



Major Diseases Situation in South Asia (July - September 2016)

FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE (FMD)

Though endemic in the region, FMD has not been reported from any of the SAARC countries during the period. There had been some unofficial media reports on the occurrence of the disease during the period in some countries in the region.

PESTE DES PETITS RUMINANTS (PPR)

Maldives resolved PPR outbreak on 03/10/2016. This outbreak started in Ga, Kolamaafushi, GAAFU ALIFF on 28/03/2016. From local FAO sources, following PPR outbreaks have been reported in Pakistan. No PPR report received from any of the remaining countries in South Asia.

PPR Outbreaks in South Asia during July - September 2016						
Country	State/Province / District	No outbreaks	No affected	No dead	Laboratory Diagnosis	Remarks
Pakistan (Source: FAO TCP (TCP/ PAK/3503))	Islamabad	2	NA	NA	Yes	About 60% of the PPR outbreaks were reported in Sindh province.
	Baluchistan	20	NA	NA	Yes	
	Punjab	32	NA	NA	Yes	
	Sindh	106	NA	NA	Yes	
	AJK	18	NA	NA	Yes	

HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA (HPAI)

India has resolved the HPAI (H5N1) outbreak reported from Bidar district of Karnataka on 1/5/2016 and has submitted its Final Report to OIE on 5/9/2016. India has declared itself free from HPAI (H5N1) once again. There is no report of HPAI (H5N1) from any of the South Asian countries during the period from July to September 2016.

RABIES

Rabies has been reported from a yak (zom) and a stray dog in Trashigang and Samdrup Dzongkhag, Bhutan respectively. The yak showed aggressive behaviour and died on 13 August 2016. The brain tissue sample from both cases tested positive to rabies virus using Rapid Antigen Detection Test and Florescent Antibody Test (FAT). The first case seems linked to a rabies case earlier reported in Trashigang on 29 July 2016 as the yak herd was in Trashigang in late July 2016.

Source: National Centre for Animal Health, Dept of Livestock, MoAF at <http://www.ncah.gov.bt/>

Regional Meetings and Workshops

Meeting and Discussion with SAARC Secretariat for the 2nd Year Work Plan, 15 September 2016, Kathmandu, Nepal.

On 15 September 2016, a meeting was held at the SAARC Secretariat to discuss the RSU work plan for the year 2016-17. Dr Santanu Bandyopadhyay, RSU Coordinator, Mr Jie Wang, RSU Programme Officer, and Mr MJH Javed, Director,

Agriculture, Rural Development and Food Security, SAARC Secretariat reviewed the work carried out and also the upcoming activities to be undertaken by RSU in the next four months. Follow-up actions were also agreed to push forward the implementation of the ADB-funded project for the region.

Asia-Pacific workshop on surveillance, prevention and control of zoonotic influenza organized under the FAO/OIE/WHO Tripartite umbrella – 29-31 August 2016, Paro, Bhutan.



Participants in the Asia-Pacific workshop on surveillance, prevention and control of zoonotic influenza organized under the FAO/OIE/WHO Tripartite umbrella.

The Tripartite (FAO, OIE and WHO) team from FAO Region of Asia Pacific (FAO RAP) and OIE Asia and the Pacific and WHO South-East Asian Regional Office (SEARO) jointly organized a regional workshop from 29-31 August 2016. It provided a regional platform for focused discussion on way forward for better surveillance, prevention and control of zoonotic influenza while employing the One Health approach.

The Minister for Agriculture and Forests, Bhutan inaugurated the meeting besides two keynote technical presentations delivered on i) Global and Regional situation and scientific updates on zoonotic influenza by Dr Frank Wong from Australian Animal Health Laboratory (AAHL), Geelong, Australia, and ii) Control of Avian Influenza and preparation for pandemic influenza by Professor Hiroshi Kida, Hokkaido University, Japan in the opening session. Other technical presentations delivered by FAO, WHO and OIE experts in the following days were titled (i) Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Framework (PIP), ii) Outcome of Bi-regional NIC meeting, iii) Tool for Influenza Pandemic Risk Assessment (TIPRA), iv) Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System (GISRS) (v) OFFLU, (vi) Joint Risk Assessment, (vii) Regional bioinformatics network and Viii) SAARC Regional networks.

A total of 69 participants from thirteen countries including Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, India, Indonesia, Japan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Thailand, and Vietnam attended the workshop besides senior officials from Ministry of Health and Ministry of Agriculture of Bhutan and international



Asia-Pacific workshop on surveillance, prevention and control of zoonotic influenza organized under the FAO/OIE/WHO Tripartite umbrella

organizations, development partners and experts belonging to academia and research. Dr. Khadak Singh Bisht, RSU Assistant Coordinator and Dr. Pasang Tshering, REC Coordinator represented RSU in the meeting.

The workshop brought out a set of recommendations including the way forward in surveillance, prevention and control of zoonotic influenzas.

