



**Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations**

Regional Support Unit for South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation  
(RSU-SAARC)

# Information Bulletin

## Major Diseases Situation in South Asia (January - March 2016)

### FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE (FMD)

FMD is an endemic disease in the sub-region and several countries have experienced new outbreaks. Bhutan has shared outbreak data with RSU-SAARC and we expect the same cooperation from other countries in the region.

#### BHUTAN

##### Foot and Mouth Disease

At least three FMD outbreaks were reported in Bhutan during the January-March 2016. The first FMD outbreak was reported on 18 January 2016 in Mahuma village in Toewang Gewog block in district Punakha Dzongkhag. The second FMD outbreak was reported in Triting village in Tading Geog block in district Samtse Dzongkhag on 17 February 2016 and this was followed by third outbreak on 24 February, 2016 in Damchekha village, Lokchina Geog block in the district Chukha Dzongkhag. All the outbreaks were investigated by respective Livestock Development Center and biological samples were submitted to National Veterinary Referral Lab (NVRL) at NCAH which were tested positive for FMDV Serotype "O". The 37 of total 75 and 9 of total 39 animals were affected by the disease in the first and second outbreaks, whereas 38 animals were affected in the third episode. The measures taken to control further spread of the disease included ring vaccination in the high risk zones, movement of animals in and out of the affected areas, interim ban on the trading of livestock products such as beef, pork, cheese and butter, isolation of the infected animals, awareness program on the disease besides animals screening for NSP antibody and treatment of affected animals. <http://www.ncah.gov.bt/>).

#### Rabies

Three rabies outbreaks were reported from January to March in Samdrupjongkhar, Samtse and Chukha districts. In the first outbreak two calves and a puppy died of rabies in Orong, Samdrupjongkhar after being bitten by a rabid dog. Brain samples of dead animals sent to NCAH in Serbithang, Thimphu had tested positive for rabies. Wild animals are suspected to be the source of the outbreak. The two isolated cases of rabies in a stray dog in Samtse (RBA colony) and a cow in Gomtu town on 26/2/2016 and 2/3/2016 respectively were reported during second event. During third outbreak, a cow that was bitten by a stray dog on the muzzle area on 07 January 2016 and later died of suspected rabies on 04 March 2016 at Daragoan under Chukha Dzongkhag was confirmed to be rabid by FAT at NCAH. (Source: National Centre for Animal Health, <http://www.ncah.gov.bt/> )

#### NEPAL

##### Peste des petits ruminants (PPR)

Dr. Keshav Pd. Premy, Director General, Department of Livestock Services, Government of Nepal has informed that there were some outbreaks of PPR in Bajura district in the month of January and February this year and the department immediately responded to them and strategically vaccinated the flocks of goats in outbreak

area and in the risk area. The disease is under control now and there is no further report of PPR in the area.

### H5N1 Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI)

A new outbreak had been reported in India on 19/01/2016 in a State Poultry Farm, at Gandhigram, Bamutia, in Tripura state. The outbreak started on 07/01/2016 and confirmed on 16 January by real-time reverse transcriptase polymerase chain reaction (RRT-PCR) test at National Institute of High Security Animal Diseases, Bhopal. Of the total 11348 susceptible birds, 1760 were affected and the remaining 5263 were culled. The control measures included modified stamping out policy, quarantine and movement control inside the country, screening, and disinfection/ disinfestation. Vaccination was prohibited and no treatment of affected birds were carried out. The source of the outbreak or origin of the infection however, was unknown or inconclusive. The previous outbreak which is beyond the incubation period was recorded at Thorrur, Hayathnagar, Rangareddy, in Andhra Pradesh on 12/04/2015 and resolved on 30/07/2015 were.

The death of 40 house crows, *Corvus splendens* (Corvidae) in Rajshahi city, Bangladesh noticed on 04/02/2016 was investigated and confirmed to be HPAI H5N1 on 15/02/2016 at the National Reference Laboratory for Avian Influenza. The outbreak was resolved by 04/02/2016.

No case of HPAI H5N1 had been reported during the quarter from other countries in the region.

### Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever (CCHF)

Pakistan, Afghanistan and India have reported the disease in the past but no official reports were available during the 1st quarter of 2016.

