

South Asia Weekly Animal Disease E-Information

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

BANGLADESH

24 Nov 2016: Cattle roaming freely on Bangladesh streets increase health and environmental hazards

Researchers from the Bangladesh Agricultural University say livestock rearing in urban areas poses risks to public health and not enough has been done to tackle these problems.

Although a categorical link between the disease outbreaks and livestock rearing has not been established in the *Bangladesh Journal of Animal Sciences* article, lead researcher Professor Dr MAK Azad claims that livestock play a significant role in increasing the risk of diseases. The research, carried out among 90 farmers in the Mymensingh, Gazipur and Shariatpur municipalities, showed that disease outbreaks related to ecto-parasites, mastitis, helminthosis, lumpy skin disease, wounds, and diarrhoea were common to the study area. Dung and urine disposal in public places, malodour and road blockages are other problems created by livestock rearing in urban areas. The problem is aggravated by unmanaged fodder and shelter for the livestock. The research findings have shown that 86 per cent of the livestock were kept in temporal sheds. The pathogens, heavy metals and other chemicals consumed by the animals pass to humans in the food chain through dairy and meat products. [Read More](#)

INDIA

25 Nov 2016: Highly pathogenic avian influenza, H5N8 confirmed and notified to OIE, Karnataka

Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, New Delhi, India notified a fresh outbreak of H5N8 to OIE among domestic ducks in Karnataka state. Of 1593 birds, 900 birds were died from H5N8 and remaining 693 birds were destroyed. The outbreak started on 05 November 2016. The source of the infection is unknown. [Read More](#)

26 Nov 2016: Japanese Encephalitis claims 119 lives, Odhisha

The death toll due to Japanese Encephalitis (JE) in Malkangiri district climbed to 119. The children between the age group of 1 to 15 would be given JE vaccination across the four districts in the state. Though the date of vaccination is not decided yet, the State government has planned to vaccinate 26 lakh children in four districts including Malkangiri. [Read More](#)

SRI LANKA

25 Nov 2016: National dog sterilization and rabies eradication programme, step in the right direction

Following a Cabinet decision of Government of Sri Lanka, rabies eradication and dog sterilizations will be vested in the Department of Animal Production and Health (DAPH) from 2017 under the 'One Health Concept'. So far, this subject has been handled by the Health Ministry. While all zoonotic diseases are handled by the DAPH, only rabies, which is also a zoonotic disease, was handled by the Health Ministry. Saving the lives of dog-bite victims from contracting rabies was handled by the Health Ministry by providing human rabies vaccinations via its hospitals. [Read More](#)

Others

26 Nov 2016: Significant risk of spread of animal diseases predicted for Ireland due to climate change

Vector-borne diseases rely upon organisms such as mosquitoes, midges, ticks or sandflies that have an active role in the transmission of a pathogen from one host to the other. Vectors can be introduced to new geographic areas for example by travel of humans and international trade, animal movement, migratory birds, changing agricultural practices, or by the wind. The climate can play an important role in the lifecycle of diseases and pests that affect livestock. Susceptibility to disease may increase with the alteration of environmental stresses associated with changing climate patterns. [Read More](#)

28 Nov 2016: Highly pathogenic avian influenza, H5N8 spreading to many countries

Three has been more countries in Europe, (Finland, France, and Romania) who has reported their first highly pathogenic H5N8 avian influenza outbreaks over the past few days. This has been linked as part of a recent wave of activity linked to migratory birds from Russia. So far countries affected with HPAI H5N8 include Austria, Croatia, Denmark, Germany, Hungary, India, Iran, the Netherlands, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland and Russia. [Read More](#)

28 Nov 2016: RSU paid a courtesy visit to the Department of Livestock Services (DLS), Nepal

RSU Team headed by Dr Santanu Bandyopadhyay, RSU Coordinator, paid a courtesy visit to the Department of Livestock Services (DLS) in Hariharbhawan, Lalitpur, and was warmly received by the new Director General, Dr Bimal Kumar Nirmal, DLS, Ministry of Livestock Development, Nepal. Dr Santanu briefly shared the genesis of the RSU in South Asia over the past decade as well as recent work from FAO along with the Government of Nepal, and expressed RSU's willingness to share its expertise with DLS. [Read More](#)