



ECTAD South Asia Weekly Animal Disease E-Information

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

FAO NEWS ON NEPAL EARTHQUAKE

30 Apr 2015: [Nepal Earthquake's impact on food security and agriculture likely very high](#)

Last week, a 7.8 magnitude earthquake – the country's biggest in 80 years – shook Nepal, killing thousands while limiting access to food and leaving some 3.5 million in need of food assistance.

Some \$8 million is urgently needed to help disaster-struck Nepalese farmers rapidly recover lost agricultural inputs and resume preparations for the imminent rice sowing season, FAO said today. The impact of the recent major earthquake on food security and agricultural livelihoods expected to be very high. Farmers who miss the planting season that is expected to start late May onwards will be unable to harvest rice – the country's staple food -- again until late 2016. This, together with likely losses of food stocks and wheat and maize harvests, would severely limit food supplies and incomes in the South Asian country, where around two-thirds of people rely on agriculture for their livelihood, FAO said. Last week, a 7.8 magnitude earthquake – the country's biggest in 80 years – shook Nepal, killing thousands while limiting access to food and leaving some 3.5 million in need of food assistance. Some \$8 million is urgently needed to help disaster-struck Nepalese farmers rapidly recover lost agricultural inputs and resume preparations for the imminent rice sowing season, FAO said today. [read more](#)

INDIA

30 Apr 2015: [500 Mithuns die in Arunachal district](#)

Over 500 Mithuns have reportedly died of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) in the newly-created Kra Dadi district of Arunachal Pradesh. The All Arunachal Agriculture Horticulture Input Suppliers Registered Dealership Association, in a release, said Mithuns are dying every day due to FMD. It termed the outbreak an 'epidemic.' It urged the state veterinary department to send veterinarians and sufficient medicine to the affected areas to contain the disease. [read more](#)

OTHERS

27 Apr 2015: [The biggest ever bird flu outbreak in the United States](#)

Hundreds of farm workers exposed to a highly pathogenic strain of bird flu have been offered antiviral medication as a preventative measure in recent days, U.S. public health officials said. To date, the virulent H5N2 influenza, which has infected turkeys and chickens on Midwestern poultry farms, has not affected humans. But because flu viruses are highly mutable, there is a worry that those in direct contact with infected birds could fall ill from the disease. How severe such human infections could be is not known. But even if some people become ill, government researchers and public health experts said, it is highly unlikely the illness could be passed between humans – in part due to the genetic make-up of this particular flu strain. [read more](#)

[Recommendations of the FAO-OIE International Conference for the control and eradication of PPR](#)

Declare that the control and eradication of PPR worldwide is officially and solemnly launched during the 'Abidjan Conference' with the vision of a world free of PPR by 2030. PPR is expected to be the second animal disease eradicated from the globe after the success of rinderpest eradication in 2011. Declare that, as a consequence, they officially endorse the FAO-OIE Global Control and Eradication Strategy (GCES) with its three components and encourage all national competent authorities, the international community, the veterinary profession and all stakeholders as a whole to commit to its implementation and thereby take the necessary political, technical and financial means to ensure that this Vision is accomplished in a timely manner. [read more](#)

28 Apr 2015: [Avian influenza vaccination not a long term solution](#)

The flaring up of a new subtype of avian influenza resulted in havoc in many countries in the Northern hemisphere in the last months. New transmission routes in migratory birds resulted in outbreaks from Asia to Europe to North America. Stamping out the disease was the only way to go and trying to prevent the virus from entering the poultry houses with tough biosecurity protocols. That works on an individual farm level, but a structural approach is needed. What is required is a new approach to our mass number protein production chain and this can only be implemented by a central body. This has to ensure that poultry production is carried out universally, under a set of rules, deemed to initially bring production in all countries to adhere to a 'code of practice' by using a set of rules that must be strictly carried out by each country. To agree to and to adopt a set of 'basics' in order to give poultry the best possible chance to remain healthy, grow at an acceptable rate, with the lowest mortality and FCR and giving the producer the best possible return on the capital investment. [read more](#)