

## Strengthening Cooperation between China and Mongolia on Disease Cross-border Issues with a Special Focus on Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD)

In the framework of a Technical Cooperation Programme Facility (TCPF) Project entitled "Cross border trade and transboundary diseases risk reduction between China and Mongolia", ECTAD China, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture of China and the Department of Veterinary and Animal Breeding, Mongolia, organized a workshop on Foot-and-Mouth Disease in Beijing on 3rd November 2011.

Representatives from Mongolia and China including government officials from the provinces that share a Mongolia-China border, as well as epidemiologists and experts from the national laboratories attended the meeting. The prime objective of the meeting was to strengthen collaborative relationships between officials from both countries, to facilitate information sharing, and enhance the capacity for risk



▲ China-Mongolia FMD workshop

prevention, surveillance and response. More specifically, the workshop aimed at fostering a collaborative approach to FMD prevention and control through the identification of key surveillance information that would be necessary to exchange between countries and relevant to understanding the risk. During the meeting, a preliminary exploration of risk factors including market chains and movements of animals and their products was carried out.



▲ Group photo for the China-Mongolia FMD workshop

Several key recommendations were made and will be available in the final report (available upon request). In addition, it was decided by all meeting's participants that a 2nd workshop will be held during the first semester of 2012 to follow-up on the meeting's recommendations.

## The 3rd International Workshop on "Community-based Data Synthesis, Analysis and Modeling of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza H5N1 in Asia"

The 3rd international workshop on "community-based data synthesis, analysis and modeling of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI, H5N1 subtype) in Asia" was organized by Professor Xiaming Xiao from University of Oklahoma and ECTAD China, during 14-15 November in Beijing. The two-day workshop attracted seventy participants from a wide range of international and national scientific institutes. The workshop focused on the following three topics: agricultural intensification and influenza dynamics, spillover of influenza at the human-pigs-poultry-wild birds interface and mathematical and statistical modeling of avian influenza. The meeting generated animated and in-depth discussions among Chinese and international research institutions attending the meeting which had the opportunity to strengthen their collaboration and reflect on the development of common research agenda.

### Upcoming activities:

1. The 4th module of the China Field Epidemiology Training Programme for Veterinarians (FETPV) will be held in Qingdao, China from 21 November to 16 December 2011.
2. As part of the "Training through Services" (TTS) activities, FETPV trainees will conduct the Field Surveillance Study in their respective regions after the 4th module of the China FETPV.