Edition 7 May/June 2009

Regional

ECTAD News

NEPAL: Simulation exercise prepares Nepal for HPAI outbreaks

Kaski District, Western region, 15-18 June.

Disinfecting at the checkpoint; and final preparations for outbreak response teams in Nepal (FAO 2009)

This first HPAI outbreak response simulation exercise in Nepal was conducted in the high-risk district of Kaski to test and evaluate the ability of civil and technical authorities to respond effectively to an outbreak of HPAI.

The event was preceded by a planning workshop. The first day involved additional orientation from the training team on exercise modalities, together with an investigation in the field of the suspect case, collection of samples, sample submission to the regional laboratory, and confirmation of a positive result by PCR at the central laboratory.

The District AI committee met and the following day, the field programme declared the infected and surveillance zones and the setting up of a local disease control room, located just outside the infected zone. Control points were set up and response teams were fielded to deal with culling, disposal and decontamination, while surveillance teams scanned poultry holdings in the surveillance zone to detect secondary spread. Media briefings were given from the control room at the end of each day. On the final day, team leaders, control room staff, observers and the training team reviewed the exercise and made recommendations for future events.

The exercise involved all actors who would have a role in the response to a real outbreak and was led by the Chief District Officer who as Chair of the District AI Technical Committee would coordinate the district's response efforts. Other civil stakeholders included the Local District Development Office, police, Public Health Department, Red Cross local office, media and producer associations. Field activities were co-hosted by the local municipality, under the technical supervision of the Department of Livestock Services (DLS) and guidance of FAO AI project. Observers included the Director General-DLS, FAO Representative in Nepal, USAID AI coordinator and NGO representatives. The exercise provided valuable experience and better understanding for participants of what is involved in outbreak response, and consequently, the level of preparedness of district/regional participants was significantly enhanced. Tony Williams, FAO Chief Technical Advisor in Nepal commented "There is nothing quite the same as dealing with a real outbreak but the simulation programme, which involves bringing together all the pieces of the response jigsaw in real time, provides the next best thing in preparedness preparation for the technical services, civil authorities and media management, as well as extending AI response awareness to the communities."

Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases
Regional office for Asia and the Pacific

Regional

ECTAD News

Edition 7: May/June 2009

Contents

BANGLADESH: Cleaning - decontamination to stop spread of AI at live bird markets

Live bird markets and other poultry collection points are a major concern in the spread of HPAI, due to the mixing of multiple species of poultry of different ages, brought together from many different sources. There are often no health requirements or inspections for birds entering the markets, thus poultry can be taken from one market to multiple destinations for several purposes.

While at the market, these birds may be exposed to the HPAI virus before any signs of the virus are apparent. Sellers trading such birds can therefore, introduce shedding of the virus into the population of poultry present at the market. It is also common for poultry species (particularly waterfowl) which are known HPAI carriers, to be mixed in the market chain with other susceptible species. Thus, live bird markets commonly have poultry moving in a two-way stream, which maximises the chance of the virus spreading. In particular, those markets where poultry remain overnight, maintain a constant potential source of contamination and increase the exposure of humans and other susceptible animals to the virus within the market.

The FAO-AI Technical Unit is undertaking a cleaning and decontamination project of live bird markets under the USAID-funded project.

The project identifies and prioritises live bird markets for intervention, based upon infrastructural needs. Cleaning and disinfection protocols are being developed and agreed with Department of Livestock Services (DLS) and Market Committees. Planning and supervisory staff are being recruited, along with staff trained to apply cleaning and disinfection effectively in market areas, transport vehicles, cages and crates. Cleaning and disinfection will then be implemented and monitored at identified markets.

In preparation for project implementation several meetings were held with major stakeholders (including the Director of Livestock services, Stop AI, AI COMM, Deliver, Dhaka City Corporation and Market Committee executives). Consultant, Andrew Almond and National Project Manager, Dr. Shajahan, visited 12 live bird markets of Dhaka City Ccorporation to assess their suitability for cleaning and disinfecting.

