

South Asia Weekly Animal Disease E-Information

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

The 3rd SAARC EpiNet Meeting held in Kathmandu, Nepal

To enhance networking between national epidemiology focal points from the Member States and specifically to consolidate the SAARC EpiNet forum with ownership by Member States and to finalize the regional disease information sharing platform “SAARC Disease Information System (SDIS)” framework and mechanism, a two days meeting was held on 2-3 February 2016 in Kathmandu, Nepal. During the meeting government delegates shared their country-specific situations on human and institutional veterinary epidemiology capacities, capacity building activities being implemented, gaps and needs in the subject area. Some successful activities/programs being implemented in the respective countries were also shared through poster presentations prepared by the country participants. Participants had the opportunity to learn about some epidemiological tools and practices. Road maps to strengthen the epidemiology network in the region were developed after intensive discussion and deliberations. A set of realistic recommendations were proposed and adopted by all participants. [read more](#)

BHUTAN

19 Jan 2016: Bhutan to import pigs from Thailand

About 155 white-breed weaner or growers pigs would be imported from Bangkok, Thailand, by the last week of May, National Piggery Development Centre (NDPIC) officials said. However, it is expected to take about two to three years for the piglet distribution to happen to be able to meet the shortage. The three piggery farms in the country are expected to produce about 9,000 piglets annually. [read more](#)

18 Jan 2016: Foot and mouth disease outbreak in Punakha Dzongkhag

Foot and mouth disease (FMD) outbreak has occurred in Mahuma village Toewang Gewog under Punakha Dzongkhag on 18 January 2016. A total of 37 out of 75 cattle were affected in the village. The team comprising from Regional Livestock Development Centre, Wangdue and Dzongkhag Livestock Sector, Thimphu have investigated the disease outbreak and collected samples. The samples were tested against FMD and found positive. Control measures are in place. (Source: Fortnightly Animal Disease e-Bulletin, Department of Livestock, National Centre for Animal Health, Bhutan).

INDIA

24 Jan 2016: Cattle smuggling on the India-Bangladesh border decreases

Officers of the Border Security Force (BSF), whose jawans patrol the 915 km stretch of the border that West Bengal shares with Bangladesh, estimate that cattle smuggling has come down by more than 70 per cent since the government at the Centre made the issue one of its top priorities. In April last year, Union Home Minister instructed BSF personnel deployed along the border to check cattle smuggling. Four months later, the minister touted the drop in figures for cattle smuggling as one of the government's major successes: from about 20-22 lakh (2-2.2 Million) cattle that would be smuggled across the border every year, he said, the numbers had come down to 2-2.5 lakh cattle in 2015. [read more](#)

NEPAL

22 Jan 2016: France donates foot and mouth disease vaccine

Government of France has made a donation of 100,000 dozens of foot and mouth disease vaccine to Nepal government's Department of Livestock Development. As FMD is one of the major disease killing cattle in Nepal, the donation provided by Government of France has significant importance. “The vaccine will be used as part of Nepal's ongoing campaign to control FMD and will be particularly valuable in those districts which are severely affected by recent earthquakes,” said Deputy Director General of Department of Livestock Development. [read more](#)

OTHERS

01 Feb 2016: WHO Director-General summarizes the outcome of the Emergency Committee regarding clusters of microcephaly and Guillain-Barré syndrome

After a review of the evidence, the Committee advised that the recent cluster of microcephaly cases and other neurological disorders reported in Brazil, following a similar cluster in French Polynesia in 2014, constitutes an “extraordinary event” and a public health threat to other parts of the world. Members of the Committee agreed that the situation meets the conditions for a Public Health Emergency of International Concern. [read more](#)

24 Jan 2016: FAO pushes for a road map to control and contain zoonotic diseases

Infectious animal-borne disease threats such as Ebola and the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) are here to stay, and further painful outbreaks are likely to flare up or new disease threats will definitely emerge in the near future, said Juan Lubroth, FAO's chief veterinarian, querying whether the world is prepared to detect them and prevent their spread. To better assess and manage such outbreaks in the future, policy makers must foster an integrated research program mapping out both what is and what is not known about the transmission dynamics and spillover patterns of the two recent epidemics, as well as promoting collaboration and stronger surveillance and diagnostic networks, according to FAO, which with USAID as funding partner and sponsor, hosted researchers and policy makers from around the world to technical meetings on Ebola and MERS in Rome this month. [read more](#)