Regional Workshop on the Application of the FAO Laboratory Mapping Tool (LMT), 01-05 August 2016, Bangkok, Thailand

FAO's Laboratory Mapping Tool (LMT) allows mapping of a laboratory profile and/ or to establish a baseline for laboratory status prior to embarking on a capacity building program in a country. The tool can either be used by external evaluators or through self-assessment to make a systematic and semi-quantitative assessment of the progress and impact of a laboratory. In order to discuss the application of various modules of this tool, a regional workshop was held on 1-5 August 2016 in Bangkok, Thailand jointly by ECTAD, FAO RAP, the National Institute of Animal Health (NIAH) and Mahidol-Oxford Tropical Medicine Research Unit (MORU), Thailand.

The meeting was attended by laboratory officials of national leading laboratories from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam besides the representatives from private sector laboratory network. Dr. Khadak Singh Bisht, RSU Assistant Coordinator, represented RSU in this workshop.

Beside the general LMT, a training on additional module i.e. bio safety LMT (BLMT) was discussed and exercise was carried out to assess the strengths, weaknesses and safety of NIAH laboratories.

PLANNING COMMUNICATION FOR AGRICULTURAL DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT: A FIELD GUIDE

Planning Communication for Agricultural Disaster Risk Management (ADRM) is a field guide developed by FAO to orient ADRM teams and concerned stakeholders for the design and implementation of communication for development (ComDev) activities that will increase resilience and protect the livelihoods of rural communities. It builds on the experience gained in the Caribbean region as a result of FAO projects aimed at strengthening preparedness to natural disasters and improving community-based climate change adaptation. As a field guide, it provides a complete overview of how to assess rural people's communication needs and how to plan and implement ComDev activities in the context of disaster risk management, crisis preparedness and emergency response in agriculture, food security and nutrition. It also provides guidance on how to apply ComDev to enhance the overall ADRM participatory planning and result monitoring processes, ensuring multi-stakeholder dialogue and participation.

The field guide can be accessed through following website: <http://www.fao.org/publications/card/en/c/ae800dea-60ca-4640-a3c1-f457fb5538c3/>



Participants' Group Photo in Regional Workshop on the Application of the FAO Laboratory Mapping Tool (LMT)

National Level Meetings, Workshop & Trainings

Field Epidemiology Training Level-2 For Veterinary, Medical and Public Health Officers in Nepal

The One Health Field Epidemiology Training Programme for Veterinary, Medical and Public Health Professionals has been implemented for the first time in Nepal to advance the one health approach for disease surveillance and outbreak investigation. The project was as part of the EPT-2 programme titled OSRO/NEP/401/USA funded by the USAID with the technical assistance of FAO.

The curriculum for this field epidemiology training were developed in close collaboration and consultation with Department of Livestock Services, Department of Health Services of the Government of Nepal and the WHO Representation Office in Nepal.

The two cohorts of such trainings were conducted from 31 July to 12 August and 21 August to 2 September 2016 in Kathmandu, Nepal. The resource persons were drawn from Animal Health, Human Health and Wildlife sectors working in various institutions and organizations in Nepal including epidemiology experts from the RSU.

The objectives of this training were as below:

- To enhance the technical and scientific knowledge of medical officers, veterinary officers, public health professionals and wildlife professionals working in the field to perform specialized tasks necessary for conducting effective and timely outbreak response and surveillance for existing and emerging infectious diseases;
- To enable the participants to calculate sample size, design questionnaire, manage integrated epidemiological data and data analysis; and
- To enable the participants to perform an outbreak investigation/cross sectional study to find out the prevalence /risk factors and its reporting.

Major Activities at SAARC Regional Diagnostic Laboratories (RDLs)

Hands on training on PPR diagnosis in Bangladesh, 5-7 May 2016.

SAARC Regional Diagnostic laboratory for PPR, Bangladesh organized a 3 days hand on training program on diagnosis of PPR in Savar, Bangladesh from 5-7 May 2016. About 15 officers of the Central Disease Investigation Laboratory (CDIL), Field Disease Investigation Laboratory (FDIL), and newly recruited scientists of Bangladesh Livestock Research Institute (BLRI) attended the training. The workshop covered the topics such as "Importance, principle and practice of Biosafety and Biosecurity of the lab", "Collection of samples, preservation and shipment for PPR diagnosis", "Shipping and transportation of infectious materials", "Cleaning, sterilization, disinfection and dispose of infectious laboratory waste", "ELISA for the detection of PPR antibody", "ELISA for the detection of PPR virus", "Molecular techniques for detection of PPRV", "Pilot project on PPR control in Bangladesh". The Director General of BLRI awarded the certificates among the trainees.



Participants in the Hands on Training on Peste Des Petits Ruminants (PPR) Diagnosis in Bangladesh

Update on PPR Global Eradication Programme 2017 - 2021 (PPR-GEP)

The Joint FAO/OIE PPR Global Secretariat has prepared a brief on the progress made in the PPR-GEP since the Abidjan Conference in April, 2015. The salient points verbatim (as provided by the Secretariat) are:

The vision for PPR eradication was approved by the 39th FAO conference. The report of the PPR-GEP implementation was presented to the 25th COAG and member country requested that that report be refined and presented to the fore coming FAO programme committee. The newly established join FAO/OIE PPR Secretariat was busy in formulating the Global Strategy.

