

FAO Supports Viet Nam's Department of Animal Health with Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Surveillance Activities in 2012 and 2013

Staying a step ahead

Nationwide surveillance for animal diseases by DAH and MARD helps catch emerging viruses early



and Lang Son provinces, and at Ha Vy market near Hanoi. This surveillance was conducted to understand the role the spent hen trade plays in the introduction of HPAI H5N1 and to identify links between HPAI H5N1 in spent hens and outbreaks of HPAI H5N1 in poultry in Viet Nam.

2. Event-based or Passive Surveillance was supported in eight provinces in Region 3 and in 14 provinces in Region 6 and

7. FAO provided local transportation support for veterinarians investigating farmer reports of sick and dying poultry. FAO also supported diagnostic cost to test specimens submitted to the Regional Animal Health Office (RAHO) laboratory. The passive surveillance programme FAO supported is ongoing.

3. Monthly monitoring of live bird markets is conducted in 120 districts and 20 cities in high risk areas for HPAI in Viet Nam. Diagnostic specimens are collected from live ducks and they

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The effective containment and control of epidemic diseases depends on early notification of disease events or outbreaks rapid response and the capacity to forecast the spread of pathogens to new areas. In Viet Nam, the Department of Animal Health (DAH) within the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) is conducting nationwide surveillance for high priority diseases. Emergent zoonoses (infectious diseases that are transmitted from animals to humans) include H5N1 Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) and more recently H7N9 Avian Influenza.

Other trans-boundary threats of importance to livestock production, trade and food security include Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) and Highly Virulent Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS).

The FAO's Emergency Centre for Trans-boundary Animal Diseases (ECTAD) in Viet Nam supports three HPAI national surveillance programmes in poultry.

Spent hens

1. Monitoring of spent hens (old layer chickens sold for meat) was conducted from July 2012 to February 2013 in Quang Ninh



ABOVE: Clades and spatial distribution of over 600 H5N1 viruses collected during LBM surveillance in 2012 and early 2013. Clade 2.3.2.1C is found everywhere in Viet Nam, including the south, where previously only Clade 1.1 existed.



ABOVE: In 2012 and early 2013, there were over 400 HPAI outbreaks at households, farms and markets in villages, communes and cities, mainly in small to medium duck or chicken farms with almost 100% mortality. The red dots on the map above show outbreak locations.

One Health shows Viet Nam the way

A two-day National Conference on One Health approach to address infectious disease risks at the human-animal-ecosys-

including resourcing requirements.

The Conference brought together nearly 200 high-level representatives and technical experts

area in future.” MARD Minister Cao Duc Phat said.

FAO Viet Nam experts gave two presentations at the event on “One Health in Viet Nam: Setting the stage and moving from global challenges to local solutions” and “Challenges for One Health implementation in Viet Nam”. These presentations highlight the most cost effective and sustainable ways of controlling infectious diseases at the animal-human-ecosystems interface by targeting control measures at the source of diseases and introducing effective inter-sector working mechanisms.

One of the most significant outputs of the conference is a roadmap for One Health implementation in Viet Nam. The roadmap areas reflect the Viet Nam government’s political commitment in pursuit of One Health (http://www.fao.org/asiapacific/Viet_Nam/home/news-room/detail/en/?no_cache=1&news_uid=173612).



tem interface in Viet Nam was held on 3 and 4 April in Ha Noi. The conference goal was to provide an opportunity for the Government of Viet Nam and its partners to highlight national One Health initiatives and track of progress and achievements over the previous period as well as ongoing constraints and areas requiring further efforts.

Specific objectives

Specific objectives of thematic sessions included promoting the One Health to address zoonotic diseases and non-zoonotic diseases impacting food security, food safety and livelihoods; assessing how the ongoing national One Health programmes and activities in Viet Nam fit into the larger context of the global One Health movement; and identifying next steps and a timeline to support the Government of Viet Nam in establishing an One Health road map and action plan,

Agency for International Development (USAID), and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE); research organizations, NGOs and selected regional and provincial representatives as well as other stakeholders.

Roadmap

“This important conference is for reviewing our progress in applying an One Health approach to infectious disease risks at the human-animal-ecosystem interface in Viet Nam and to identify a roadmap for further progress in this



Staying a step ahead

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are tested for H5N1 HPAI at the local RAHO laboratories. The aim of this project is three fold: firstly, to determine the temporal and spatial distribution of HPAI H5N1 virus in ducks at live bird markets; second, to identify areas in Viet Nam where virus is persistent and endemic; third, to monitor the evolution of HPAI H5N1 viruses, especially in relation to vaccine efficacy.

Results

All these activities and the additional reporting of HPAI outbreaks by farmers and Animal Health Workers resulted in the detection of (silent, without disease) H5N1 virus circulation in a large number of markets and of many disease events in 2012 and the first quarter of 2013.

