, Nepal

National Consultation Workshop of One-Health (OH) Partners in Nepal was held on 3 May 2013 in Kathmandu Nepal. The workshop was organised by Department of Livestock Services, Nepal with the objectives to collate inputs and suggestions from OH national stakeholders on envisaged institutional roles and activities to develop a working paper

based on agreement of One Health stakeholders. Dr Mohinder Oberoi, Sub regional Manager- ECTAD and RSU Coordinator and Dr Khadak Singh Bisht, Assistant Coordinator Regional Support Unit, attended the workshop and participated in discussions.

Workshop on Coordination amongst stakeholders to prevent and control zoonoses, 20 June 2013, Kathmandu, Nepal

A workshop on coordination amongst stakeholders to prevent and control zoonoses on 20 June 2013, was organized by Veterinary Public Health section, Directorate of Animal Health, DLS, Nepal. Dr Khadak Singh Bisht, Assistant Coordinator- Regional Support Unit, FAO presented a paper on 'coordinated approach suitable for Nepal zoonotic diseases surveillance'. Participants from various organizations such as Department of Livestock Services (DLS), Epidemiology and Disease Control Division (EDCD), Ministry of Health and Population and Nepal Agricultural Research Council (NARC) attended the workshop.

Real-Time FMD Training Programme in Nepal, 10 - 14 and 17 - 21 June, 2013, Kathmandu, Nepal

The real time FMD training programme was conducted through RSU FAO, with the technical support from EuFMD. This programme has already conducted two real time courses in 2012 (KTC 1 - 2) and another six courses (KTC 3 - 7) in 2013. The real time course (KTC6) was conducted from 10 - 14 June and KTC7 was conducted from 17 - 21 June 2013. Each training course follows the format of 5 days involving 2 days in the classroom and two or three days in the field and report writing. Each training course is attended by 5 Nepalese veterinarians and 10-12 veterinarians from Australia. From RSU FAO, Dr Mohinder Oberoi, Sub regional Manager ECTAD and RSU Coordinator, attended KTC6 and Dr Muhammad Akram, Assistant Coordinator REC attended KTC7.

Practical Epidemiology Training on control of FMD, 24 - 27 June 2013, Biratnagar, Nepal

A four days practical epidemiology training on FMD control was organised in Biratnagar, Eastern Region of Nepal from 24 - 27 June 2013. The workshop targeted nine eastern districts, which Nepal has identified for geographically focused FMD management activity in line with their PCP-FMD strategy. The purpose of the workshop was to progress and link the DLS planning activities up to the field activities

in the area of epidemiological investigation, identification of stakeholders, definition of risk pathways and risk hotspots, risk-based surveillance, and disease control. The workshop discussed and drafted a risk-based FMD control strategy aimed to align relevant central, regional and district staff focusing on one district. Eighteen, central, regional and district level veterinarians from DLS participated in the training programme. Dr Khadak Singh Bisht, Assistant Coordinator Regional Support Unit and Dr Pasang Tshering, Coordinator Regional Epidemiology Centre facilitated and participated in the workshop.

Technical and Policy Discussion on the Prevention and Control of Avian Influenza A (H7N9) in Asia, 24 - 25 June 2013, Bangkok, Thailand

Keeping in view the rapidly evolving situation from the newly emerging novel influenza strain A(H7N9) in China, USAID in collaboration with the Government of Thailand, organized a meeting on 'Technical and Policy Discussions on the Prevention and Control of Avian Influenza A(H7N9) in Asia' to provide a platform for sharing experiences and lessons learned from both the H5N1 HPAI in the region as well as those learned from the interventions implemented by the Government of China. Dr Mohinder Oberoi, Sub regional Manager ECTAD and RSU Coordinator participated in the meeting. The meeting was attended by High level technical representatives from Ministries of Health and Ministries of Agriculture from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar, Nepal, Thailand and Viet Nam as well as representatives of ASEAN and SAARC. International technical partners from FAO headquarters and field offices in the region, OIE, WHO and USAID also participated in the discussions.

Upcoming events

1. Meeting on SAARC Initiative for Elimination of Human Rabies Transmitted by Dogs, 12 - 14 August 2013, Dhaka, Bangladesh
2. Second Regional Epidemiology Networking Workshop, 12 - 14 August 2013, Paro, Bhutan
3. Regional 'Field Epidemiology Training Programme for Veterinarians' for the SAARC Countries, 9 - 27 September 2013, Kathmandu, Nepal