2016 is the year of Monkey in the Chinese lunar calendar. Wishing everyone has a great Chinese New Year. May the year of Monkey bring you and your family happiness, prosperity and good health.

China FETPV Steering Committee finalizing the Action Plan for 2016

The 12th Steering Committee meeting of the China Field Epidemiology Training Program for Veterinarians (CFETPV) was held on 18 January 2016 in Beijing. The Steering Committee reviewed the progress of the CFETPV in 2015 and finalized the Action Plan for 2016. Major activities in 2016 are as follows: 1. The last two training modules of 3rd cohort and graduation; 2. Evaluation of 3rd cohort; 3. Train of trainers (TOT) workshops; 4. Training for the executives (FETPV-E); 5. Stakeholder meeting; 6. Preparation and launching of the 4th cohort and its introductory course; 7. Training for university academics; 8. Support the provinces for epidemiology trainings.

China FETPV is moving forward to its sixth year, the program will put more emphasis on improving quality and sustainability to maximize its impacts. In order to achieve this, three priorities have been identified, i.e. 1) localization and standardization of FETPV training courses (including syllabus, materials and case study development); 2) capacity development for Chinese trainers; and 3) establishment of technical task forces to enhance veterinary epidemiology application.

H7N9 Project review meeting in Changsha

The H7N9 Project review meeting was held in Changsha on 10 January 2016. The major objectives of the meeting were to review the progress and outcomes of the project in 2015, and to discuss on the main activities from 2016 to 2019. The National Coordinator Dr Shen Chaqijian, three Provincial Coordinators - Mr Zou Lianbin (Guangxi Province), Mr Huang Jianlong ( Hunan Province) and Ms Zhao Huanyun (Yunnan Province), National Technical Advisor Dr Guo Fusheng and National Veterinary Epidemiologist Ms Yu Qi (FAO China ECTAD Office) attended the review meeting.

Through the discussion, the participants reached consensus on the five project outputs, including:
• Improved epidemiology knowledge and practical level of local Center for Animal Disease Prevention and Control (ACDC) staff;
• Improved local poultry surveillance system;
• Better understanding of poultry value chain in the region;
• Developed best practice models for biosecurity in live bird markets;
• Enhanced communication and cooperation with public health sector.

The participants also discussed on the workplan from 2016 to 2019, and agreed on the key activities to be implemented in Guangxi, Hunan and Yunnan provinces from 2016 to 2019, including:
• Organize training workshops on veterinary epidemiology, risk assessment, value chain and surveillance;
• Modify and apply poultry surveillance plan;
• Carry out value chain study in the three provinces and joint cross-border study with neighboring countries;
• Establish a live bird market with a good biosecurity practice and draft a live bird market biosecurity guidelines handbook;
• Organize joint workshops with public health sector for zoonosis.

**FAO China ECTAD assisting Hunan Province to conduct the training workshop on veterinary epidemiology and value chain analysis**

The training workshop on veterinary epidemiology and value chain analysis was held in Loudi, Hunan Province from 12-14 January 2016. The training workshop was jointly held by the Veterinary Bureau of the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), Center for Animal Disease Prevention and Control of Hunan Province (ACDC) and FAO China Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases (ECTAD) office. Around 60 veterinary staff from the provincial ACDC and 14 prefectural ACDCs attended the training.

Hunan Province is one of the largest live poultry breeding provinces in China, local veterinary authority pays high attention to the live bird market (LBM) biosecurity. Considering the increasing complexity of animal diseases situation, it is essential to improve the understanding of the local veterinary staff of basic veterinary epidemiology and LBM biosecurity, while conducting animal diseases prevention and control activities in the field. This training aimed to enhance the participants’ understanding in these areas, while introduced other important topics, such as value chain analysis approaches, outbreak investigation, surveillance, sampling strategy, risk analysis, etc.

The training was jointly delivered by Dr Guo Fusheng, Ms Yu Qi (FAO China ECTAD) and Chinese trainer of the China Field Epidemiology Training Program for Veterinarians (FETPV) - Dr Shen Chaojian. The trainer team adopted participatory training approach throughout the training to better engage the participants. During the workshop, the LBM biosecurity session was welcomed by the participants and there was a hot discussion around this topic.

The training received positive feedback from the participants and senior officials of the local veterinary authority. The senior officials thanked the support from the Veterinary Bureau of the MoA and FAO China ECTAD Office. They also hoped that FAO China ECTAD could provide technical guidance on LBM biosecurity when there is a LBM reconstruction in Hunan Province in the future.

**Upcoming activities**

1. Mr Tang Hao from FAO China ECTAD Office will participate in the Third South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Regional Epidemiology Networking Meeting in Nepal from 2-3 February 2016.
2. Mr Tang Hao will participate in the EPT2 Monitoring and Evaluation Workshop in Bangkok from 17-18 February 2016.