At regional level: By December 2016, we will complete the first round of the 9 regional PPR road map meetings, only ASEAN will be left without the regional PPR draft strategy. We hope to cover this gap next year. Your assistance is requested to make sure that Regional Economic Communities take ownership of the regional strategy for its funding/implementation.

At country level: By the end of this year, more than 25 countries will have been assisted to formulate their national strategic plan (NSP) linked to CPF. Through the NSP, each country will have to raise funds for the implementation of its plan. Through your support, we hope that all infected countries will have their NSP by end 2017 and you will assist for implementation.

Following the Regional Roadmap Workshop on PPR in Nagarkot, Nepal in April 2016, RSU-SAARC has worked together with the PPR Global Secretariat to nominate suitable national consultants for developing the National PPR Control Strategy for a few select countries in the region.

So far, Dr Ratna B Gurung, National Centre for Animal Health, Department of Livestock, Ministry of Agriculture and Forests, Bhutan and Dr Damodar Sedhai, Adjunct Professor on Veterinary Pathology and Meat Hygiene at Purbanchal University, Nepal have been recruited for developing the plans for Bhutan and Nepal respectively. National consultants for Pakistan and Bangladesh are also under consideration.

Communication: The video, infographic among other were produced. 9,000 copies of the PPR booklet were sent to 80 countries. The video and the infographic are available on the PPR web page or can be provided on request.

Resources mobilization strategy: Visit to major donors is foreseen which will lead to the global pledging conference next year.

Diagnostic tools: b-ELISA is under validation through an LoA with AU-PANVAC. It is our hope that the unit price of this kit will be very low compare to current available kit.

PPR-GEP presentation: standard presentation was tested by Guo (tripartite meeting in Russia) and Berhanu (ECOWAS RESEPI/RESOLAB meeting in Nigeria). This presentation will be send to use in case you can have 20 minutes during any of your meeting to present the programme.

Collaboration: Very well between FAO and OIE from one side and between both institutions and several other partners for the PPR-GEP implementation. All of you were very helpful for establishing the good relationship between the PPR secretariat and the Regional Economic Communities as well as other stakeholders.

The first five year PPR Global Eradication Programme has been finalized. The pdf document is accessible through the links : <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i6316e.pdf> or http://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/Media_Center/docs/pdf/PortailPPR/EN_GEP_PPR_Finalweb.pdf

A brief report of RSU activities from August 2015 to July 2016

The RSU-SAARC with the funding support from ADB and the Japanese Fund for Poverty Reduction and in partnership with the SAARC Secretariat, implemented a project, entitled "Regional Capacity Development for Regional Cooperation on Food Security through Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases in South Asia" in August, 2015. During the first year of the project, a number of key activities and events were planned, implemented and accomplished under the four defined project outputs for the control of transboundary animal diseases (TADs). These are the 3rd SAARC Epidemiology Networking (EpiNet) Meeting, the Regional Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) Roadmap Meeting back-to-back with the 5th SAARC Chief Veterinary Officers (CVOs) Meeting, and the 4th Laboratory Directors Meeting and Workshop. In addition, RSU-SAARC has facilitated and supported four training sessions on FMD and the One Health Workshop in Nepal on HPAI together with the FAO Country Team. Other committed works were continued, including regular update of the RSU-

SAARC website, publication of the Weekly Disease E-Information and quarterly Information Bulletins. RSU-SAARC has also participated and facilitated the participation of country delegates from SAARC Member States (MSs) to FAO's regional meetings/workshops, as well as initiated follow-up actions on anti-microbial resistance (AMR)/ anti-microbial use (AMU), bioinformatics, and trade policy study as the mandate of the RSU-SAARC.

Through all these coordination meetings and workshops at the regional level, key stakeholders of the eight SAARC MSs were brought together and provided a platform, where country delegates shared their experiences, understood current disease management strategies in the region, appreciated the value of timely and transparent disease reporting, discussed challenges encountered and jointly devised regional strategies for the management of TADs in South Asia.



3rd SAARC EpiNet Meeting, 2-3 April 2016, Kathmandu Nepal



1st Roadmap Meeting for the Formulation of a Regional Approach to the Control and Eradication of PPR in the SAARC Region, 11-14 April 2016, Kathmandu Nepal



5th SAARC Chief Veterinary Officers (CVOs) Meeting, 13-14 April 2016, Kathmandu Nepal



4th Lab Directors' Meeting and Workshop for SAARC Member Countries, 1-2 June 2016, Dhaka Bangladesh

Upcoming events

- Regional Workshop on FMD for South Asia- Road Map for Progressive Control Pathway of FMD (PCP-FMD) 14-16 Dec 2016, Colombo, Sri Lanka.
- Consultation Workshop on AMR Surveillance: 24-25 November 2016, Bangkok, Thailand



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



Japan
Fund for
Poverty
Reduction

RSU-SAARC

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
P.O. BOX 25, UN House, Pulchowk, Kathmandu, Nepal
Tel: +977-1-5535312, 5009074, 5009065
Fax: +977-1-5009074
Email: info@saarc-rsu-hped.org
www.saarc-rsu-hped.org