### LEPTOSPIROSIS IN HUMAN

#### SRI LANKA

Sri Lanka has recorded 1050 cases of human leptospirosis during this reporting period. According to the Epidemiology Unit of the Ministry of Health, the highest number of cases (623) were reported in January while 281 and 146 cases were reported in February and March respectively. Kalutara and Anuradhapura districts have recorded the higher number of cases than other districts in the country. During 2015, as many as 4402 cases of leptospirosis were reported in human. (<http://www.epid.gov.lk/>)

## Disease reporting status of SAARC countries during 2014-2015 to the OIE World Animal Health Information System

### AFGHANISTAN

Afghanistan has submitted six monthly reports and annual report for 2014 and first six monthly report for 2015. According to reports disease outbreaks have been indicated in table-1:

Other diseases reported as present in the country included Q fever, Crimean Congo haemorrhagic fever, Bovine babesiosis, Bovine tuberculosis, Theileriosis, Sheep pox and goat pox, Contagious cap. pleuropneumonia, Avian infectious bronchitis

Table-1: Disease reporting status of Afghanistan during 2014-2015 to the WAHIS/OIE		
Diseases	Number of outbreaks and serotype	
	2014	Jan-June 2015
Foot and mouth disease	318 (Asia 1, A, O, SAT 1)	214 (A, O, Asia 1)
Anthrax	197	178
Rabies	6	8
Brucellosis (Brucella abortus)	699	97
Brucellosis (Brucella melitensis)	84	196
Haemorrhagic septicaemia	26	16
Peste des petits ruminants	264	87
Newcastle disease	908	168
Avian infect. laryngotracheitis	20	5

Table-2: Disease reporting status of Bhutan during 2014-2015 to the WAHIS/OIE		
Diseases	Number of outbreaks and serotype	
	2014	2015
Foot and mouth disease	23 (O)	17(O)
Anthrax	2	2
Rabies	21	24
Echinococcus granulosus	4	0
Bovine babesiosis	3	0
Haemorrhagic septicaemia	1	3
Peste des petits ruminants	3	0
Classical swine fever	1	1
Newcastle disease	8	4
Infec bursal disease	20	6
Crimean Congo haemorrhagic fever	0	1
Brucellosis (Brucella abortus)	0	2
H5N1 HPAI	0	1

## BANGLADESH

Bangladesh has submitted six monthly reports and annual report for 2014 and 2015. However, detailed outbreak data was not available. The diseases reported during 2014 & 2015 were as under:

**2014:** Foot and mouth disease, Anthrax, Rabies, Brucellosis, Echinococcus granulosus, Bovine anaplasmosis, Bovine babesiosis, Bovine genital campylobacteriosis, Bovine tuberculosis, Haemorrhagic septicaemia, Peste des petits ruminants, HPAI, Newcastle disease, Fowl typhoid, Infectious bursal disease, Mycoplasmosis (*M. gallisepticum*), Pullorum disease.

**Jan-June 2015:** FMD, Anthrax, Rabies, Bovine anaplasmosis, Bovine babesiosis, Bovine tuberculosis, Haemorrhagic septicaemia, Peste des petits ruminants, Newcastle disease, Fowl typhoid, Pullorum disease

## BHUTAN

Bhutan has submitted six monthly reports and annual report for 2014 and six monthly reports for 2015. The year wise details of the reported outbreaks for the said periods are as given in Table-2.

## INDIA

India has submitted six monthly reports and annual report for the year 2014 which yielded the status on animal diseases as given in table-3:

## PAKISTAN

Pakistan has submitted six monthly reports and annual reports for the year 2014 and reported as many as 539 outbreaks of FMD incriminating A, O, Asia 1 strains of FMDV besides the presence of other animal diseases including, Vesicular stomatitis, Blue tongue, anthrax, canine rabies, Brucellosis (*Brucella abortus*), Bovine Tuberculosis, Hemorrhagic septicemia, Trypanosomiasis, Peste des petits ruminants, Sheep pox and goat pox, contagious caprine pleuropneumonia, and Glanders. The avian diseases reported during the year were Newcastle disease; Avian infectious bronchitis; Fowl typhoid; Infectious bursal disease; Mycoplasmosis (*M. gallisepticum*); Pullorum disease; and Avian mycoplasmosis.

