



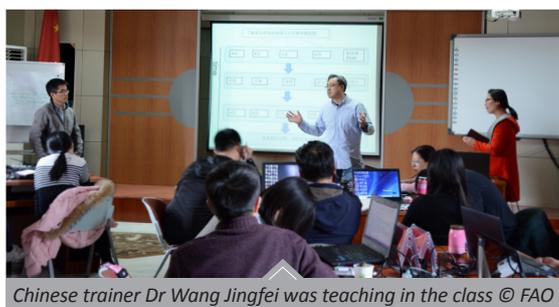
➤ **26 new trainees embarked on the journey to become field epidemiologists – CFETPV 4th cohort 1st module on outbreak investigation**



Group photo © FAO

Following a four-week introductory course of the China Field Epidemiology Training Program for Veterinarians (CFETPV) 4th cohort in last October, 26 trainees were selected from 50 applications to embark on the journey of a two-year CFETPV. They (including 12 female) are from 17 provinces and two national institutes. The 1st module on outbreak investigation was conducted in Qingdao from 20 February to 17 March 2017, aiming at training participants to be able to design, conduct, analyze and interpret an outbreak investigation.

The 4-week course was jointly delivered by international and national trainer teams. Dr Guo Fusheng, Mr Tang Hao, Ms Yu Qi and Dr Han Zifeng from FAO China Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases (ECTAD) Office also engaged in the training delivery. To increase the sustainability of the program, more sessions were undertaken by the Chinese trainers comparing with previous cohorts.



Chinese trainer Dr Wang Jingfei was teaching in the class © FAO

In addition, the New Zealand Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) started supporting the program by providing trainers, which was under the bilateral cooperation between China and New Zealand. Dr Paul Bingham and Dr Kelly Buckle from MPI joined the training course and taught on the hybrid method applied to on-farm disease investigation, and a case review for Theileria outbreak in New Zealand. This was the first time to mobilize New Zealand trainer resources, which has received very positive feedback from the trainees. The 2nd Module on surveillance is scheduled in July 2017.

➤ **FAO and WHO in China gather partners to discuss Influenza H7N9 situation**

FAO and the World Health Organization (WHO) in China gathered in Beijing and organized the meeting of the United Nations Theme Group on Agriculture (UNTG-AG) – sub working group on Diseases at the Human-animal-environment interface to discuss influenza A (H7N9) disease situation in China. The meeting objective was to provide an update on the influenza A (H7N9) situation in China and discuss the most recent developments and findings for better surveillance and control. 25 participants from 12 international organizations and embassies in Beijing attended the meeting.

Influenza A (H7N9) first emerged in China in March 2013. Over 1200 human infections were reported since then and nearly 40 percent have been fatal. The virus is now considered enzootic in poultry population in Eastern and South-eastern China. Epidemiological investigations have shown that most people infected with H7N9 had live poultry contact history or visited live bird markets (LBMs) before falling ill. A marked and steady increase in human infections has been observed during the last months, compared to previous years. There has also been evidence that, in some places, H7N9 has shifted from low to high pathogenicity in poultry requiring further investigation and close monitoring of the virus evolution.



Dr Vincent Martin and Dr Bernhard Schwartländer at the meeting © FAO

Dr Vincent Martin, FAO Representative in China and DPR Korea, emphasized that H7N9 control requires a holistic ‘One Health’ approach that brings together all actors and disciplines along the poultry value chains. FAO China would not only work closely with Chinese animal health authorities to provide technical support as required, but also facilitate cross-sectoral collaborations on H7N9 control among national and international stakeholders. Dr Bernhard Schwartländer, WHO Representative in China, welcomed the participants and introduced the key objectives of the meeting. Dr Chin-Kei Lee, an epidemiologist from WHO China, updated on H7N9 situations from human health perspective. Dr Guo Fusheng, National Technical Advisor on Animal Health from FAO China, briefed the participants on H7N9 surveillance and control actions taken by Chinese animal health sector. The meeting also invited Dr Les Sims, a renowned international expert in Avian Influenza, to deliver the presentation on H7N9 evolution and share his perspectives on surveillance and control options. Following the presentations, the participants discussed options for better surveillance and control from farm to markets.

The meeting participants concluded that:

- A ‘One Health’ approach is key to effectively control H7N9 and eliminate human infections. This requires cross-sectoral collaboration at all levels and creating incentives for key actors along the poultry value chain.
- The ‘1110’ approach which aims to improve biosecurity of Live Bird Markets and mitigate the risk of human infections (cleaning once a day, disinfection once a week, market closure once a month and no poultry allowed to stay overnight) does not have the required impact and needs to be revisited. Studies on measuring impact of these interventions need to be conducted to provide evidence and suggest corrective or additional measures to better control H7N9 infection in Live Bird Markets. Alternative control measures adapted to local context need to be considered based on successful experience of avian influenza virus control in other places.
- Compulsory vaccination of poultry entering markets and other measures and incentives for disease control need to be further discussed. Understanding the cultural and socio-economic dimensions of H7N9 is essential in eliminating the disease from human and reducing the level of infection in poultry.

▶ FAO China ECTAD attendance at the meeting of global coordination for antimicrobial resistance

The meeting of global coordination for antimicrobial resistance (AMR) was held in Rome, Italy from 22 to 24 March 2017. The event was organized by the FAO headquarters (HQs), with participation of FAO Regional Offices, FAO ECTAD country offices, FAO HQs, WHO and World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE). As the AMR focal point in FAO China ECTAD Office, Dr Han Zifeng participated in this meeting and shared experiences and challenges for addressing AMR issues in China. FAO has identified four main areas of work on AMR, which serve as the focus areas of the FAO action plan on AMR, including awareness, surveillance, governance and practices. These four areas are closely interrelated and need to be addressed in parallel. Furthermore, various activities need to be planned and implemented across different sectors of food and agriculture systems and adopt a “One Health” approach. “One Health” recognizes that the health of humans, animals and ecosystem are interconnected. It involves applying a coordinated, collaborative, multi-disciplinary and cross-sectoral approach. “One Health” is particularly relevant when it comes to address AMR, as it facilitates the multidimensional perspective required to address different aspects ranging from people’s understanding of the factors driving AMR, to assessing AMR’s economic impact and to finding viable solutions and interventions. In the session of awareness and surveillance, Dr Han highlighted that the most important things to be taken in preventing AMR in China are raising awareness, formulating laboratory testing protocol and national sampling plan, which should be addressed in China and need to work closely with FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (RAP).



Representatives of the meeting © FAO

! Upcoming activity

1. Representatives from the FAO China ECTAD Office will participate in the 11th Annual Regional ECTAD Meeting (AREM) from 5 to 7 April 2017 in Chiang Mai, Thailand.
2. The training workshop on Veterinary Epidemiology and Value Chain Analysis will be held from 18 to 19 April 2017 in Dongxing, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.
3. Dr Juan Lubroth, FAO Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO), and Dr Wantanee Kalpravidh, Regional Manager of FAO ECTAD RAP will visit China during 22 to 26 April 2017.
4. The Peste des petits ruminants (PPR) Regional Roadmap Meeting for Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries, China, Mongolia and Timor Leste will be held in Qingdao from 26 to 28 April 2017. FAO China ECTAD Office provides logistical support to the meeting. Ms Yu Qi will attend the meeting on behalf of FAO China.



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