



Concept Note

FAO Avian influenza multi-country study

to determine factors contributing to endemicity of HPAI H5N1

Endemicity study finalization and conclusion Meeting

2-4 July 2019, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Background

The HPAI endemicity study that commenced in 2016 is a targeted, risk-based study with the aim to actively look for H5 virus during the low risk season (July to October). Bangladesh and Indonesia were selected to conduct the endemicity study using the same approach, allowing for comparison of the results at study completion. Viet Nam and Egypt, other two countries in which the H5N1 HPAI virus is endemically circulating, have been included in the discussions as they can contribute data from studies implemented in parallel and with a similar focus.

Objectives of the endemicity study are:

1. To identify where H5N1 HPAI virus is persistent in poultry populations;
2. To identify how H5N1 HPAI virus survives during the dry season in different poultry systems, sectors and geographic areas;
3. To identify factors contributing to H5N1 HPAI virus persistence;
4. To profile live bird markets including collector yards / brokers and the movements;
5. To provide relevant information to policy makers regarding HPAI control, e.g. vaccination coverage.

In June 2017, an FAO expert meeting was held in Hanoi, with participation of key epidemiologists and laboratory specialists from Viet Nam, Indonesia, Bangladesh and Egypt, to discuss a number of possible hypothesis as to where the virus may be hiding during the off-season and factors contributing to its persistence. In addition, a preliminary analysis of the results collected during the first phase (July-October 2016) by Indonesia and Bangladesh was conducted.

The second phase of the study was conducted between July and December 2017 in order to provide additional data, especially given that abnormal rains occurred during the first study phase that may have biased results. Sample testing and related data analysis were conducted in 2018 until early 2019.

In February 2019, a workshop was organised in Jakarta involving FAO staff from Indonesia, Bangladesh and RAP, and government counterparts, to share information from Bangladesh and Indonesia with key stakeholders on the current state of the endemicity study and identify outstanding knowledge gaps. Laboratory analysis and data preparation of the study was nearly concluded and the meeting provided an opportunity for participants to fine-tune the analytical strategy and optimise forthcoming data outputs. Substantial descriptive analysis has been conducted to date, and several outputs have already been



produced. There is now a need to finalise the analysis, consolidate outputs and compare results between the project countries.

The proposed workshop, to be held on 2-4 July 2019 in Dhaka, Bangladesh, will allow government counterparts from Bangladesh and Indonesia, FAO staff and other key stakeholders to consolidate the outputs of the study and compare results. Final recommendations, based on the interpretation of results, will be made available before the end of the EPT2 programme and in time for informing the next funding cycle under NextGEN (2020-2024).

Objectives of the workshop:

- Share and discuss the complete data generated, consolidate the outcomes of the endemicity study to date and agree on further analysis;
- Agree on conclusions of the endemicity study by comparing individual country results;
- Develop draft recommendations for policy makers for the control of HPAI in endemic countries;
- Discuss next steps and subsequent work for the next phase (i.e. Next GEN).

Participants:

- **FAO HQ** focal points (2) (Sophie von Dobschuetz, Xavier Roche)
- **FAO RAP** ECTAD focal points (1) (Aurelie Brioude)
- **Bangladesh:** FAO ECTAD (4); DLS (3); BLRI (3) and tentatively a PhD student (1)
- **Indonesia:** FAO ECTAD (2) (Luuk Schoonman, Ayu Putu Madridewi); Government staff (2)
- **Viet Nam:** FAO ECTAD (1) (Pawin Padungtod)
- **Cambodia:** FAO ECTAD (1) (Makara Hak)
- **Egypt:** FAO ECTAD (1) (Ahmed Saad) and Gov Vet Services (1) (Tarek Zakaria)
- **External experts:**
 - Peter Black, Gavin Smith (still TBC) (funded by RAP)
 - Joerg Henning (funded as NST from Bangladesh project),
 - Guillaume Fournié (funded in part by the RVC project),
 - Lisa Kohnle, RVC (funded by the RVC project)
 - Kim Stevens, RVC (funded by Bangladesh project)
 - Daan Vink (funded by Indonesia project) – could also play a facilitating role during the workshop and write report



Draft Agenda

2-4 July 2019

Date/Time	Activities/Content	Contributor
Day 1:		
9:00 - 9:10	Welcome	Bangladesh Govt; Eric
9:10 - 9:30	Background of the endemicity study: setting the scene	Aurelie
9:30 – 9:45	Objectives of the meeting and expected outputs	Sophie
9:45 – 10:30	Country presentations: Bangladesh, complete data analysis, including challenges faced and lessons learned	ECTAD Bangladesh/Kim Stevens
10:30 -11:00	Coffee break	
11:00 - 11:45	Country presentations ctd: Indonesia, complete data analysis, including challenges faced and lessons learned	ECTAD Indonesia/Daan Vink
11:45 – 12:30	Country presentations ctd: related activities in VN, CMB and Egypt	ECTAD VN/CMB/Egypt
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch	
13:30 – 15:00	Discuss and compare results from Bangladesh and Indonesia; quality and usefulness of information	Facilitator and all participants
15:00 – 15:30	Coffee break	
15:30 – 17:00	Consolidate the outputs of the endemicity study – conclude on the endemicity technical results	
Day 2:		
9:00 – 9:15	Summary of Day 1	
9:15 – 10:30		



	Working groups: Develop draft recommendations for policy makers for the control of HPAI in endemic countries, based on the interpretation of results	Facilitator and all participants
10:30 – 11:00		
	Coffee break	
11.00 – 12:30		
	Working groups report and discussion on the draft recommendations	
12:30 – 13:30		
	Lunch	
13:30 – 14:30		
	Discussion with the government counterparts on the feasibility of the recommendations elaborated	
14:30 – 15:00		
	Coffee Break	
15:00 – 17:00		
	Discuss next steps and subsequent work for the next phase (i.e. Next GEN) including a work plan with an indicative timeline	
Day 3:		
9:00 - 9:15		
	Summary of Day 2	
9:15 – 10:30		
	Discuss next steps and subsequent work for the next phase (i.e. Next GEN) including a work plan with an indicative timeline	
10:30-11:00		
	Coffee break	
11.00 -12:30		
	Other planned research projects/studies and how to align/complement.	
12:30 – 13:30		
	Lunch	
13:30 – 15:00		Guillaume Fournié/Lisa Kohnle
	Continued: Other planned research projects/studies and how to align/complement.	
15:00 – 15:30		
	Coffee break	
15:30 – 16:30		Joerg Henning



16:30 – 17:30	<p>Continued: Other planned research projects/studies and how to align/complement.</p> <p>Wrap up and conclusions</p>	
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