

South Asia Weekly Animal Disease E-Information

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

NEPAL

09 Mar 2017: Bird Flu confirmed in captive birds in Taltalaiya, Sunsari

Bird flu has been detected among wild captive birds at a children park in Taltalaiya, in Sunsari district of Southern Nepal. Biratnagar-based Regional Laboratory and Central Veterinary Laboratory in Kathmandu confirmed the presence of H5N1 bird flu virus in the dead birds from the park. Officials from District Livestock Service Office in Itahari said that the authorities are on high alert and have adopted precautionary measures including closure of the park for general public for one month to prevent a further spread to other areas and to human. This is the first reported case of avian influenza in the wild species this year in Nepal [Read More](#), [More](#)

There is also suspicion of high mortality in the same district in one poultry farm near Itahari. The detail information is still unknown. However, there remains a strong possibility of involvement of H5N8 virus in this outbreak, which has never been detected in Nepal. There have been multiple bird-flu outbreaks due to H5N8 strain of avian influenza in India and elsewhere in the recent past.

04 Mar 2017: Trade of eggs, meats suspended after the bird flu in Pokhara, Kaski

The trade of eggs, meats and poultry has been suspended in the core city area of Pokhara of Kaski district for 10 days after tests found that more chickens died of bird flu. The suspension will be effective in wards 1-18 of Pokhara Sub-Metropolitan City. Information Officer at the District Livestock Service Office informed that a test found that the cause of the death of 70 chickens at the farm in Khaltemasina was bird flu, forcing the committee to impose the ban. Fresh death of more birds in that area were indicated in a recent media report. However, it was unclear whether these new deaths were also attributed to the same virus subtype. Movement of birds, products and other materials related to poultry has been banned in the area, and cleaning and disinfection is completed. [Read More](#), [More](#). On February 25, Nepal officially notified H5N1 HPAI outbreak in a mixed backyard poultry farm located at Khalte Masina, Pokhara Sub-Metropolitan City-18, Kaski district, in the Western region. [More](#)

PAKISTAN

Mar 2017: Ten more peacock dies of Newcastle Disease, Tharparkar

The Newcastle Disease is spreading wildly in the area again as ten peacocks from the villages of Mitthi, Islam Kot and Nangarparkar have died. The number of peacocks dead during last one month due to the disease has now reached 30 ([Read More](#)). Earlier, there was a report on the death of around 170 peacocks due to NCD in Tharparkar region. [More](#)

OTHERS

RSU-SAARC News

03 Mar 2017: First SAARC Epidemiology Networking Forum Meeting held in New Delhi

The first SAARC EpiNet Forum Meeting was successfully conducted from 27-28 February 2017 in New Delhi, India. The meeting was co-hosted by India and RSU-SAARC, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO of UN) in close collaboration with the SAARC Secretariat. The meeting was inaugurated by Mr Devendra Chaudhry, Secretary, Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare, Government of India. Apart from the nominated Epidemiology Focal Points from seven out of the eight SAARC Member States, technical partners from ECTAD FAO RAP, OIE, WHO, EuFMD were represented by their respective key persons to add value to the meeting. [Read More](#). *India shows commitment towards building collaborations for joint animal disease surveillance and control programme.* [More](#)

03 Mar 2017: H5N6 outbreak in Greece is first outside of Asia and appears distinct from Asian strain

The country's first highly pathogenic H5N6 avian flu outbreak, which signals the first detection of the virus—known to infect people—in birds outside of Asia. The outbreak in Greece involves backyard poultry in a village in Western Macedonia region in the north-western part of the country. Scientists said an early look at the highly pathogenic H5N6 strain found recently in Greece suggests that it is different than the one triggering poultry outbreaks in Asia. [Read More](#)

07 Mar 2017: North American-origin High Path H7N9 isolated from Tennessee farm

Follow-up testing at the US Department of Agriculture's (USDA's) National Veterinary Services Laboratories on the highly pathogenic H7 virus implicated in an outbreak at a Tennessee poultry farm indicates that the strain is H7N9 but is different from the H7N9 fuelling outbreaks in China. The full genome sequencing reveals that all eight gene segments from the Tennessee H7N9 virus are from the North American wild bird lineage. "This is NOT the same as the China H7N9 virus that has impacted poultry and infected humans in Asia," APHIS emphasized, adding that though the subtype is the same, the virus is different and genetically distinct from the China H7N9 lineage. [Read More](#)