



## ECTAD South Asia Weekly Animal Disease E-Information

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

### INDIA

#### 20 May 2015: Health experts don't rule out anthrax outbreak in state

Health officials of the state chapter of Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) has not ruled out an outbreak of anthrax in the state despite medical reports of two persons from Simdega, who died on May 8, showed negative results. IDSP's state director Dr Ramesh Prasad told TOI on Tuesday that anthrax bacilli (*Bacillus anthracis*) are found naturally in soil and can remain dormant for more than 50 years. [read more](#)

#### 19 May 2019: Institute for Animal Health and Veterinary Biologicals (IAHVB) Palode to produce goat plague vaccine

Goat farmers in Kerala can look forward to better times. The scourge that blights their herds may soon be under control. The Department of Animal Husbandry is set to begin production of the PPR vaccine against goat plague, a dreaded animal disease often leading to mass mortality. The vaccine will be produced by the Institute for Animal Health and Veterinary Biologicals at Palode, near here, with technical knowhow from the Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Mukteshwar. [read more](#)

### PAKISTAN

#### 04 MY 2015: Pakistan qualifies for Stage 2 in Progressive Control Pathway of Foot and Mouth Disease

The hard work of FAO executed project "Progressive control of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) in Pakistan" was recognized by the Regional Advisory Group at the 6th Annual Meeting of the West Eurasia FMD Road Map held in Almaty, Kazakhstan from 28 – 30 April, 2015 and Pakistan's status was upgraded from Stage 1 to Stage 2 in the FMD-Progressive Control Pathway. Risk-based control strategy of FMD of Pakistan was presented by the Project Coordinator in the meeting and was appreciated by the experts and the participants from 13 regional countries. It was considered as a model to be used by other regional countries for preparing their FMD risk reduction plan to qualify for the FMD-PCP Stage 2. Progress towards the control of FMD in Pakistan was presented by Dr. Muhammad Akram, Assistant Animal Husbandry Commissioner in the Ministry of National Food Security and Research. [read more](#)

### OTHERS

#### 18 May 2015: Artificial intelligence joins hunt for human–animal diseases

Lyme disease, Ebola and malaria all developed in animals before making the leap to infect humans. Predicting when such a 'zoonotic' disease will spark an outbreak remains difficult, but a new study suggests that artificial intelligence could give these efforts a boost. A computer model that incorporates machine learning can pinpoint, with 90% accuracy, rodent species that are known to harbour pathogens that can spread to humans, researchers report this week in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences<sup>1</sup>. The model also identified more than 150 species that are likely to be disease reservoirs but have yet to be confirmed as such. [Read more](#)

#### 21 May 2015: More MERS cases in South Korea, Qatar, Saudi Arabia

South Korea's first MERS patient passed the disease to two others, and Qatar and Saudi Arabia have each identified a new case, according to government and media reports today. South Korean officials reported the country's first MERS-CoV (Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus) case yesterday in a 68-year-old man who had recently made a business trip to Bahrain. Now infections have been reported in the man's wife and his initial hospital roommate, the Associated Press (AP) reported. The disease was diagnosed today in a 76-year-old man who shared a hospital room with the 68-year-old, who was not isolated initially because the nature of his illness wasn't known, the AP story said. It cited the Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

**Camel worker infected:** In Qatar, the government's Supreme Council of Health (SCH) reported that a 29-year-old foreigner who works at a camel farm tested positive for MERS-CoV after seeking care on May 19 for a fever and cough. The patient, who has no underlying illnesses or recent travel history, is hospitalized in stable condition, the SCH said. The statement also said officials are monitoring other workers and camels at the barn where the patient works, and all his contacts are being advised to take preventive measures and report any respiratory symptoms. The new case is Qatar's third this year, the SCH said. A MERS case list maintained by Flu Trackers, an infectious disease message board, lists the new case as the country's 14th overall; 6 cases have been fatal. [read more](#)