



Major Diseases Situation in South Asia (January - March 2017)

According to Monthly Animal Disease information e-bulletin published by Indian Council of Agricultural Research -National Institute of Veterinary Epidemiology & Disease Informatics (ICAR-NIVEDI) for the month of January 2017, the top ten animal diseases reported in different states of India were as under:

Disease	State
Black Quarter (BQ)	Karnataka, Assam, Manipur
Sheep / Goat pox	Karnataka, Assam, Himanchal Pradesh
Peste Des Petits Ruminants (PPR)	Karnataka, Assam, Punjab, Rajasthan
Classical Swine fever (CSF)	Assam, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana
Anthrax	Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh
Enterotoxaemia	Assam, Karnataka
Hemorrhagic Septicemia (HS)	Karnataka
Fascioliasis	Puducherry Union Territory
Babesiosis	Puducherry Union Territory
Theileriosis	Haryana

Source: *Epinet.India: Animal Disease Information e-bulletin Vol. 4 Issue 01, January 2017.*

FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE (FMD)

The SAARC countries are endemic for FMD except Maldives which is historically free from FMD. Following countries have reported the incidence of FMD in animal population during the current quarter:

India

The Animal Disease information e-bulletin published by ICAR-NIVEDI has reported that at least six cattle (mithuns) had died of FMD during January in west Siang district among more than fifty cattle that were affected in the said district.

Source: *Epinet.India: Animal Disease Information e-bulletin Vol. 4 Issue 01, January 2017*

Bhutan

An outbreak of FMD was suspected in a pig farm Dagana Dzongkhag (District) on 14 February 2017. Of the 1100 susceptible population of pigs in the village, as many as 28 pigs showed foot lesions. The Livestock extension centre has collected the biological sample as part of outbreak investigation and submitted to National Centre for Animal Health (NCAH) for confirmation. Appropriate measures to prevent further spread of the disease have been implemented. Similarly, another outbreak of FMD in cattle based on clinical signs observed by the owner on 26th February has been reported on 8th March 2017. One cattle in Dangragoan and five cattle in Devithan village were affected.

Source: <http://www.ncah.gov.bt/newsdetail.php?ID=307>

Nepal

As many as 23 outbreaks of FMD were reported during January - March 2017 by Department of Livestock Services, Government of Nepal. The total of 873 animals including buffaloes, cattle, sheep and goats were affected by FMD and of those, 12 animals were reported to die of the disease. The cases were reported from Kaski, Parbat, Ramechhap and Saptari districts of Nepal. At least 104506 animals have been vaccinated against the FMD while following the policy of ring vaccination.

Pakistan

FAO's report for the month of February 2017 while referring to the Progressive Control of Foot and Mouth Disease Project has reported that 307 FMD outbreaks occurred in the country during February 2017. FMDV serotype O was responsible for nearly all of the typed outbreaks. Other serotypes detected were A and ASIA 1. In response to FMD outbreaks and on cost sharing basis, the number of vaccine doses administered during February 2017 was 13,330.

Source: http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/eufmd/docs/FMD_monthly_reports/2017/Feb2017.pdf

PESTE DES PETITS RUMINANTS (PPR)

The SAARC countries are endemic for PPR except Sri Lanka which is historically free from PPR. Nepal has reported two outbreaks in Syangja and Nawalparasi district during the reporting quarter (January- March 2017). As many as 117 goats were affected and of these 29 goats had died of the disease. At least 210589 sheep and goats have been vaccinated against the PPR to prevent further spread of the disease.

HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA (HPAI)

Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal reported incidence of the HPAI to OIE (http://www.oie.int/wahis_2/public/wahid.php/Diseaseinformation/lmmsummary) during the period from January to March, 2017. The country-wise details of the outbreaks are given below:

Bangladesh

According to the notification submitted to OIE on 21 January 2017, a poultry farm maintaining 15 weeks old Sonali Type birds was hit by highly pathogenic avian influenza (H5N1) in Dhaka. The outbreak started on 15 January and confirmed on 16 January 2017 using real-time PCR by National Reference Laboratory for Avian Influenza (National laboratory). Of the total 3000 susceptible birds at the farm, 732 died and remaining 2268 were culled by the livestock authority on the same day by burial method with proper disinfection.

