

One Health in Action - First Joint-event on Epidemiology Capacity Building between Animal Health and Public Health Sectors in China



▲ Prof. Pfeiffer leading the group discussion session

The Joint-Workshop on Epidemiology of Zoonotic Diseases - the Interface between Animal and Human Public Health was organized on 14-15 December, 2012 in Beijing. It is the first ever joint capacity building activity on epidemiology between Animal Health and Public Health Sectors in China. The anonymous pre-survey showed that 81% participants had never collaborated with another sector in their work, and only 49% participants had heard of 'One Health' before the workshop. Thus, it was also a major

step in joint collaboration between the two sectors under the One Health approach.

Prof. Dirk Pfeiffer and Dr. Julian Drewe facilitated the workshop that involved 29 trainees of the China Field Epidemiology Training Program for Veterinarians (China FETPV) and 48 trainees of the Chinese Field Epidemiology Training Program (CFETP). Representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention (China CDC), China Animal Health and Epidemiology Center (CAHEC), EU Delegation, U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention (USCDC) were present. The workshop focused on zoonotic disease control issues and put emphasis on Avian Influenza (AI), Brucellosis and Tuberculosis (TB). It enhanced participants' understanding of the epidemiology of zoonotic diseases and the One Health concept. In the anonymous post-survey, 95% participants said their understanding of One Health had changed during the workshop. Moreover, the workshop created an opportunity for the trainees from two sectors to work together to discuss how to deal with zoonotic disease challenges in China. Through the workshop activities, trainees from both sectors got to know each other, and this will help to facilitate cooperation at local levels in the future.

The success of the joint-workshop is a good example of interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral cooperation under the One Health approach. The workshop was sponsored by the EU-China Trade Project (EUCTP) Phase II, and was organized by FAO ECTAD China Office, CFETP and CAHEC. It also received great support from the Veterinary Bureau of the MoA and other participating agencies of the workshop.



▲ Trainees were actively participating in group sessions

29 Trainees Graduated from the China FETPV 2nd Cohort Introductory Course

29 China FETPV trainees successfully completed the 4-week China FETPV Introduction to Veterinary Epidemiology Training Course and graduated on 15 December, 2012. The 4-week introductory course was jointly delivered by international and Chinese trainers from the RVC (Prof. Dirk Pfeiffer, Dr. Javier Guitian and Dr. Julian Drewe) and CAHEC (Dr. Wang Youming, Dr. Shen Chaojian and Dr. Wei Xinjie). Throughout the course, international trainers provided mentoring to Chinese trainers. It was the first step in training and engaging the Chinese trainers. This is a good start for the roll-out of national expertise to assist with the long-term sustainability of the China FETPV. The next two-year China FETPV training program will commence in March 2013.



▲ Group photo for the China FETPV 2nd Cohort Introductory Course.

Discussion with Guangdong and Hunan ACDCs on Sampling Plan for EPT+ Project

To move forward with the Emerging Pandemic Threats Plus (EPT+) Project, a mission team composed of Prof. John Edwards and Dr. Guo Fusheng from FAO ECTAD China, Mr. Xu Tiangang, EPT+ National Project Coordinator, and Dr. Yang Huanliang from Harbin Veterinary Research Institute (HVRI) went to Guangdong and Hunan Provinces, to discuss the sampling plan with both Provincial Centers for Animal Disease Prevention and Control (ACDCs) from 20-21 December.

The mission team introduced the sampling framework and plan to the provincial ACDCs. After discussion, it was decided to take the samples in mid-January and early/mid-March. Each province will provide a list of candidate slaughterhouse and farms, which will be shared and confirmed by Dr. Yang from HVRI.



▲ Discussion with Hunan ACDC.



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Upcoming activities:

1. The Third Meeting of the Collaboration on Transboundary Animal Diseases (TADs) among China, Mongolia and Russia will be held in Vladimir, Russia from 22-25 January 2013.
2. The Planning workshop for FAO ECTAD China Office will be held from 14-15 January 2013 in Beijing.
3. Field sampling activities for the EPT+ Project in Hunan and Guangdong Province will commence in January 2013.