

South Asia Weekly Animal Disease E-Information

Regional Support Unit for South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (RSU-SAARC)

BANGLADESH

11 Jan 2016: Cattle smuggling rising along Bangladesh border

Smuggling of cattle-heads has been increasing along the Indo-Bangladesh border in the Dhubri sector since the past few months. It is reported that the smugglers smuggle cattle-heads by using the riverine path of the Brahmaputra river in Mankachar-Sukhchar areas under South Salmara subdivision. The smugglers carry cattle-heads through trucks along the NH-31 through the Assam-Bangladesh border at Boxirhat. They even drive away cattle through the interior routes of the Assam-Bangladesh border at night to avoid checking by the police. [read more](#)

INDIA

11 Jan 2016: Foot and mouth disease returns to IVRI, alert sounded

After a gap of six years, the dreaded foot and mouth disease virus (FMDV) has again infected cows at the premier Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI). Of six samples, two have already turned out to be positive. Authorities at the institute have declared an alert and a team of 35 doctors have been set up to monitor the situation. There are 700 heads of cattle in the dairy and there is a risk that the virus might spread to a large number of them. Besides, institute authorities have written to the state government to adopt precautionary measures in nearby villages. [read more](#)

14 Jan 2016: Biosafety lab to be launched in Kerala in February

Animal Husbandry Department would launch a 5,000 sq ft biosafety lab in Thiruvananthapuram next month. The facility would help Kerala check the spread of communicable diseases like avian flu. As of now, only primary level tests can be done in the state and final confirmation had to come from the national facility in Bhopal. The referral diagnostic laboratory handles diverse samples collected from the field as a part of surveillance or for diagnosing existing and emerging diseases of livestock and poultry in the state. In the case of rabies, even samples collected from humans are presented for diagnosis to this institute.

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PAKISTAN

11 Jan 2016: Training to enhance Pakistan's livestock sector emergency preparedness kicks off

Two top veterinary emergency response experts affiliated with the international Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards (LEGS) project will lead a weeklong train-the-trainer workshop for Pakistan's emergency response officials. The LEGS project is partnering with the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to enhance emergency preparedness within livestock sector of Pakistan. [read more](#)

OTHERS

11 Jan 2016: Predicted global distribution of *Burkholderia pseudomallei* and burden of melioidosis

Burkholderia pseudomallei, a highly pathogenic bacterium that causes melioidosis, is commonly found in soil in Southeast Asia and Northern Australia. We estimate there to be 165,000 (95% credible interval 68,000–412,000) human melioidosis cases per year worldwide, from which 89,000 (36,000–227,000) people die. Our estimates suggest that melioidosis is severely underreported in the 45 countries in which it is known to be endemic and that melioidosis is probably endemic in a further 34 countries that have never reported the disease. The large numbers of estimated cases and fatalities emphasize that the disease warrants renewed attention from public health officials and policy makers. [read more](#)

08 Jan 2016: Worrisome bat-disease map shouldn't make people fear bats

A new map published in the February edition of *The American Naturalist* highlights the hot spots where diseases are most likely to spill over from winged to bipedal mammals. The biggest hot spot is in sub Saharan Africa, where people continue to hunt bats as bushmeat. Southeast Asia is another danger zone. A large swath of South America, meanwhile, emerged as a region where bats carry a particularly diverse array of viruses, although contact between bats and people there happens less frequently.

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08 Jan 2016: WHO to declare Ebola outbreak over, as Liberia gets all clear

The two year Ebola epidemic that killed more than 11,000 people across west Africa and triggered a global health scare is to be declared over Thursday, with Liberia the last country expecting the all clear. The worst outbreak of the tropical virus in history has wrecked the economies and health systems of the three worst-hit nations since it emerged in southern Guinea in December 2013. At its peak, it devastated Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, with bodies piling up in the streets and overwhelmed hospitals recording hundreds of new cases a week. The World Health Organization said Thursday's announcement in Geneva would "mark 42 days since the last Ebola cases in Liberia were tested negative." [read more](#)