India

HPAI (H5N1): The HPAI (H5N1) outbreak that started on 31 December 2016 at Asha Foundation, Hathijan, Ahmedabad, Gujarat has been confirmed on 2 January 2017. This event was followed by another two outbreaks in Mirasoli Resort, Devka in Daman and Diu Union Territory and Memnagar Rescue Center, Ahmedabad, Gujarat. Of the 510 susceptible birds, five were affected in the former

outbreak while 2 birds were affected among the 159 susceptible birds in the later outbreak. The affected birds in both events had died of HPAI and the remaining were destroyed following confirmation of H5N1 by the National Institute of High Security Animal Diseases, Bhopal using real-time reverse transcriptase - polymerase chain reaction (RRT-PCR). Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare have notified both the events to OIE as follow up report-1 on 27 January 2017. Besides culling of birds in affected villages, surveillance around them in a radius of up to 10 kilometres have been implemented as envisaged under current national HPAI control strategy. The epidemiologic details of the events are as under:

Place	Date Started	Date confirmed	Domestic/wild	Susceptible	Affected	Dead	Destroyed
Kacharu, Sundergarh, Odisha	19/12/2016	04/01/2017	Village birds	1657	11	11	1646
State Poultry Breeding and Research Farm, Angul, Odisha	30/01/2017	13/02/2017	Farm birds	3570	2091	2091	1479
Asha Foundation, Hathijan, Ahmedabad, Gujrat	31/12/2016	02/01/2017	Farm Birds	191	25	25	
Mirasoli Resort, Devka, Daman & DIU	22/12/2016	07/01/2017	Farm Birds	510	5	5	505
Memnagar Ahmedabad, Gujarat	02/01/2017	11/01/2017	Farm Birds	159	2	2	157

HPAI (H5N8): New events of HPAI H5N8 continued to be reported from India during the current quarter of 2017 after its ever first emergence reported in last quarter of 2016. The cascade of 23 events at different places in Kerala State followed outbreak started on 19 October in Kottayam, Kerala. The last incidence in the Kerala state that occurred on 24/11/2016 was reported to OIE on 12/01/2017. Sporadic episodes are still continuing in other states of India. Of the 714090 susceptible village birds incriminated in the said 23 outbreaks 66571 were affected with death of 66571 birds and as many as 647519 village birds were destroyed. Similarly, two graylag goose, in Wadhawana Lake, Gujarat were found infected from HPAI H5N8 on 5/12/2016. This incident was reported to OIE on 17/01/2017.

Nepal

HPAI (H5N1): The first outbreak event of HPAI (H5N1) in Nepal after 2014 was reported to OIE on 25/02/2017. The event was started on 17 February 2017 and was confirmed in the laboratory on 23 February 2017 using real-time PCR. The epidemiologic details of the outbreak events are as under:

Place	Date Started	Date confirmed	Domestic/wild	Susceptible	Affected	Dead	Destroyed
Khalte masina, Pokhara Sub Metropolitan city, Kaski	17/02/2017	22/02/2017	Backyard Birds	395	98	98	297
Bhim devi marg, Pokhara sub-metropolitan city, Kaski,	28/02/2017	01/03/2017	Backyard Birds	2162		0	

HPAI (H5N8): The ever first case of HPAI (H5N8) was reported in Nepal from Sunsari district on 10 March 2017. The outbreak was started in two sheds maintaining 40 and 20 weeks old commercial layers. The epidemiologic details of the episode are as under:

Place	Date Started	Date confirmed	Domestic/wild	Susceptible	Affected	Dead	Destroyed
Itahari, Santitole, Khanar, Sunsari, KOSHI	01/03/2017	08/03/2017	commercial layers (40-weeks and 20-weeks old)	6200	3650	3650	2550

RABIES

Invariably all the countries in South Asia have witnessed cases of rabies. Bhutan has specifically reported 14 rabies cases including 9 cases of a dog bite suspected of rabies in Dagana, one rabies case in heifer in Samtse, 3 cases of rabid dogs in Trashigang and one rabies case in stray dog in Samdrup Jongkhar Dzongkhag (District). Similarly Department of Livestock Services, Government of Nepal has reported as many as 24 outbreaks of rabies in various districts of Nepal including Dailekh, Siraha, Lamjung, Sindhupalchowk, Ramechhap, Mahottari. At least 58 animals consisting of dogs, buffaloes, cattle, and goats were affected and succumbed to the disease.