Continuous support

As monitoring of the circulation of viruses continues to be of crucial importance to adapt response policies and to evaluate vaccine efficacy, live bird markets sample collection will continue throughout 2013.

More recently DAH and FAO have started working closely together to develop a surveillance activities in the Northern Provinces of Viet Nam to monitor Avian Influenza viruses in poultry other than HPAI H5N1. Recent events in China, where humans died of Influenza-A subtype H7N9, make it vital important to monitor the Influenza situation in Northern Viet Nam. Early detection is the key to disease control, containment and eradication. At 60 live bird markets and bird gathering places diagnostic specimens will be collected from spent hens and other chickens. The National Centre of Veterinary Diagnostics in Hanoi will test the samples to identify or exclude a range of Influenza virus subtypes including H7N9. This programme started, initially till June, but it will be extended if necessary.

WHAT FAO IS UP TO IN VIET NAM

Dr Scott Newman
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How do you see FAO Emergency Center for Transboundary Animal Disease (ECTAD) Viet Nam's role in light of the current H7N9 situation in China?

In Viet Nam, FAO ECTAD supports the Department of Animal Health and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to be prepared and respond to the emerging H7N9 threat. This includes heightened control at the borders to prevent poultry and viruses from entering; analyses of samples being collected in routine surveillance programs for H7N9; and development of a heightened animal surveillance strategy at the border. FAO ECTAD Viet Nam also made a presentation at the Ministerial level workshop "Implementing Guidelines of the Viet Nam Prime Minister on A influenza (H7N9) Control and Prevention" which was co-chaired by Minister of Health Ministry (MOH) and Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Ministry in Ha Noi.

ECTAD Viet Nam has recently provided information to update its website with links to other useful H7N9 resources (http://www.fao.org/asiapacific/Viet_Nam/home/news-room/detail/en/?no_cache=1&news_uid=175131). It has also developed and released a joint statement regarding H7N9

with MARD, MoH, and WHO and is currently developing a joint statement with DAH. ECTAD Viet Nam is also closely coordinating with WHO Viet Nam, Ministry of Health, the Viet Nam UN Resident Coordinator and UN Communications Office, and the Partnership on Avian and Human Pandemic Influenza (PAHI) on H7N9 issues in country. At a regional and global level, FAO ECTAD has also been coordinating with the Offlu Network, OIE, CDC, USAID and other stakeholders.

What is the current One Health Approach and collaboration in Viet Nam and what has been FAO's role? What needs to happen to make One Health a success?

One Health has recently gained considerable momentum in Viet Nam with the implementation of the National Conference on Applying a One Health Approach to Infectious Disease Risks at the Human-Animal-Ecosystem Interface in Viet Nam which took place in early April 2013. FAO ECTAD is a strong supporter of One Health and I was fortunate to be asked by the meeting organizers, to provide a keynote presentation entitled "One Health in Viet Nam: Setting the stage and moving from global challenges to local solutions" on behalf of FAO and WHO. What is clear is that inter-departmental coordination and even, inter-Ministerial coordination is not new to government partners in Viet Nam but what remains to be developed is a robust coordination mechanism that can be flexible to expand or contract according to the needs of the issues at hand, and a roadmap to further define how One

Health will be applied to infectious diseases of greatest impact to animal (domestic and wild) and human health, livelihoods, food safety, biodiversity conservation, food security and economies.

At the Workshop on Implementing Guidelines of the Prime Minister on A Flu (H7N9) Control and Prevention on 13 April 2013, FAO also highlighted that preparedness and response to this pandemic disease threat is another example of the One Health approach. This was demonstrated through the co-chairmanship of the meeting by the Minister of Health and Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Besides financial support, how does FAO contribute to government efforts to control HPAI?

In addition to financial support, FAO is helping to develop capacity and supporting many technical activities being undertaken by DAH and partners. Information and capacity have been transferred to DAH for continuity of activities, and of course, FAO will continue to be available to provide technical inputs to support DAH. FAO ECTAD Viet Nam is encouraging influenza response and control approaches to be adapted by the government through development of national strategies, policy, circulars, and SOPs and we hope that DAH and MARD will be able to secure further financial support from the Ministry of Finance to be able to ensure continuity in this fight against H5N1 HPAI, potentially against the newly emerging H7N9, other strains of influenza and other transboundary animal diseases including zoonoses.

FAO ECTAD

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- 1 National Consultation workshop for the replacement of Circular 69/2005/TT_BNN on prevention and control of HPAI is tentatively scheduled on 5 July in Hanoi and 10 July in Ho Chi Minh city.
- 2 Viet Nam-China cross border meeting. August 2013, Hanoi.

Playing tag with bats

A Thai bat biologist and veterinarian tag and anesthetize a flying fox in Viet Nam.

