ECTAD – Egypt supporting on controlling animal disease

FAO-Egypt office through its Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases (ECTAD) which was established in Egypt in 2006 to emergency response to control and prevent spread of trans-boundary animal disease especially those of pandemic and zoonotic importance. ECTAD has built strong and enduring ties with Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation (MALR) through the General Organization for veterinary Services GOVS. ECTAD provides diverse institutional capacity to strengthen the Livestock Early Warning System (Investigation & Response, epidemi-surveillance and Laboratory diagnostic capacities) both at central and fields.

Achievements 2014-2016:

- Veterinary services improved their capacity for detection through the regular development and sustained implementation of value-chain and risk-based surveillance strategies (H5N1, H7N9, H9N2, H5N8).
- National diagnostic capabilities for AI and MERS-CoV enhanced with an effective laboratory networking for sharing data and genetic material on time.
- National capacity for AI vaccine evaluation process improved.
- National risk-based MERS-CoV surveillance plan developed & implemented.
- Web-based database system for vaccine evaluation and surveillance established and operated.
- Promotion of feasible biosecurity messages supported.
- Safe manual poultry slaughter practices disseminated
- Expansion and field operations of community-based animal health and outreach program (CAHO) supported.
- National operational plan for AI control and prevention including vaccination strategy developed.
- National H5N1 HPAI Preparedness and Response plan developed.
- National Communication strategy developed.
- One health initiative (4-way linking) established.
- Requirements for outbreak management provided and capacity for involved staff raised.

Lessons learnt:

- Legislation that cannot be enforced is usually counterproductive.
- Participatory approaches are key tool to overcome field challenges.
- Surveillance in LBMs is good prediction tool for the disease dynamics, especially when under-reporting is prevailing in the country.
- Sound HPAI control requires functionally linked multidisciplinary approach

Challenges:

- High human and poultry population densities in addition that farming systems co-exist side-by-side hinder the proper application control measures and enhancement of biosecurity practices of small scale poultry producers.
- Veterinary services has limited financial resources to deal with emerging and re-emerging animal diseases that had high-impact on economic and public health.
- Coordination among relevant One Health partners and Public-Private Partnerships remain challenged.
- Heavy reliance on un-monitored vaccination scheme.