

South Asia Weekly Animal Disease E-Information

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

BANGLADESH

19 Feb 2016: Scientists investigate bird flu in Rajshahi crows

The government deployed a team of scientists in northern Rajshahi district after an outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza was found in crows. Director of Institute of Epidemiology Disease Control & Research (IEDCR), said the team rushed to the spot after laboratory testing confirmed the crows had H5N1 avian influenza. The testing followed the reports of unusual deaths of crows at the premises of Rajshahi Medical College Hospital. He further said the team in Rajshahi will trace how the crows contracted the virus, and also look into any human infections. "We assume it comes (to crows) from the poultry. Crows eat waste and people sometimes litter dead poultry just anywhere. "And that's why we took 'one health' approach in which all departments will work together," he said. The department of human health, animal health, livestock, Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control & Research, The International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh, and EcoHealth Alliance are all part of the investigation process, he said. [read more](#)

INDIA

24 Feb 2016: National Institute of Virology confirms presence of Kyasanur Forest Disease (KDF) virus in Goa outbreak

The Pune-based National Institute of Virology has confirmed that the samples lifted from the three dead monkeys from Sattari taluka and 97 samples from 382 local people have been found positive to the KFD infection. During the last two years, several villagers from Mauxi, Zarme and Copardem in the taluka were diagnosed with the KFD, commonly known as monkey fever. An official of the Karnataka government-run viral diagnostic laboratory in Shivamogga has informed that the quality control testing of KDF vaccines would be completed by February 25 and the directorate of health services is likely to receive the first consignment of 500 vaccines by the end of this month. The state government has placed an order of 1500 vaccines to check spread of the disease. Once the first lot of 500 vaccines is received by the directorate of health services, another leg of the vaccination drive would be carried out to administer first dose of the vaccine to the people of the KFD-hit villages. [read more](#)

24 Feb 2016: Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) major health challenge, Centre for non-rational use of

Terming antimicrobial resistance as the number one public health challenge before the world, the government today made a strong pitch for non-rational use of antibiotics. "AMR has emerged as the number one public health challenge faced by the world today. The first step in addressing the problem of AMR is to avoid the need for antibiotics at all in the first place," Union Health Minister said while inaugurating a three-day international conference on combating AMR. "This is best done through improved water and sanitation, in the absence of which proliferation of diarrhoeal diseases results in inappropriate antibiotic use," he said. [read more](#)

24 Feb 2016: Bird flu alert in Uttar Pradesh

Uttar Pradesh government has sounded bird flu alert in the state which includes Bareilly, Badaun, Shahjahanpur and Pilibhit districts. The officials have collected and sent 2,300 samples to Central Avian Research Institute for testing. The entry of outsiders has been banned in the bird farms situated in the region. Besides, joint teams of veterinary, health, and agriculture and forest departments have been formed to monitor the situation. Confirming the development, assistant director of veterinary said, "The state government has declared alert of bird flu across the state. Though no death has been reported yet, the alert has been sounded because there is a risk that virus can spread here as it is an air-borne disease. As a precautionary measure, we have started taking samples." [read more](#)

18 Feb 2016: Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever (CCHF) case reported in Ahmedabad district

Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever virus, commonly known as Congo fever, has once again struck Ahmedabad district after a gap of around three years. This time a 28-year-old cattle breeder of Dhandhuka town of Ahmedabad district developed symptoms like high fever and headache during the last couple of days. As his condition worsened, he was shifted to a city based private hospital on Tuesday night where he was kept in an isolation ward under the monitoring of specialists, said district health officer and later he was shifted to Civil hospital on Wednesday night. His condition is stated to be stable. Following the first positive case of CCHF, the health department team has inspected around 10 persons of victims' family and 40 others in the locality but none of them had developed CCHF fever like symptoms. However, blood samples of around 40 persons have been taken to check if they were infected with CCHF. [read more](#)

OTHERS

24 Feb 2016: New route for Japanese encephalitis virus transmission discovered in pigs

Previously, the only known transmission route for JE viruses was mosquitoes. A team of researchers from the Institute of Virology and Immunology and the University Bern at the Vetsuisse Faculty have now shown that JE viruses can also be passed directly from pig to pig. The JE virus is the main cause of serious encephalitis in people in Asia. The virus is found in large parts of Southeast Asia and is now also widespread in India. It circulates between birds and mosquitoes and between pigs and mosquitoes, and is passed to humans through mosquito bites. In children in particular, infection can lead to acute encephalitis and permanent impairment or even death. In pigs, the main effect of the virus alongside fever and encephalitis is fertility problems. The virus is closely related to the West Nile, Zika and dengue viruses. All are transmitted by mosquitoes and are flaviviruses, which cause serious illness in humans and animals. [read more](#)