Regional Meetings, Trainings and Workshops

FAO RETREAT MEETING ON SUSTAINABILITY OF RSU-SAARC, 31 JAN-01 FEB 2017, BANGKOK THAILAND



FAO Retreat Meeting on Sustainability of RSU-SAARC

A retreat meeting of FAO's RSU for SAARC was held with FAO ECTAD RAP team in Bangkok, Thailand from 31 January to 1 February 2017 to discuss the progress made under the ADB-funded project and the sustainability options of the RSU-SAARC beyond July 2017. Dr Juan Lubroth, FAO Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO) and Chief of Animal Health Service (AGAH) was also present in part of the discussion sessions. Various Options to sustain RSU in South Asia were discussed.

THE FIRST SAARC EPINET FORUM MEETING, 27-28 FEBRUARY 2017, NEW DELHI, INDIA

The first meeting of SAARC EpiNet Forum was held on 27-28 February 2017 in New Delhi, India. The meeting was co-hosted by FAO's Regional Support Unit for SAARC (RSU-SAARC) and Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (DAHDF), Government of India. The focal points for epidemiology officially designated by respective Governments of SAARC Member States (MSs) attended the meeting. The other participants especially invited for the meeting were technical partners from FAO-RAP,

OIE, WHO, EuFMD and SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC). Mr Devendra Chaudhry, Secretary, Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (DADF), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India highlighted the significance and importance of the epidemiology network for the region towards fulfilling the needs and aspirations of the farmers and the general public. While assuring his commitment towards strengthening the Forum and building collaborations between SAARC Member States in his opening remarks for the meeting, he stressed upon the significance of harmonizing the disease reporting systems among the SAARC MSs.



The First SAARC EpiNet Forum Meeting

The current situations and existing tools/practices/experiences were shared during the technical sessions beside deliberations on exploring avenues for sharing real-time disease incidence information, expertise and other resources at regional level. The tools of advocacy and mechanism influencing the policies and decision in favour of developing plans for emerging disease emergencies in the region were also discussed.

The meeting agreed to set up a Network Secretariat to maintain communication among the designated focal points of the Member States. India volunteered to host the Secretariat till the decision on location of a permanent secretariat is made through consultative process.

SAARC-FAO CONSULTATION MEETING, 9 MARCH 2017, KATHMANDU, NEPAL

A special SAARC Programme Committee Consultation Meeting with FAO was organized jointly by the SAARC Secretariat and FAO Regional Support Unit (RSU) on 9 March, 2017 in Kathmandu, Nepal to explore options for sustaining the RSU, once the current ADB-supported FAO project is completed on 31st July, 2017.



Participants of SAARC-FAO Consultation Meeting

The meeting was attended by the National Focal Points of the SAARC Programme Committee and representatives of the Ministries of Foreign/External Ministries, representatives of

the SAARC Secretariat, Director of SAARC Agriculture Centre, Deputy Regional Manager from FAO-ECTAD RAP, RSU-Coordinator and other officials of the FAO Regional Support Unit for SAARC and Chair of the SAARC Chief Veterinary Officers (CVOs) Forum. While RSU Coordinator briefed the meeting on the genesis, activities and sustainability plan of the RSU, the Deputy Regional Manager, FAO-RAP, Bangkok, presented the various options for sustaining RSU under the SAARC established mechanism. Possibilities of retaining the RSU in Nepal or relocating to SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC), Bangladesh were also deliberated by the Members of the SAARC Programme Committee.

After extensive deliberation, the meeting recommended both the Government of Nepal and the SAARC Agriculture Centre (SAC) to put forward their individual proposal to the SAARC Secretariat entailing strength, capacities, budgetary arrangements, financial implications to the Member States (if any), in order to sustain the activities of the RSU post-July, 2017. The Committee decided to meet again around middle of June 2017 to discuss the proposals in the light of the feedbacks received from the Member States on the two proposals with regard to RSU location, administrative, financial and technical matters pertaining to RSU.

CROSS BORDER CONSULTATION MEETING AMONG GANGETIC PLAIN COUNTRIES (INDIA, NEPAL, BHUTAN AND BANGLADESH), 27-28 MARCH 2017, KATHMANDU, NEPAL

A two-day Cross Border Consultation Meeting among the Gangetic Plain countries, including Bangladesh, Bhutan India and Nepal, was held from 27 - 28 March, 2017 in Kathmandu, Nepal. The meeting was jointly organized by FAO and SAARC Secretariat, and was attended by national participants from four Gangetic Plain countries. The meeting was also attended by key representatives from FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAO-RAP), Regional Support Unit for SAARC (RSU-SAARC), and FAO-ECTAD Bangladesh and Nepal. The meeting aimed at developing a long-term plan for safe trade of live animal and animal products between the countries of the Gangetic Plains.



