

# ECTAD South Asia Weekly Animal Disease E-Information

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## BHUTAN

### 17 July 2014: Peste des petits ruminants (PPR) in Bjabcho, Chhukha

PPR outbreak has been reported in Bjabcho, Chhukha on 08/07/2014. Seven goats have died of the disease out of 27 animals. The affected goats were rescued from slaughter and kept in an enclosed shelter away from human habitation. Source of the origin of the infection is suspected to be from introduction of new live animals and or illegal movement of animals. National Centre for Animal Health (National laboratory) confirmed the disease as PPR by antigen (Ag) detection ELISA test. [read more](#)

## INDIA

### 24 July 2014: Encephalitis outbreak: Blood samples flood hospital lab

A day after West Bengal development minister announced opening of fever clinics at seven district hospitals, the diagnostics laboratory at North Bengal Medical College and Hospital (NBMCH) was flooded with samples. It was evident by late afternoon that the facility was woefully inadequate to handle the kind of volume that the fever clinics had begun generating. Lab technicians have started asking for temporary assistance to tide over the crisis. Over 1,000 samples arrived at NBMCH on the very first day. Jalpaiguri Sadar Hospital alone tested 113 blood samples, there was no malaria and patients were not positive to encephalitis either. [read more](#)

### 22 July 2014: 102 die due to encephalitis in West Bengal

Encephalitis has taken 42 lives in north Bengal area of West Bengal in the last two days, taking the total toll to 102 till today. "Around 102 people have died so far," West Bengal Director of Medical Education (DME) told. The toll from encephalitis in north Bengal was 60 till Sunday. The DME said that it was a case of mixed infection with Japanese encephalitis being responsible for around 24 per cent of infection. The municipalities have been asked to maintain cleanliness and to do fogging of localities regularly to control the disease. Jalpaiguri district was the worst-hit with rural areas in Dhupguri and Moynaguri because of the presence of large number of piggeries from where Japanese encephalitis spread. [read more](#)

### 21 July 2014: Massive vaccine drive after rabid dog attacks 64 in Rajapalayam, Tamil Nadu.

Health officials have started administering vaccines to the 64 people who came in contact with a rabid stray dog that has been causing panic in Rajapalayam town since Friday. The contact details of the victims were collected and they will be monitored to ensure that they return for follow-up shots and medicines. Veterinary doctors have confined dogs in the vicinity to administer rabies vaccination to them. The dog, which went on a biting spree, was killed by residents on Saturday. The brain of the rabid dog will be sent to Veterinary Research Institute in Namakkal, veterinary department officials said. [read more](#)

## NEPAL

### 23 July 2014: FAO, USAID and SAARC continue building regional preparedness for H7N9 and other avian influenza viruses

As part of ongoing efforts to reduce the risk of avian influenza in general and H7N9 in particular, FAO gathered experts from seven nations of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) to share experiences and build capacities in avian influenza preparedness. Through a two-day workshop – held in Kathmandu, Nepal on 10-11 July 2014 and funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and FAO itself – participants took stock of past activities, shared their latest scientific findings and reviewed best practices to enhance their abilities to detect and respond to H7N9 and other avian influenza viruses. National experts in wildlife, laboratory diagnostics and animal health management met with contingency planners, risk managers and risk communicators from FAO to build a common understanding of the best ways to analyze and reduce avian influenza risks. [read more](#)

## OTHER

### 15 July 2014: Asia better prepared through coordinated efforts to fight transboundary animal diseases

Five years after its establishment in Bangkok, the European Union funded Regional Cooperation Programme on Highly Pathogenic Emerging Diseases (EU-HPED), collaboratively implemented by FAO, WHO and the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), has provided significant support to enhance capacities of countries in the region in their response to highly pathogenic and emerging diseases. The FAO component of the EU-HPED programme was initiated in 2009 to help ASEAN and SAARC member countries deal with high impact infectious diseases, including foot and mouth disease and avian influenza, such as H5N1 and more recently H7N9. Because these diseases can spread easily across national boundaries, a coordinated effort between countries was seen as essential. To date, FAO has trained some 1082 livestock professionals from 18 countries in Asia. [read more](#)