



### ➤ Moving forward with the implementation of the H7N9 project in Guangxi, Hunan and Yunnan Provinces

Dr Guo Fusheng, National Technical Advisor of FAO China Emergency Center for Transboundary Animal Diseases (ECTAD) Office led a mission to Nanning, Guangxi Province from 21 to 22 March 2015 to facilitate the H7N9 project mid-term review and planning meeting. The major objective of the meeting was to review the mid-term report and develop the work plan for the remainder of the project. The National Coordinator Dr Shen Chaojian and Provincial Coordinators; Dr Huang Jianlong (Hunan Province), Dr Zhao Huanyun (Yunnan Province) and Dr Zou Lianbin (Guangxi Province), attended the meeting.



Several suggestions were made on the mid-term report, including to add more information on the monthly poultry trade volumes and to link movements among the live bird markets (LBMs). The detailed work plan for each of the provinces was discussed during the meeting and the participants reached agreement on the following actions.



#### In Guangxi Province:

- Upgrade biosecurity of wholesale LBM in Yulin prefecture, given that Yulin is the biggest yellow chicken producing prefecture in Guangxi and there are close links with Guangdong Province;
- Conduct behaviour survey of traders and transporters in Yulin and Guigang wholesale LBMs; and
- Explore the possibility of exporting day old chickens to Viet Nam through official channels. This is consistent with suggestion from the China-Viet Nam Collaboration Meeting.

#### In Hunan Province:

- Investigate how the 14 LBMs that trade in the main prefectures in Hunan Province link together;
- Collect further information for key LBMs; and



- Organize LBM biosecurity training and raise public awareness in Loudi City, where there were several H7N9 human cases in 2014.

#### In Yunnan Province:

- Conduct preliminary research and prepare for enhanced surveillance;
- Explore the possibility of exporting spent hens to Viet Nam through official channels; and
- Organize epidemiology training for border veterinarians.

### Emerging Pandemic Threats Plus (EPT+) Phase III sampling in Guangdong Province



Live pig market in Guangzhou

The EPT+ Project Phase III sampling activities began in Guangdong Province on 28 March 2015. Dr Guo Fusheng from FAO China ECTAD Office; Dr Yang Huanliang, expert from the Harbin Veterinary Research Institute (HVRI); Dr Xu Tiangang, EPT+ Project Coordinator; and Dr Li Yin, National Epidemiologist travelled to Guangzhou to examine the local situation and to take swine swab, blood samples and complete questionnaires.

Prior to the sampling, a coordination meeting was held with Guangzhou Animal Disease Prevention and Control Center (ACDC) to discuss the sampling strategy. Senior management from the Guangzhou ACDC attended the coordination meeting, and explained the situation for pig markets, pig farms and slaughterhouses in Guangzhou. Meanwhile, the mission team visited a large local live pig market (handling up to 10,000 pigs per day) to further decide on sampling details. A new element of the project was to use environmental sampling approaches for detection of influenza viruses in pigs. To do this, samples were collected from trucks and drinking troughs and other surfaces in the pens. Samples were also collected from pig farms and slaughterhouses. The results from pigs will be compared with results from humans and other species in the same area.

#### ! Upcoming activities

1. Module 1 of the China Field Epidemiology Training Program for Veterinarians (FETPV) will be held from 30 March to 24 April 2015 in Qingdao and Beijing. The workshop for training of Chinese trainers will be held from 1 to 3 April during the Module 1. In addition, a joint training course between FETPV and the China Field Epidemiology Training Program (FETP) will be held from 20-24 April during Module 1.
2. The laboratory diagnostic training for the African Swine Fever (ASF) Technical Cooperation Project will be held from 20-23 April 2015 in Qingdao.