

## South Asia Weekly Animal Disease E-Information

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

### BHUTAN

#### Risk based surveillance of Leptospirosis in cross species domestic animals—Country status

The Disease Prevention & Control Unit of National Centre for Animal Health conducted a cross-species surveillance in domestic animals and humans to estimate the sero-prevalence of Leptospirosis in cross-species domestic animals in Bhutan and to determine the risk factors associated with leptospirosis in domestic animals. The survey was carried out in 51 villages in 23 Geogs in the country. Of the total 520 samples tested for leptospira at regional medical research centre India, 138 were found positive. These finding suggested the presence of leptospirosis in domestic animals in Bhutan. [read more](#)

### INDIA

#### 4 June 2016: 20th round of FMD Vaccination drive begins in Wayanad district in Kerala

According to district officer of the Animal Husbandry Department, Kerala as many as 104 teams have been deployed to achieve target of 100% vaccination of all 81420 heads of large ruminants including 72677 heads of cattle in the district. This is the 20th round of FMD vaccination drive in the district. The last round was held in 2015 where by 72% of the animals were vaccinated in the district. The decreasing trend of number of cases of FMD in the district was observed with 1054, 374 and 333 cases during 2013-14, 2014,15 and 2015-2016 respectively. [read more](#)

#### 8 June 2016: Rabies vaccine to be available in taluk hospitals in Kerala

The minister of forests, animal husbandry and diary development of Kerala has instructed to initiate the steps to manufacture Rabies vaccine in the state and round-the-clock availability of the services of veterinary doctors. He stated that Rabies vaccine would be available in all government taluk hospitals from now on. As per the figures available with the government 126 people had died of rabies in the past three years in the state. In 2014, as many as 1.19 lakh people were bitten by dogs while the number was 88,172 in 2013. [read more](#)

### PAKISTAN

#### 3 Jun 2016: A mysterious fish ailment in Swat river in Mangora district

Hatchery owners and fish farmers have discovered lesions or cuts on three species of fish in Swat river and believe it may indicate that they have been afflicted with a mysterious ailment. Doctors believe the fish may have a disease as they have been diagnosed with potential wounds, clotted blood and pus on their skin. Several fish have died from this strange ailment which may also post a threat to humans. Taking some action, the district administration has imposed a ban on fishing and the sale of catch.. Contaminated water is suspected to be associated with the fish ailment. [read more](#)

### OTHERS

#### 1 June 2016: New blood test for the detection of Bovine TB developed at the University of Nottingham

A new blood test to detect Mycobacteria in blood has been developed by a team at The University of Nottingham. This method has been used to show that cattle diagnosed with bovine tuberculosis (bTB) have detectable levels of the bacterium Mycobacterium bovis in their blood. This new, simple and inexpensive blood test detects very low levels of mycobacteria in blood using a bacteriophage-based technique and can deliver results in just six hours. This test can help improving herd control by detecting infection at early stages. [read more](#)

#### 3 June 2016: Bluetongue vaccine available for cattle and sheep

Animal health companies MSD and Zoetis have announced that they will be making a bluetongue vaccine available to cattle and sheep farmers by July. Bluevac BTV8 is licensed for both cattle and sheep and can be used during pregnancy. Both vaccines prevent viraemia (bluetongue virus in the blood), caused by the bluetongue virus serotype 8 (BTV-8), and ensures no onward spread of infection via blood sucking midges. Provides immunity for 12 months. [read more](#)

#### 9 June 2016: Hong Kong Authorities Cull 4,500 Chickens over Bird Flu Outbreak

Hong Kong authorities on Tuesday slaughtered 4,500 chickens at a the Cheung Sha Wan Temporary wholesale poultry market after suspending the local live poultry trade to "facilitate disinfection works" in efforts to contain the spread of the H7N9 virus, or avian influenza, detected in bird faeces last week. [read more](#)