This team also organised a training programme for 10 veterinarians at the Central Veterinary Hospital, who are directly related with the supervision of live bird markets

Further Information: Leo Loth, Acting Team Leader, FAO Bangladesh, Email: leo.loth@fao.org

Teacher training programme for avian influenza outbreak reporting

Panchagar Sadar Upazila, 10-15 June and Trishal Upazila, Mymensingh 21-25 June 2009

Early reporting of disease outbreaks is a critical aspect of HPAI control activities. In facilitating such reporting, particularly in relation to backyard poultry, school teachers have the potential to play an important role. FAO-AI programme organised a one-day workshop in three selected *Upazilas* involving school and madrasha teachers in disease reporting. They were provided with basic training on HPAI and preparation in disseminating information on the risks of and prevention against HPAI to their students. If there is any rumour of unusual deaths in poultry in the village, children are encouraged to immediately report it to their teachers, *Upazila* Livestock Officer or veterinary officer, resulting in early detection and early response. The pilot project is being implemented in Panchagar Sadar, Trishal, and Srepur *Upazilas* and will be evaluated after two months to measure the effectiveness and impact.

If successful, the project will be expanded to cover additional *Upazilas.*

Additional activities in Bangladesh included:

- Dhaka, 12-17 May 2009:
  Refresher training courses for 450 community animal health workers;
  Dhaka, 18-26 May:
  Refresher training for 150 ULOs and 50 AVSs.

- 2 and 8 June 2009:
  A National Consultant delivered lectures to trainees of the project ‘Strengthening of Support Service for Combating Avian Influenza (HPAI) in Bangladesh’, 2 and 8 June

in focus: South Asia

SOUTH ASIA CROSS BORDER PROJECT: Strengthening Cross Border Activities in Bangladesh, India and Nepal to Control Cross-Border Spread of HPAI

The project objective is to strengthen the capacity of countries sharing an epidemiological environment, to reduce and ultimately eliminate the threat posed by HPAI due to cross-border activities.

Since November 2008, renewed HPAI outbreaks have occurred at regular intervals in the region:
- 32 in Bangladesh;
- 27 in India;
- Nepal was newly infected in January 2009, with 2 outbreaks (as of May 2009).

The project is conducting poultry value chain mapping across Nepal-India-Bangladesh-Myanmar borders to:
- Map value chains and poultry trade volumes and values across borders;
- Identify high risk factors and areas for introduction of disease via trade;
- Map the high risk areas and trade routes; and
- Evaluate value chain analysis

Border points at 27 locations will be studied, together with a large corridor from Burimari, Bangladesh to Naxalbari, India, near the Nepal border through Siliguri, India. The Nepal study has been completed, with the other three countries ongoing.

The Nepal study found that economic incentives (cost factors) were the main reason for stimulating the cross border trade, while gaps in demand and supply was also found to encourage illegal cross border trade.

Slaughterers and live birds wholesalers were the main points where large number of birds (live and dressed) informally entered Nepal.

Further Information:
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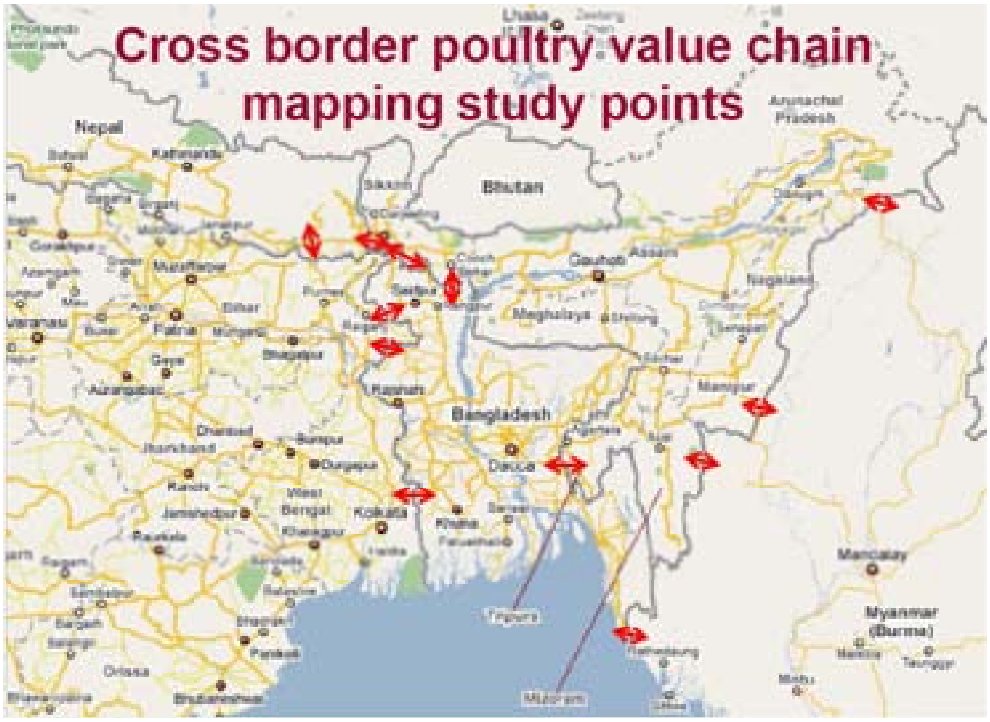