Table-3: Disease reporting status of India during 2014-2015 to the WAHIS/OIE

Diseases	Number of outbreaks and serotype	
	2014	Jan-Jun 2015
Foot and mouth disease	238(O, Asia 1)	46(O)
Bluetongue	14	1
Anthrax	55	32
Rabies	243	14
Brucellosis	7	3
Crimean Congo haemorrhagic fever	0	0
Bovine anaplasmosis	108	15
Bovine babesiosis	274	53
Haemorrhagic septicaemia	131	44
Trypanosomosis	105	42
Peste des petits ruminants	82	62
Sheep pox and goat pox	88	51
Contagious cap. pleuropneumonia	2	5
Classical swine fever	69	26
Porcine reproductive/respiratory syndrome.	6	0
Glanders	0	2
Equid herpesvirus-1 (EHV-1)	0	0
Highly pathogenic avian influenza	6 (H5N1)	10(H5N1, H5)
Newcastle disease	311	115
Fowl typhoid	67	9
Infectious bursal disease	183	61

## MALDIVES

Maldives has submitted half yearly and annual reports for 2014 and half yearly report for 2015. While PPR was suspected to be present during 2014, no animal disease event was recorded in the country during 2015.

## NEPAL

Nepal has submitted six monthly reports and annual report for the year 2014 and half yearly report for 2015 which yielded the status

**Table-4: Disease reporting status of Nepal during 2014-2015 to the WAHIS/OIE**

Diseases	Number of outbreaks and (serotype)	
	2014	2015
Foot and mouth disease	43(O)	74(O)
Anthrax	5	1
Rabies	18	36
Brucellosis (Brucella abortus)	1	2
Bovine babesiosis	68	30
Haemorrhagic septicaemia	58	41
Theileriosis	32	22
Peste des petits ruminants	41	54
Classical swine fever	9	5
Highly path. avian influenza (Domestic)	1(H5N1)	
Newcastle disease	92	97
Avian infectious bronchitis	9	24
Fowl typhoid	6	14
Infectious bursal disease (Gumboro)	134	134
Mycoplasmosis (M. gallisepticum)	20	16
Pullorum disease	31	27

## New Staff

### Dr Muhammad Akram, Regional Animal Health Officer



Dr Muhammad Akram has joined RSU as Regional Animal Health Officer on deputation from the Government of Pakistan. He is DVM, MPH (Canada), MSc, Ph.D. He worked as a veterinary officer and later as Assistant Animal Husbandry Commissioner for the Government of Pakistan. He was project co-ordinator of FAO-TCP "Up-scaling of Dairy Production in Pakistan" in 2006 and was employed later in FAO's Highly Pathogenic and Emerging Diseases program implemented by FAO during 2011- 2014 as REC Assistant Epidemiology Coordinator. He worked for Saskatoon Health Region (SHR), Canada during 2009 and reviewed status of diabetes mellitus in Canada and SHR, conducted analysis of hospitalization of diabetic cases and furnished recommendations for action for preventing and controlling the burden of diabetes.

on animal diseases as given in table-4. Other disease reported to be present in the country included Surra (*Trypanosoma evansi*), *Echinococcus granulosus*, Bovine anaplasmosis, Trypanosomosis and Low pathogenic avian influenza (poultry).

### SRI LANKA

Sri Lanka has submitted first six monthly report for the year 2014 which contained the information on animal diseases in the country as given in table-5:

**Table-5: Disease reporting status of Sri Lanka during 2014 to the WAHIS/OIE**

Disease	Number of outbreaks and (serotype)
	Jan-June 2014
Foot and mouth disease	195(O)
Rabies	47
Brucellosis	19
Newcastle disease	77
Infec bursal disease	104

Other diseases reported to be present in the country included Bovine babesiosis, Bovine tuberculosis, Enzootic bovine leukosis, Fowl typhoid, Pullorum disease.

## Regional Meetings and Workshops

### THIRD SAARC EPINET MEETING HELD ON 2 - 3 FEBRUARY 2016 IN KATHMANDU, NEPAL

Following the recommendations of the first consultative epidemiology and laboratory networking meeting held in July 2011 in Kathmandu, the second Epi networking workshop was conducted in August 2013 in Paro, Bhutan entitled 'Second SAARC Regional Epidemiology Networking Workshop or SAARC - EpiNet meeting'. The second meeting developed the draft proposal for a SAARC-EpiNet forum along with the Terms



of Reference (TOR) for the network. A rationale and mechanism for disease information sharing between the Member States (MSs) were also developed in the same meeting. All the relevant meeting recommendations were then put up to the respective Chief Veterinary Officers (CVOs) which were endorsed during the special CVOs meeting in August 2015 in Bangkok.

