

## ECTAD South Asia Weekly Animal Disease E-Information

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

### PAKISTAN

#### 01 Sept 2015: Workshop on zoo animals keeping, Zoonoses and Bio-Safety measures concludes

A two-day training workshop on Zoo Animals Keeping, Zoonoses and Bio-Safety Measures concluded at the University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences (UVAS) here on Monday. The workshop was aimed to educate the participants about Zoonotic and infectious diseases that can be transmitted from wild, zoo and pet animals to humans or from humans to wild, zoo or pet animals. Examples of some well-known Zoonotic diseases include measles, smallpox, influenza, HIV, brucellosis, West Nile virus, tuberculosis, salmonella and Lyme disease. The UVAS Department of Wildlife and Ecology in collaboration with National Association for Young Scientists (NAYS), Pakistan, Pakistan Wildlife Foundation and American Association for Advances in Science (AAAS) USA organised the workshop. [read more](#)

### OTHERS

#### 01 Sept 2015: Experts describe expectations for new vaccine adjuvants

This week, at the 2015 Animal Health Research Symposium, experts described four expectations that new vaccine adjuvants should meet, and presented data on a next-generation vaccine under development that could be the first to use DNA technology to immunize poultry against avian influenza virus (AIV). AIV was one of several disease organisms featured in 24 presentations at this two-day symposium addressing the growing risk of vector-borne diseases that are zoonotic, meaning they can spread among animals and humans. "Disease-causing organisms are constantly evolving to gain a competitive edge, and many endanger both human and animal health," said Tim Miller, Ph.D., co-founder of VaxLiant. "That's why it is so important to focus research on preventive solutions that are agile and flexible enough to match this evolution, especially that of rapidly changing viruses causing zoonotic diseases." [read more](#)

#### 01 Sept 2015: New DNA analysis of Asian sheep reveals unique diversity crucial to contemporary food and climate concerns

At a time when the price of mutton is climbing and wool crashing, a groundbreaking new study has used advanced genetic sequencing technology to rewrite the history of sheep breeding and trading along the ancient Silk Road insights that can help contemporary herders in developing countries preserve or recover valuable traits crucial to their food and economic security. The new findings regarding one of the first animals ever domesticated will be published in the October print edition of the journal *Molecular Biology and Evolution*. They are the product of an unprecedented collaboration involving scientists in China, Iran, Pakistan, Indonesia, Nepal, Finland, and the United Kingdom. The team analysed the complete mitochondrial DNA of 42 domesticated native sheep breeds from Azerbaijan, Moldova, Serbia, Ukraine, Russia, Kazakhstan, Poland, Finland, China and the United Kingdom, along with two wild sheep species from Kazakhstan. [read more](#)

#### 02 Sept 2015: Assessing the potential role of Pigs in the epidemiology of Ebola Virus in Uganda

Uganda has experienced 4 Ebola outbreaks since the discovery of the virus. Recent epidemiological work has shown pigs are hosts for Ebola viruses. Due to their high reproduction rates, rapid weight gain, potential to provide quick financial returns and rising demand for pork, pig production in Uganda has undergone massive expansion. The combination of pork sector growth supported by development programme and Ebola virus risk prompted a foresight exercise using desk, interview and spatial methods. The study found that the lack of serological evidence for specific reservoir species, the number of human index cases unable to account for their source of infection, domestic pig habitat overlap with potential Ebola virus zoonotic host environments, reported interactions at the human-pig wildlife interface that could support transmission, fever in pigs as a commonly reported problem by pig farmers and temporal correlation of outbreaks with peak pork consumption periods warrants further research into potential zoonotic transmission in Uganda from pigs. [read more](#)

#### 03 Sept 2015: Panel says no MERS emergency amid rising concerns

An emergency committee set up to advise the World Health Organization (WHO) about steps needed to address MERS-CoV held off again on declaring a global public health emergency but raised major concerns about Saudi Arabia's efforts to control the threat. Though the group heard from several countries and experts that have grappled with MERS-CoV (Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus), it based much of its latest assessment on the initial findings of an Aug 23 WHO mission to Saudi Arabia. Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia reported four new MERS cases today, two of them in Riyadh where a large hospital outbreak is under way. And the hospital at the center of South Korea's outbreak earlier this year announced new steps today to prevent similar events. [read more](#)