Subregional workshop to develop Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for emergency response to disease in high risk areas related to cross border trade

Kathmandu, Nepal
21-22 May 2009

The workshop shared available SOPs in the countries, looked at ways of harmonising them for emergency response in high risk areas and developed draft SOPs for guidance, technical support and infrastructure development, The meeting also assessed the current HPAI situation in each country, and identified and discussed common problems, strengths and weaknesses. Senior officers from Bangladesh, India and Nepal attended, together with representatives from FAO and USAID. Myanmar was unable to participate.

Following the workshop, the SOP outline will be discussed in each country; feedback provided to FAO for harmonisation; and the final draft distributed to member countries.

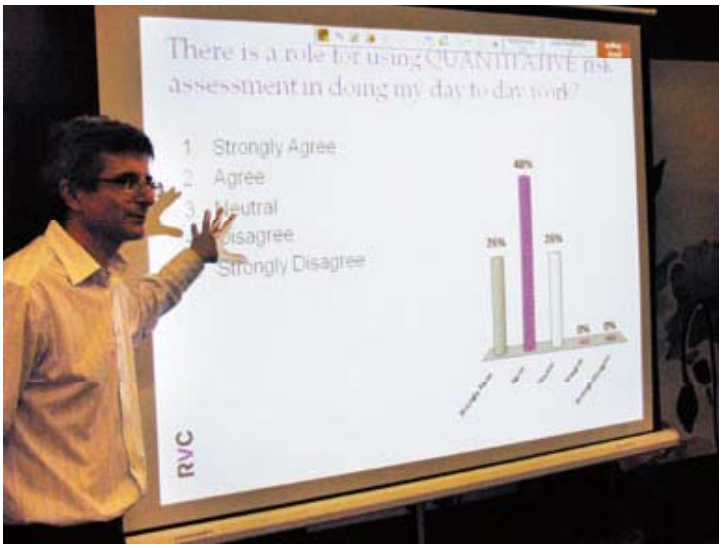
news from the region

CHINA: Risk Assessment Training in Qingdao, *Qingdao, 4-8 May 2009*

FAO sponsored Risk Assessment Training, delivered by the Royal Veterinary College (RVC), London and covering: risk-based surveillance, risk analysis theory, and qualitative and quantitative risk analyses. Participants from the China Animal Health and Epidemiology Centre (CAHEC) and partner provinces of Yunnan, Guangxi and Hunan participated in the training.

The Veterinary Bureau also wished to introduce risk analysis and other epidemiological skills to the Specific Animal Disease Free Zones and so invited staff from the non-project provinces of Beijing, Tianjin, Jilin, Liaoning, Shandong, Chongqing, Sichuan and Hainan to participate in the training. Provincial trainees work in either the Provincial Centre for Animal Disease Control and Prevention or the Provincial Animal and Animal Product Supervision Station. In total, 44 participants were trained in risk analysis methodologies.

Lessons learned from the risk analysis training are expected to be applied as part of the trainees' duties in HPAI prevention and control. Participants expressed a desire for additional, similar training of at least two weeks' duration. The RVC also supplied participants with a demonstration version of the @Risk software most commonly used in risk analysis.



Dirk Pfeiffer, Professor in Veterinary Epidemiology, Royal Veterinary College, UK Qingdao . (FAO 2009)

Poultry trade mapping in Kunming to identify HPAI risks, *Kunming, China, 11-12 June 2009*

A workshop was held within the context of the Greater Mekong Subregion Cross Border Project. The workshop provided an introduction to risk analysis, followed by participatory mapping exercises to: identify the main poultry commodity chains, both geographically and schematically; prioritise the commodities, inputs and by-products by relative importance and risk of HPAI spread and; plan future data collection and risk assessment activities for the most risky cross border poultry sector trade. 44 participants attended from both the public and private poultry sectors of the province.