Participants of Cross Border Consultation Meeting among Gangetic Plain Countries (India, Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh)

Dr. Yubak Dhoj GC, Secretary, Ministry of Livestock Development (MOLD), Government of Nepal, delivered the opening remarks as a Chief Guest, highlighting the importance of cross-border collaboration between the Member States in controlling the transboundary animal diseases in the region. Dr Somsak Pipoppinyo, FAO Representative for Nepal and Bhutan delivered the welcome remarks.

Mr Sangye Rinchen, Director, Environment, Natural Disasters & Biotechnology (ENB), SAARC Secretariat, also addressed the meeting. Dr Wantanee Kalpravidh, Regional Manager, ECTAD, FAO-RAP led the technical sessions and also presented examples of cross-border dialogue held among some select ASEAN Member Countries. Other presentations included value chain studies from within the region, animal movement and risks and opportunities for safe trade. Country updates through gallery walks, group discussions and plenary session were made during the technical sessions.

Cross border status within the Gangetic Plain countries as regard to livestock value-chains was reviewed and updated. The possible ways to facilitate continuous and enhanced information exchange between/among the Member States at the cross-border levels was discussed and options were identified/agreed among the Member States. A mechanism was identified to facilitate harmonized and synchronized strategies for safer cross-border trade. All the countries in the sub region agreed that the cross border collaboration is useful and beneficial to manage animal movement and reduce risks of transboundary animal diseases in the sub region and beyond.

A set of recommendations for continuing and improving the cross-border coordination mechanism among the Gangetic Plain Countries emerged from the Meeting.

NEGOTIATION FOR COLLABORATION BETWEEN RSU AND SKOLL FOUNDATION

Dr Mark Smolinski, Programme Director of the Skoll Foundation met the FAO-ECTAD-RAP and FAO RSU team on 1st February, 2017, in Bangkok to introduce their global plans for expansion of One Health and expressed their interest in possible collaboration with FAO on supporting a disease epidemiology and surveillance network in South Asia through a Consultative Meeting around November, 2017.

FIRST SUB-REGIONAL ONLINE MEETING ON AVIAN INFLUENZA, 12 JANUARY 2017

As per recommendation in the 4th Laboratory Director's Meeting in December 2016, Dr. Naila Siddique from SAARC

Regional Diagnostic Laboratory for HPAI, Pakistan held the first Sub-regional online meeting on 12 January 2017 with the identified focal points from the national and international laboratories for Avian Influenza among the SAARC Member States. The focal points from India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Pakistan and a laboratory expert from FAO-RAP and RSU discussed the situation of the Avian Influenza beside other major avian diseases in the region.

ONLINE FMD INVESTIGATION TRAINING COURSE

European Commission for Control of FMD (EuFMD) in partnership with the FAO Regional Support Unit for SAARC (RSU) launched an e-learning program to pilot and use the online training tools for improving the regional capacity for control of FMD in the region. A 12 hours certificate course in this regard has been offered for veterinarian starting from 17 March 2017. The course is entirely free of charge and open for both public and private veterinarians in the SAARC region. The course will take 12 hours spanning over 4 weeks covering various aspects of FMD control. Altogether, about 150 veterinarians from the eight SAARC Member States have registered and are participating in this online training course. For more information, email at: euFMD-training@fao.org

A brief report of RSU-SAARC activities for the first quarter, January – March, 2017

During the first quarter of the year 2017, a number of key activities and events were planned, implemented and accomplished. These activities include regular meetings with SAARC Secretariat to discuss the ongoing and future activities, Cross border meeting in Nepal, CVO's meeting in Bhutan; Programme Committee's Consultation Meeting on RSU-SAARC sustainability; Meeting with the new DG-DLS, Nepal; preparation of new project proposals, etc.

RSU-SAARC also supported technically and operationally in developing National Strategies for Control of PPR for Bhutan and Nepal. The routine update of RSU website and publication of Weekly South Asia Animal Disease e-information and Quarterly Information Bulletins were planned and executed.

Upcoming events

- FAO-OIE 3rd GF-TADs Meeting for SAARC, 8 May 2017, Thimphu, Bhutan.
- 6th SAARC CVO's Meeting, 9 - 10 May, 2017, Thimphu, Bhutan.
- Field Epidemiology Training Program, 15-24 May 2017, Bengaluru, Karnataka, India.
- Enhancing SPS capacities in South Asia for trade promotion in Animal and Animal products, 19-22 June, 2017, Kathmandu, Nepal.



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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@rsu-saarc.org
www.rsu-saarc.org