

## South Asia Weekly Animal Disease E-Information

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

### AFGANISTAN

#### 26 Jan 2016: Experts evaluate Afghanistan's capacity to prevent and respond to serious public health risks

A team from Afghanistan and international experts conducted a Joint External Evaluation of country's capacity under the International Health Regulations (IHR 2005) to prevent, detect and rapidly respond to various public health risks. The evaluation was carried out on 4–7 December 2016 in Kabul by a multidisciplinary team of 11 experts. The International Health Regulations are an international legal instrument that aims to help the international community prevent and respond to acute public health risks that have the potential to cross borders and threaten people worldwide. [Read More](#)

### BANGLADESH

#### 29 Jan 2017: Bird flu virus found in 80 percent of Dhaka markets

The avian influenza or bird flu (HPAI-H5N1) was found in up to 80 percent markets in Dhaka where live poultry birds are sold or being processed, according to a survey. Food and Agriculture Organisation, Department of Livestock Services, and Bangladesh Livestock Research Institute jointly carried out the survey at different markets in Dhaka in 2016. The results were based on the four months of the survey period from January to April, 2016 and the detection rate was in between 60 to 80 per cent of the markets. [Read More](#)

### INDIA

#### 01 Feb 2017: Indian poultry becoming resistant to bird flu virus

Recent trends in the outbreak of bird flu in different parts of the country have led experts to believe that the H5N1 virus may not pose much danger to human or animal health any more. "There could be a possibility that poultry birds might run only sub-clinical infections, not warranting culling," said veterinary expert and senior director at the International Centre for Diarrheal Disease Research, Bangladesh, and research professor at the University of Hyderabad. "We do not see any major issue as spurts in bird flu have become a routine affair. [Read More](#)

#### 27 Jan 2017: India reports outbreaks of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) H5N1 to OIE

Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, New Delhi, India reported various outbreaks of the HPAI H5N1 to OIE. The outbreak occurred at Mirasoli Resort, Devka, Daman, DAMAN & DIU. Of 510 poultry, 5 birds died from the infection and remaining 505 birds were slaughtered ([Read More](#)). Similarly, the outbreak was also reported from Kacharu, Kacharu, Sundergarh, Odisha on 27 Jan 2017, where 11 birds were died and rest (1646 birds) were destroyed "as reported in our Weekly E-Information bulletin Vol-6, No-3" dated 19 Jan 2017 has now been notified to OIE. [Read More](#)

### NEPAL

#### 29 Jan 2015: Warning against mongoose-transmitted rabies, Lamjung

The warning came after they found that rabies was spreading among other domestic animals rapidly in the district headquarters Besisahar and adjoining areas due to rabies in mongoose in recent days. A mongoose was captured and sent to the Regional Veterinary Laboratory for a test. "The test confirmed that the mongoose had rabies. There has been various campaigns against the disease in the district, but so far it is largely focused on dogs. [Read More](#)

### OTHERS

#### 30 Jan 2017: Recent upsurge of A(H7N9) flu cases in China

A steep increase of human cases of avian influenza A(H7N9) has been reported since the beginning of December 2016 from China. During this wave, the number of human cases is already higher than during the last two waves in 2014-15 and 2015-16. The majority of recently reported human cases are associated with exposure to infected live poultry or contaminated environments, including markets where live poultry are sold. Influenza A(H7N9) viruses continue to be detected in poultry and their environments in the areas where human cases are occurring. In addition, the human cases are more geographically widespread and cases are also reported from rural areas, unlike in previous epidemics. [Read More](#)

#### 01 Feb 2017: Concerted action needed to stop diseases and pests from ravaging the food chain

From avian flu to locusts and E. coli bacteria, food is contaminated every day by diseases and pests, leading the United Nations agricultural agency to create a set of emergency prevention tools to save lives and improve food safety and security. The UN agency, in the recently published "Averting risks to the food chain" show that preventing, early warning, preparedness, good food chain crisis management and good practices can help to stop the diseases and pests that ravage food chains. [Read More](#)

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