The maps from this workshop, together with those from a previous workshop in Guangxi are currently being digitised by FAO. The workshops noted significant differences between the two provinces, although direct links between them and to international neighbours were also identified.

FAO is also in discussion with the China Agricultural University (CAU) to conduct a poultry sector review of Guangxi province, paying particular attention to high-risk commodity chains, such as spent hens, ducks and eggs, and to geographic areas identified in the April 2009 workshop, including the corridor from Guilin through Nanning to Pingxiang; and Yulin/Guigang area.

This additional information will supplement the results of the workshops and inform future targeted surveillance and control activities in the province and region. The RVC final report on the workshops will be available shortly and will outline the next steps for socio-economic/risk assessment activities in China.

Further Information:
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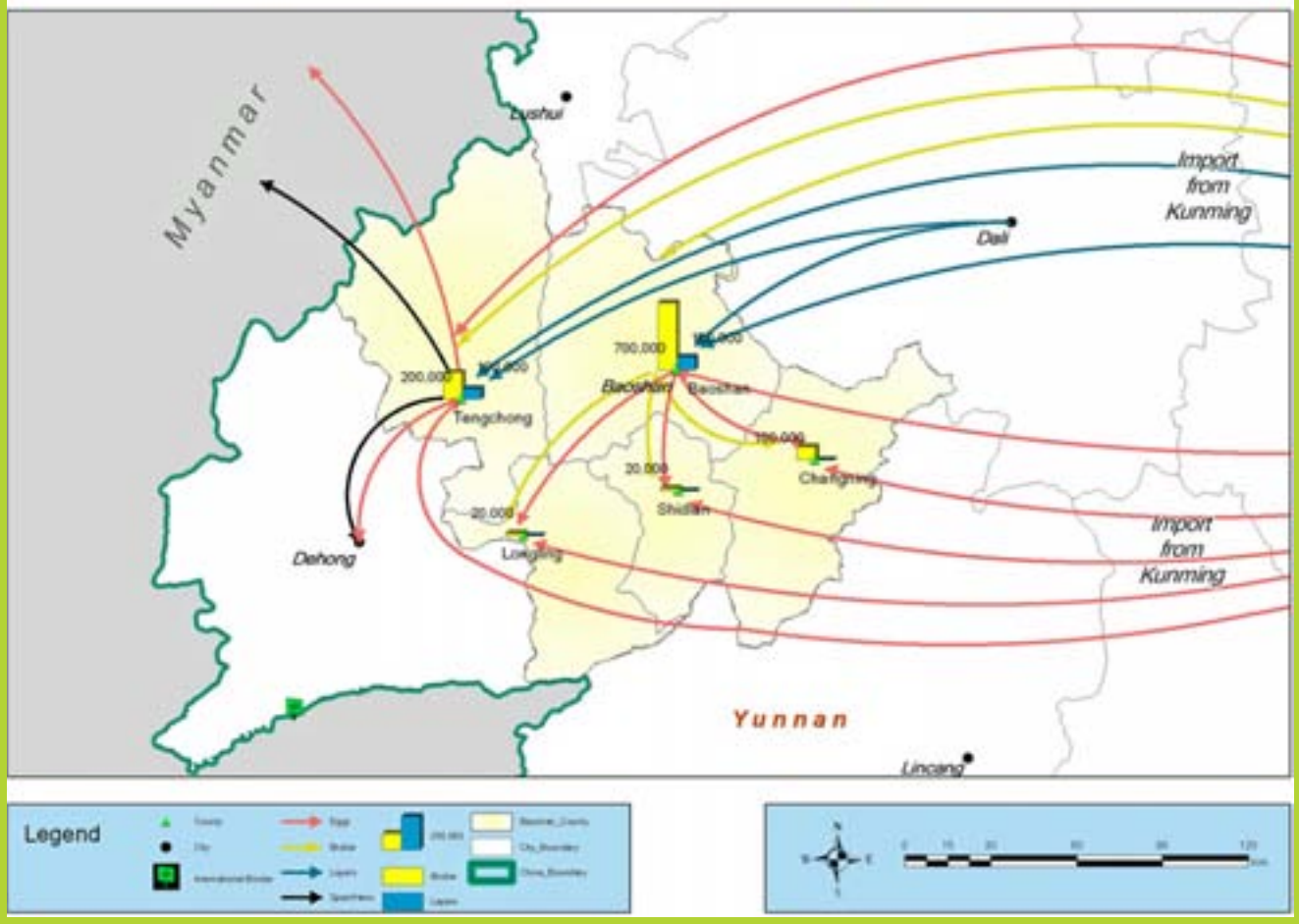
Distribution of Chicken Product in Baoshan, Yunnan Province



