



ECTAD South Asia Weekly Animal Disease E-Information

Regional Support Unit and Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases for South Asia, FAO, Nepal

BANGLADESH-INDIA

India-Bangladesh's scientists agree to share information on infectious disease

Human and animal health scientists of Bangladesh and India have agreed on the need for joint investigations and monitoring of infectious diseases, particularly in the bordering districts. Both sides made the recommendations in the first ever 'Bangladesh-India cooperation workshop on anthrax that concluded in Dhaka on Jan 28. They also put forward short-term, medium-term and long-term plans of collaboration to contain infectious diseases like anthrax. They also put forward short-term, medium-term and long-term plans of collaboration to contain infectious diseases like anthrax. [read more](#)

INDIA

23 Feb 2015: 21 more die of H1N1: Death toll reaches 833 across India

H1N1 virus claimed the lives of 21 more people as the toll reached 833 across the country while the number of persons affected by H1N1 virus breached the 14,000 mark. According to Health Ministry figures, the total number of persons who have died of the disease till February 22 is 833 while a total of 14,484 persons has been affected by it across the nation. [read more](#)

NEPAL

26 Feb 2015: 13 people infected with H1N1 virus

The number of confirmed H1N1 virus cases kept rising, with the National Public Health Laboratory confirming on Wednesday that 13 people tested positive for the disease in the country. Nine of the confirmed cases came from Kathmandu and two each from Chitwan and Pokhara. Health officials, however, urged the public not to panic saying that the number of confirmed cases has not reached the epidemic proportions. "A disease becomes an epidemic only if 10 to 15 cases are reported on a daily basis," explained Dr Baburam Marasini, Director of Epidemiology and Disease Control Division at the Department of Health Services. However, with the disease already claiming more than 900 lives in neighbouring India, the rising cases of positive reports have sent people into panic mode. [read more](#)

SRI LANKA

Rat fever: Weeragula on alert as disease claims two

Health Ministry's Epidemiology Unit officials have classified Weeragula in Gampaha district as a high-risk area for rat fever as two deaths have been reported from the area while 16 others who contracted the disease are receiving treatment at the National Hospital. The officials believe that the disease is spread from a paddy land named Seruvila, located in the area. Seruvila paddy land is currently inundated with flood-waters which flowed down stream after the Attanagalu Oya breached its banks, as a result of the heavy rains experienced in the recent past, villagers said. Two persons from Weeragula had fallen victim to this disease. [read more](#)

OTHER

17 Feb 2015: Seasonal flu vaccine induces antibodies that protect against H7N9 avian flu

Antibodies that protect against H7N9 avian flu, which emerged in China in 2013 and sparked fears of a global pandemic, have been isolated in individuals who received seasonal flu vaccinations and appear to broadly neutralize H7 viruses. [read more](#)

20 Feb 2015: Gender Issues in Human, Animal and plant health using an Ecohealth Perspective

The ecohealth approach is a core concept integrating environmental aspects with human and animal health (domestic and wild animals). Zoonotic and emerging diseases affect human health and impact negatively on food security. Although both the risk of contracting a disease and the subsequent impacts vary between different genders, age groups, cultures and social conditions, very little research has been done on this and few guidelines or interventions focus adequately on these aspects. This paper is based on a conceptual framework identifying the relationship between gender inequalities and the risk of contracting a disease in an ecohealth perspective. It looks at the varying impacts of plant, animal and human diseases and identifies four contributing factors. [read more](#)

21 Feb 2015: 577 human cases of avian influenza A(H7N9) reported in China to date

The Health and Family Planning Commission of Guangdong Province (GDHFPC) has reported an additional human case of avian influenza A(H7N9), making it the 166th case of the bird flu reported in the southern China province since Mar. 2013. According to the GDHFPC, the patient is a 48-year-old woman who lives in Shantou. She is currently hospitalised for treatment in critical condition. [read more](#)