

## South Asia Weekly Animal Disease E-Information

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

### INDIA

#### 7 April 2016: India to get new national safety standards for milk

India is set to get new national milk safety standards after 60 years that will standardise outdated benchmarks for determining adulteration, include sources such as camel and yak and incorporate flavoured and fortified milk. [read more](#)

#### 5 April 2016: Four people die after consuming flesh of cow died of anthrax in Odisha

Four tribal people died and another 10 were taken ill within a week in Odisha's Rayagada district after allegedly consuming the flesh of a cow affected by anthrax, officials said on Monday. As four tribal died one after another and others complaint of illness, a team of doctors from the community health center at Kashipur rushed to the village to treat them. [read more](#)

#### 5 April 2016: Supreme Court forms panel to look into complaints of dog bites in Kerala

Supreme Court today constituted a three-member committee headed by a former Kerala High Court judge to look into the complaints of dog bite victims in the state and availability of necessary medical treatment to the injured. "The committee shall entertain the complaints with regard to the injuries sustained by the persons in the dog bite, the nature and gravity of the injury, availability of medicines and the treatment administered to them, the failure of treatment and its cure and in case of unfortunate death, the particulars of the deceased and the reasons behind the same. "The committee shall also identify the centers/hospitals where the anti-rabies vaccines are available free of charge," the bench said. [read more](#)

#### 5 April 2016: Tamil Nadu continues to hold high record of rabies deaths

Despite efforts put in by a number of NGOs, health officials and veterinary doctors to combat rabies, Tamil Nadu continues to be recognized as one of the states with the highest records of rabies deaths. Approximately 100 people in the state die due to rabies each year, said a Consulting Pediatrician. The actual incidence may be more as not all cases are recorded, he added. [read more](#)

### PAKISTAN

#### 7 April 2016: Proper use of antibiotics is advocated

Antibiotics are among the most commonly prescribed drugs, however, they are often not optimally prescribed or misused. This was stated by health experts at a briefing on 'Antibiotic Resistance: Act Today for a Safer Tomorrow'. The experts said that 71 percent of infections among new borns in Pakistan were from Antibiotic Resistant Bacteria (ARB), whereas in India, an estimated 58,000 neonatal sepsis deaths were attributed to drug resistant infections. "Antibiotic resistance is the ability of bacteria to resist the effects of an antibiotic. It occurs when bacteria change in a way that reduces the effectiveness of drugs, chemicals, or other agents designed to cure or prevent infections. [read more](#)

### MALDIVES

#### 7 April 2016: PPR outbreak reported in Ga. Kolaa/Kolamaafushi

Director General, Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture, Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture, Malé, Maldives has reported an outbreak of PPR at a farm in the Kolaa area of Ga. Kolamaafushi. The unusual deaths of goats was noticed on 30 March 2016 and was confirmed by using rapid test kit on 4 April 2016. Of the total 130 susceptible goats 104 were affected and nine of them died of the disease. Control measures such as movement control, quarantine, zoning etc were put in place. [read more](#)

### OTHERS

#### Economic analysis of animal diseases

Animal health and economics are closely linked. Any decision taken to prevent, control and eliminate an animal disease is based not only on the technical knowledge available about a particular disease but also on the effectiveness and socio-economic aspects associated with interventions and mitigation measures implemented by governments, producers and all the actors along the livestock value chains. Economic rationale drives decisions in assessing particular investments which are likely to result in a benefit for society or for a specific stakeholder, including livestock farmers and communities. [read more](#)

#### 3 4 April 2016: Researchers find pathway to prevent emergence of zoonosis into human population (plasmodium knowlesi)

The parasite responsible for a form of malaria now spreading from macaques to humans in South Asia could evolve to infect humans more efficiently, a step towards enhanced transmission between humans, according to a new study from Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. The researchers say that defining the means by which the Plasmodium knowlesi parasite invades red blood cells could lead to interventions to prevent the emergence of the zoonosis into the human population. They identified a sugar variant on the surface of human red blood cells that currently limits the ability of P. knowlesi to invade, and demonstrated that the monkey malaria parasite has the ability to evolve to get around this barrier and pass into the human population in a more virulent form. [read more](#)

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