Infrastructure and Suppliers in Yunnan Province

focus on the Pacific Region

FAFO/OIE Subregional meeting of the GF-TADs for South Pacific Community (SPC)

Nadi, Fiji Islands, 23-27 June 2009

The first Subregional meeting of GF-TADs (Global framework for Transboundary Animal Diseases) for the SPC Region was organised by FAO and OIE, in close collaboration with the SPC. Forty participants representing the 22 SPC member countries from the Polynesia, Micronesia and Melanesia Subregions, Regional ECTAD, OIE and SPC Directorate of Land Resources Division in Suva, attended the meeting.

Dr. Teruhide Fujita (Regional Representative of the OIE Sub-regional Commission), highlighted the increasing importance of the livestock industry and transboundary animal diseases (TADs) which have a potential impact on food security and livelihoods of people.

Dr. Subhash Morzaria (Regional Manager, ECTAD, FAORAP) described the evolution of GF-TADs, the challenges deriving from the rapid spread of HPAI, and the role of FAO in addressing this problem globally, regionally and at country level.

Dr. Ken Cokanasiga (Adviser to the SPC Secretariat) provided participants with an overview of SPC and how it operates in the context of GF-TADs.

Additional presentations from OIE, FAO, SPM and SPC provided a more detailed background of GF-TADs. and what kind of activities are being conducted jointly by FAO and OIE under the GF-TADs umbrella.

Seven countries selected by the SPC and representing Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia Subregions made presentations describing priority diseases, diagnostic capacity, surveillance and reporting systems, government policy for the control of other prioritised diseases, and constraints. Overall, the capacity in disease diagnosis, surveillance and quarantine (biosecurity) is limited and with the threat of H5N1, and now H1N1, there is increasing awareness of the importance of TADs. The livestock sector is crucial to the livelihoods of the SPS communities, for food security and for cultural activities and obligations, so the challenge to maintain relative freedom from TADs is a major one. The SPS countries are receiving support from the Governments of Australia and New Zealand to develop preparedness plans and capacity for HPAI and other infectious diseases control.

The sub-regional GF-TADs meeting was recognised as an important step in establishing regional structures compatible with the GF-TADs document, attracting additional long-term donor funding and ensuring sustainability in disease prevention, response and control. Moreover, the recent preparation of the GF-TADs Pacific Island Regional Strategy is another major initiative, and provides a long term vision for TADs control and supports characterisation of the livestock sector in the region, promoting biosecurity, early warning, animal health services, emergency preparedness, diagnosis and epidemiology networks and training.

Recommendations were made following work groups exercises, and they are being finalised by FAO for distribution to participants for further review.

Subregional meetings are also taking place for the ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) and SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) regions, culminating in the GF-TADs Steering Committee Meeting in Tokyo, Japan in July 2009. A full summary of this process and

PHILIPPINES: activities to prevent transboundary animal diseases, *Philippines, May 2009*

The Australian-funded project ‘Strengthening laboratory and field surveillance for an effective avian influenza protection programme’ ended in May 2009. On 13 May 2009, as the final project activity, graduates of the Applied Veterinary Epidemiology Training (AVET) courses met to establish a network of epidemiologists in the country. FAORAP Animal Health Officer Dr. Carolyn Benigno conducted the course, which was attended by 19 AVET graduates from different parts of the Philippines.

Further Information:
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The USAID-funded ‘Emergency assistance for early detection, response and control of Ebola Reston Virus in swine and other swine diseases in the Philippines, June 2009 to Nov 2010’ commenced with an inception workshop on 15 June 2009. The workshop was attended by staff from the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) headed by OIC Dr. Davinio P. Catbagan; FAO Representative, Mr. Kazuyuki Tsurumi; FAO RAP Animal Health Officer Dr. Carolyn Benigno and ECTAD Senior Operations Officer, Mr. Mostafa Nosseir. The workshop agreed on the work plan, identified the project team and further actions to be taken to initiate implementation of project activities.

