

Building Field Epidemiology Training Program for veterinarians (FETPV) in China

The FETP program for veterinarians (FETPV) seeks to improve animal health and outbreak response capacity using an all - hazards approach including issues related to zoonoses, food safety and food security. The overall objective of the programme is to provide training that will benefit the country's economy and protect the interest of agricultural producers. It has been designed to maximize trainees' exposure to field activities in their native environments, and to encourage a contribution of programme activities to the prevention, early detection, and effective response of disease to their host governments. In order to help the Ministry of Agriculture in China building its own FETPV, a mission from the regional FETPV programme based in Bangkok visited Beijing from the 19th - 22nd October to support field activities required to complete the requirements of the programme. The team was composed of Dr. Wantanee Kalpravidh, Dr. David Castellan and Dr. Kachen Wongsathapornchai.

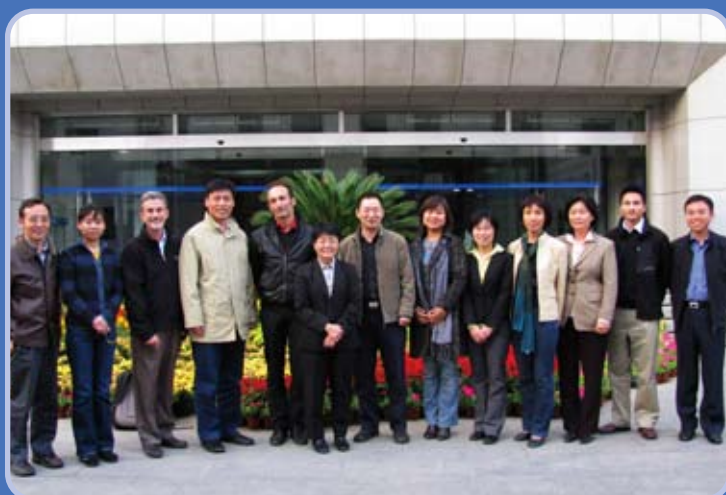
During the mission, several meetings were held with MOA's key stakeholders involved in training in epidemiology in order to define a roadmap for the development of FETPV in China. The following key issues were addressed:



▲ Visit at the FETP office for Public Health (China CDC)

1. Defining a strategic framework for China FETPV Development including timeline
2. List of key partners, possible resources and required facilities including training center, field training bases
3. Sustainability (incentives, recognition and continuing support)
4. Mechanism to follow up the progress of China FETPV Development in the next 12 months

The meetings' spirit was positive and generated interest among the group of experts gathered by the Ministry. MoA confirmed its commitment to the development of the program and seek FAO's support and advise in the near future. A roadmap was designed and the objective was set to launch the FETPV programme in China by the end of 2010. More funds will be required to support this activity. As a matter of fact, a concept note will be prepared and shared with potential donors.



▲ Workshop held in MoA - Defining FETPV roadmap

Upcoming Activities

1. AI Project team will prepare a concept note on FETPV in consultation with MOA and inputs from ECTAD - RAP.
2. Funding for the new phase is now available (October 2009 - October 2010). The FAO China HPAI team is in contact with several collaborating centers to establish Letter of Agreements for the implementation of technical activities and trainings (laboratory, disease outbreak investigation, risk analysis trainings)