To reinforce the past efforts and to take forward the process for the operationalization of the SAARC EpiNet forum, the third SAARC EpiNet meeting was organized from 2-3 February 2016 in Kathmandu, Nepal. The main focus of the meeting was to develop a roadmap for the operationalization of the EpiNet forum and also to develop a framework for the SAARC Animal Disease Information System (SADIS) platform. During the two-day meeting, national epidemiology delegates shared their country-specific situations on human resources and veterinary epidemiology institutional capacities, capacity building activities being implemented, gaps and needs in the subject area. Some good practices in the regional context as practiced by some countries were also shared through poster presentations prepared by the country delegates. Participants had the opportunity to learn about some epidemiological tools and practices. The meeting was attended by 30 participants including officials from ECTAD FAO RAP, ECTAD Bangladesh, China, a

resource person from India (ICAR\_NIVEDI) and an observer from Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) of USA besides 13 delegates from all SAARC Member States except Maldives. After the two days' celebrations and facilitated panel discussions, a number of recommendations towards the realization of the Forum operationalization, epidemiology capacity building, and information sharing framework and mechanisms were put forward. All the CVOs are expected to provide their support and to take necessary actions on the recommendations and proposals and also to table the issues during their CVO meeting in April 2016 for uniform application across the SAARC Member States.

**INDIA LAUNCHES DISASTER MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR PROTECTING ANIMALS AND PREVENTING AND MITIGATING LOSS OF LIVESTOCK RESOURCES DURING DISASTERS**

The National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) has released the Disaster Management Plan for the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries (DAHDF), Government of India. The purpose of this plan is to delineate the actions and roles necessary to prepare for and respond to any disaster situation in coordinated manner. Disaster management Plan (DMP) of DAHDF is intended to provide guidance to all related agencies within a general concept of potential emergency assignments before, during and following emergency situations. The purpose of the DMP is to supplement the efforts of States/UTs in mitigating and preventing the loss of livestock resources and economic losses to livestock owners.

To mitigate the effect of the natural calamities / disasters by ensuring availability of the services and supplies as veterinary services, fodder, water and other critical inputs/ supplies.

Capacity building of concerned officers and staff of the state Government in association with the organisations and agencies involved in disaster management. (Source: [http://solutionexchange-un.net.in/ftp/drm/resource/NDMP\\_for\\_Animals\\_2016.pdf](http://solutionexchange-un.net.in/ftp/drm/resource/NDMP_for_Animals_2016.pdf))

**FRANCE DONATED FMD VACCINES TO NEPAL**

Nepal experiences frequent FMD outbreaks, in cattle, buffalo, sheep, goats and pigs. Vaccination against FMD often helps farmers to prevent such heavy production losses. Nepal therefore launches FMD vaccination programme annually by importing vaccines from neighbouring India. The Government of France has supplemented the Nepal's vaccination program by donating 100,000 doses of foot and mouth disease vaccine this year especially for earthquake stricken districts.

This donation has been organised through the European Commission for the Control of Foot and Mouth Disease (EuFMD) and FAO. FAO's Regional Support Unit (RSU), the Emergency Center for Trans-boundary Animal diseases (ECTAD) based in Kathmandu, Nepal and Department of Livestock Services,

Government of Nepal coordinated the importation and distribution of the vaccines.. The First event of this FMD vaccination programme was launched in Bhaktapur district by Martine Bassereau, French Ambassador to Nepal on 29th January 2016.

**ADB DIRECTOR VISITS RSU-SAARC**

Mr Takashi Matsuo, Director of Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Division (EAER), South Asia Department (SARD) of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) along with, Mr Ahsan Tayyab, Project Officer of the ADB-funded project paid an ever first visit to the RSU Office and met the RSU team. The ADB officials were briefed on the recent past achievements under RSU and the expectations under the ADB's project. The discussion surrounded the outcome of the recent regional meeting on epidemiology network among SAARC Member Countries and the upcoming key events such as the 5th SAARC CVOs meeting and Road Map Meeting for Peste des petits ruminants (PPR) for South Asia planned for 11-14 April, 2016, in Nagarkot, Nepal.

Mr Tayyab applauded the progress made by the project since its inception and exchanged his ideas on the possible Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) and value chain studies under the ADB project. He expressed an interest to receive the cross-border study report done earlier in RSU and the final report of the EU-supported project on highly pathogenic and emerging diseases (HPED).



**Upcoming Events**

- Regional PPR Roadmap Meeting for South Asia, 11-12 April 2016, Nagarkot, Nepal
- The 5<sup>th</sup> SAARC CVOs Meeting, 13-14 April 2016, Nagarkot, Nepal.
- PPR Brainstorming Meeting for Programme Formulation, 13-14 April 2016, Nagarkot, Nepal.



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