Consultative Meeting of Regional Laboratory Network for HPAI Diagnosis in Southeast Asia, *Bangkok, 23-24 June 2009*

Fifteen representatives from key international partners reviewed the HPAI diagnostic laboratories capacity in the region. Participants included representatives from ASEAN Reference Laboratory for HPAI, Australian Animal Health Laboratory, National Institute of Animal Health Thailand, OIE, OFFLU, United States Department of Agriculture, USAID and FAO.

The review indicated that substantial improvements in laboratory testing capacity and the implementation of biosafety had been made over the past two years. Key concerns discussed included finding ways to maximise inputs being provided to the country and region, to further improve laboratory capacity for HPAI diagnosis, and improve collaboration and coordination.

The major output was a draft regional framework for collaboration and coordination on capacity development for laboratory diagnosis and networking. The framework included development of laboratory physical facilities, equipment, personnel capacity, laboratory protocol and sharing of information and biological material.

The meeting was funded under a five year regional project (2006-2011) supported by the Government of Japan. The project aims to strengthen the coordination network for diagnosis and surveillance for the control and prevention of HPAI and other TADs Southeast Asia.

For Laboratory Network information:
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Asia's first programme to train 'Animal disease detectives', *Bangkok, Thailand, 5 June*

The US and Royal Thai Governments, in collaboration with FAORAP-ECTAD, launched Asia's first training programme for vets who trace and control animal diseases that could spread to humans. The Field Epidemiology Training Programme for Veterinarians (FETPV) is the first of its kind exclusively for vets.

Thailand's Department of Livestock Development (DLD) is the hub to build the training capacity of veterinarians of the region, who will later develop similar programmes in their own countries. Six veterinarians from Myanmar, China, Indonesia and Thailand are enrolled in the FETPV course, which is being taught at DLD until May 2011.

"*The Royal Thai Government is committed to promoting training that improves animal disease surveillance, control and prevention,"* said Dr Yukol Limlamthong, Director-General of DLD of the Thai Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives. *"With the establishment of the FETPV, we will increase the capacity of animal health staff throughout the region*."

The training is aimed at investigating outbreaks, analysing data, conducting field research, and making recommendations to public officials.

"With the establishment of this FETPV coordination unit, Asia is better prepared to detect and respond to outbreaks of diseases that are spreading from animals to humans," said Olivier Carduner, Director of USAID's Regional Development Mission for Asia. He noted the importance that speedy detection and response has played with the outbreaks of 2009 Influenza A (H1N1), SARS, and Avian Influenza H5N1.

"Scientists tell us that most human diseases originate in animals. FAO's partnership with this programme is therefore oriented toward developing capacity in Asian countries to respond to emerging infectious diseases, including avian influenza. It is imperative that we act now."

(Mr. He Changchui, FAO Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative)

The FETPV is supported by CDC and USAID.

Further information: David Castellan
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news from the region

LAO PDR:Major achievements towards HPAI prevention and control

Vientiane, 27 May 2007

Since late-2005, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) and FAO have been working to strengthen the capacity for early detection and early warning of HPAI, through community based field surveillance; build rapid and effective response; and promote public awareness and education on HPAI.

The Government of Germany-funded 'Building Capacity at the Grassroots Level to Control Avian Influenza' project, formed a major part of the FAO AI Programme from April 2006 to May 2009, and supported the Department of Livestock and Fisheries (DLF) in the prevention and control of AI in Laos. The project – which closed in May 2009 – was implemented in high risk areas of 10 provinces, at the community, district, provincial and central levels.

Dr. Bounlom Douangneun, Director of the National Animal Health Center (NAHC) and National Project Director of the project said "*The HPAI H5N1 virus is a priority for the Lao Government, since its appearance in the country in January 2004. The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF), with support of FAO, has reacted promptly to prevent and control the virus. The NAHC will continue to implement prevention activities and remains alert and ready to control outbreaks.*"

The project handed over essential equipment to the DLF to enable it to continue surveillance, diagnosis and animal disease outbreak response.

"As a result of three intensive years, FAO and the NAHC can announce that the capacity in early disease detection, reporting and rapid disease control, have been greatly enhanced. Lao PDR is today in a better position than in 2005 to prevent and rapidly control bird flu outbreaks".

(Dr. Ricarda Mondry, Chief Technical Adviser of the FAO AI Programme in Lao PDR)

The DLF/FAO project, funded by USAID since 2005, is also working on the prevention and control of AI and will continue in Phase Three to carry out biosecurity improvement, cross-border studies, active surveillance, laboratory and epidemiology support and other interventions.

