

The FAO HPAI team traveled to Jiangxi Province from January 11-16 with members of FAO/RAP, FAO-Rome, MoA, Harbin National Reference Laboratory, and CAHEC to execute a field project with provincial and local authorities. The project, funded by Sweden, collected samples from domestic ducks farmed near Poyang Lake and was very successful in



bringing together mission members with Jiangxi Province veterinary services and local veterinary authorities to work collaboratively in the field. All parties were ultimately able to agree on the methodology; and, proper sample collection techniques were demonstrated and used in executing the project. Additionally, the project was planned and implemented successfully in a relatively short period of time. The working relationships formed as a result of this project are very valuable to FAO's continued work in China to combat HPAI. This field mission can be considered a success on many fronts, and we believe that similar field data collection efforts in the future are more likely to be accepted and successful as a result of this project. Approximately 60 epidemiologists and laboratory staff were trained during this mission.

In addition to the Poyang Lake project sampling, a draft of the HPAI China Bulletin #4 was submitted to MoA for comments and approval.

Lessons Learned

Although the team had planned to sample semi-domesticated waterfowl species farmed around Poyang Lake (including spot-billed ducks, mallards, and swan geese), it became clear that these birds fall under the same jurisdiction – the State Forestry Administration - as other wild species. Future endeavors to work with these birds will require coordination with both MoA and SFA. This project also involved use of synthetic-tipped sampling swabs, which neither the project team nor our Chinese partners have used before. Problems with procurement of these swabs created some difficulties during the field mission. In the future, supplies needed for field missions should be ordered well in advance and supply needs planned more carefully.