

South Asia Weekly Animal Disease E-Information

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

BANGLADESH

29 Feb 2016: Bangladesh remains deadly Nipah free this winter

No deadly Nipah virus case was detected in Bangladesh this winter, the chief of the government's Centre for Disease Control (CDC) says. The line director said they had taken 'extensive' programme before the winter to make people aware of the virus. "I think our programme has succeeded. People did not drink raw date sap," he said, while speaking at an orientation programme on communicable disease control at Gazipur Civil Surgeon Office. The bat-borne Nipah virus that infects a person only after drinking raw date sap and later can pass on to other persons through contact, is a cause of public health concern in Bangladesh. It has been breaking out every winter since 2001. Anthropological study says drinking raw date or palm sap in the morning is an old practice in Bangladesh, especially in rural areas, where there is a general lack of hygiene. A study using infrared cameras found that fruit bats perch on the jars, put up on trees to collect the sap, and try to drink the juice. They also urinate into the pot. [read more](#)

01 Mar 2016: Bangladeshi veterinary scientists has invented the master-seed of anti-foot and mouth disease (FMD) vaccine

Bangladeshi veterinary scientists has invented the master-seed of anti-FMD vaccine for cattle's foot and mouth disease, a major viral ailment that causes the country an estimated loss of Taka 10,000 crore annually. State minister for Livestock added that the invention was now expected to drastically reduce the cattle mortality rate as the contagious disease often claims lives of 51 percent of adult cattle heads and 70 percent calves, incurring a loss estimated to be as high as 10,000 crore every year. The state ministers' comments came as the Bangladesh Livestock Research Institute (BLRI) formally handed him over the maser-seed of the anti-FMD vaccine at his office. The state minister said until now the country had to depend on costly imported FMD vaccines while the locally produced preventive medicine would save at least another Taka 1,000 crore of the national exchequers. "The per dose of imported vaccine costs an amount ranged between Taka 150 and 200 while the BLRI invented vaccine would cost only Taka 20," he said. [read more](#)

BHUTAN

02 Mar 2016: Foot and mouth disease outbreak in Samtse Dzongkhag

FMD outbreak in Triting village, Tading Geog Samtse Dzongkhag on 17 Feb 2016. Nine cattle were affected out of the 39 susceptible animals in the locality. The disease was investigated by the Dzongkhag Livestock Sector and samples referred to the National Veterinary Referral Lab (NVRL) at NCAH for confirmation where Serotype O was detected in the samples tested. Disease specific control measures were put in place. (Source: National Centre for Animal Health)

INDIA

01 Mar 2016: Foot and mouth disease vaccination drive begins in Tiruvannamalai

10th Round of foot and mouth disease vaccination drive for cattle began in Tiruvannamalai district on Tuesday. The drive aims at vaccinating 7,15,603 cattle heads with the help of 119 teams that are attached to government veterinary dispensaries. The drive will on March 21. It will cover many villages as per schedule. The teams will visit the village and vaccinate the cattle instead of asking the owners to bring the cattle to dispensaries. The free vaccination drive is carried out twice a year. [read more](#)

29 Feb 2016: Boy dies a month after stray dog bit him

A 10-year-old boy from Kalyan who suffered a dog bite a month ago in Bhiwandi, Mumbai was declared dead last morning at JJ Hospital. While his family alleges that his death was caused because they did not get proper anti-rabies shots from any of the hospitals they visited, JJ Hospital says that by the time the boy was brought to them, it was already too late. [read more](#)

OTHERS

03 March: World Wildlife Day

2016 theme is "The future of wildlife is in our hands", with African and Asian elephants being the main focus of global campaigns.

Wildlife has an intrinsic value and contributes to the ecological, genetic, social, economic, scientific, educational, cultural, recreational and aesthetic aspects of sustainable development and human well-being. For these reasons, all member States, the United Nations system and other international organizations, as well as civil society, non-governmental organizations and individuals, are invited to observe and to get involved in this global celebration of wildlife. Local communities can play a positive role in helping to curb illegal wildlife trade. The theme "The future of wildlife is in our hands" reinforces the inextricable link between wildlife, people and sustainable development. It is the responsibility of each generation to safeguard wildlife for the following generation. It also imparts the pressing need for national action to ensure the survival in the wild of both charismatic and lesser known species. [read more](#)