For additional information, please contact the AI Programme, Tel: (021) 262945, and visit www.fao.org

Project highlights:

- Approval of a Veterinary Law by the National Assembly in July 2008, supporting veterinarians in implementing prevention and control measures in animal health.
- Contingency planning workshops and two full-scale field simulation exercises conducted, involving all relevant technical animal health staff. as a component of preparation for national and provincial rapid response
- Around 200 livestock staff trained per year at provincial/district levels, on AI, active and passive surveillance, disease investigation, epidemiology and the use of rapid tests.
- The village veterinary workers (VVW) network was strengthened at the community level, through poultry disease and AI training for 4,257 VVWs (of which 40 per cent were women - the highest percentage of women VVWs in the region); and conducting AI refresher training and training on pig diseases for more than 1,500 VVWs. Now, 2,215 villages have VVWs with enhanced knowledge and understanding of animal diseases (30 per cent of all villages in the 10 project target provinces)
- A community awareness campaign were conducted, providing information on AI, biosecurity, guidance on prevention, control measures and hygiene practices, for 75,655 farmers in 737 villages.

Other project activities:

A Joint Implementation Review of the National Plan took place during 27 April-8 May in Vientiane and looked at progress in implementing the five strategic components, (including animal health, human health, communication and legislation/coordination). The review was attended by representatives from the government, UN agencies, international organisations, Asian Developpment Bank, French Development Agency, AusAID, European Commission, US Center for Disease Control and the World Bank.

FAO was the lead agency for the review of Strategy 1 – looking at animal health issues and was actively involved in Strategy 4 – on communication

CAMBODIA: How village animal health workers and village chiefs are helping to prevent avian influenza, *Various Provinces, May-June 2009*

The Department of Animal Health and Production (DAHP) and FAO continued to provide refresher training courses on highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) to village animal health workers (VAHWs), bringing the total number trained to 2,430, since January 2009.

VAHWs act as the 'eyes and ears' of the veterinary service, frequently the first point of contact when farmers suspect their chickens of having HPAI and providing valuable information to Provincial and District animal health officers on potential threats from HPAI.

In order to update VAHWs knowledge on HPAI since their initial training three years ago, and enhance their capacity to perform their surveillance role, the FAO AI programme initiated a refresher training course specifically focusing on HPAI (and other diseases).

The training is provided by government District Veterinary Officers (DVOs) – who are themselves trained by FAO prior to the two-day course – and includes technical information on HPAI (surveillance, biosecurity, reporting and outbreak response), together with an emphasis on communication with the community about HPAI and on the importance of rapid reporting and containment. The course brings together VAHWs and village chiefs for the first time in a single training course.

A total of 987 VAHWs (66 of them female) attended the refresher courses in May and June, together with 902 village chiefs (27 female).

Village chiefs are the most accessible leader to villagers and are trusted by their communities to act on reports of unusual poultry mortality. In November 2007, DAHP and FAO began training village chiefs in communicating disease prevention messages to their communities and providing leadership in developing solutions to reduce the spread of AI in their own villages and towns.

An impact assessment of the DAHP/FAO training on AI to VAHWs and Village chiefs since 2007, found that 89 per cent of VAHWs and 90 per cent of village chiefs interviewed, considered the training to be very useful and helpful to them. Interviews were conducted by TNS/MSD research group in March and April 2009 with 1,224 farmers, 404 VAHWs and 104 village chiefs in 10 provinces. The provinces were selected on the basis of having high poultry populations; being located close to borders with Viet Nam and Thailand; having indigenous populations; and previously experiencing human and poultry HPAI cases.

All farmers interviewed thought that the advice on HPAI given by VAHWs and village chiefs was very useful: advice on cleaning and fencing were regarded as the most important advice provided by VAHWs; while burning or burying dead birds, keeping pens clean and not eating sick and/or dead birds, were regarded as the major advice from village chiefs. Approximately 80 per cent of farmers across all provinces apply advice received from VAHWs and 89 per cent of farmers consider their practices to have changed during the last three years: 50 per cent keep pens clean, 30 per cent build fences, 88 per cent bury dead poultry, and 46 per cent report poultry mortality to village chiefs and VAHWs. A lack of time and money were mentioned as barriers to practicing prevention measures.

A total of 7,954 VAHWs (812 of them female) have been trained by FAO from 2005 to 2008 in all 24 provinces of Cambodia. FAO began training village chiefs on communication in 2007 and subsequently 2,994 (174 of them female) had benefited from this training by the end of 2008. In January 2009, FAO handed over the responsibility of providing refresher training to DVOs and since then, 80 DVOs have conducted refresher courses for 2,430 VAHWs and 2,223 village chiefs.

Further information:
Cecilia Dy, Communication Officer, FAO AI Cambodia, Email: cecilia.dy@fao.org

INDONESIA: Village biosecurity, education and communication programme

Makassar, South Sulawesi, Indonesia, 7 May 2009

The inception workshop for the Village Biosecurity, Education and Communication (VBEC) Programme for South and West Sulawesi funded by AusAID was opened by the Head of the Sub-Directorate of Animal and Veterinary Public Health for South Sulawesi, Dr. Muh Kafil MM. The workshop was organised to select pilot districts for the initial socio-cultural assessment of the programme; ensure representation of the major languages, cultures and poultry production systems present in South and West Sulawesi; and to discuss the approach towards more effective communication for HPAI control at the village level in South and West Sulawesi. In addition, a HPAI communication working group was formed during the workshop.

Particpants comprised 25 representatives from regional, provincial and local livestock services authorities, provincial health authorities, and other organisations involved in HPAI and health programmes in South and West Sulawesi, including South Sulawesi Department of Livestock Services, Department of Health, Indonesian Veterinary Association (PDHI), Commercial Poultry producers association (FKMP), JICA and FAO staff.

coming up....

Major meetings in the RAP region:

Technical Committee Meeting: cross border project, *19 July 2009, Dhaka, Bangladesh*

Risk Communication Workshop for Avian Influenza Communication Task Forces, *Prey Veng/Svay Rieng provinces, Cambodia, 22-23 July*

FAO/OIE GF-TADs Steering Committee Meeting, *Tokyo, Japan, 23-25 July 2009*

Biosecurity workshops for commercial farmers *Takeo province, Cambodia, 27-31 July*

Surveillance Demonstration for Trainees for the Field Epidemiology Training Programme for Veterinarians, *Bangkok, Thailand, 27-31 July*

Showing and discussion of training video on avian influenza prevention with smallholder farmers *Kampong Cham province, Cambodia, 3-6 August*

ADB GMS TADS Project Steering Committee Meeting, *Bangkok, Thailand, 3-4 Sept*

Inception Workshop FAO TCP for the Surveillance of A/H1N1 in Pigs and Poultry in ASEAN, *Bangkok, Thailand, 7-8 Sept*

H5N1 Molecular Epidemiology Regional Meeting, *Bangkok, Thailand, 9-10 Sept*

Regional Workshop on Understanding and use of Poultry Value Chain Analysis in Poultry Production and Marketing in the context of Cross Border trading, *Kathmandu, Nepal,14-18 September, 2009*

USAID Regional Partners Meeting
Bangkok, Thailand, 23 -25 Sept

Regional Laboratory Network Meeting for HPAI Diagnosis
Bangkok, Thailand, 28 -29 Sept

staff news

Welcome to:

Pawin Padungtod joined FAORAP-ECTAD as Regional Project Coordinator in May 2009

Loganathan Periathamby joined FAORAP-ECTAD as Regional Project Coordinator for the USAID Public-private sector partnership project in June 2009

Elizabeth Miranda joined FAORAP-ECTAD as Regional Technical Coordinator in June 2009

Dr. Shahjahan, National Project Manager, joined the FAO-ECTAD AI Unit in Bangladesh in June 2009, under the USAID project

Mr Rajendra P Singh, International Consultant - Animal Health Economist, joined the South Asia Cross Border project office in June (Sub Regional ECTAD Unit: SAARC), Kathmandu, Nepal

Stephen Angus, Chief Technical Advisor, joined FAO AI project in Indonesia in June 2009

Visiting consultants to RAP:

Warren Henry, GETS Project Planner for a briefing, 31 May - 2 June 2009

David Hadrill, Veterinary Epidemiologist (GETS Project) for Debriefing, 24 - 27 June 2009

Brian Perry, Kamarudin Bin Md. Isa and Carlos Tarazona, from the Real-time Evaluation Team en route to Indonesia to evaluate the PDSR project.

..... and thankyou and fond farewells to:

Dr. Ricarda Mondry, Chief Technical Advisor, FAO AI project in Lao PDR left on 15 May

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