

UNTGH 4th Sub-working Group on Diseases at the Human-Animal Interface Meeting



▲ UNTGH Meeting

A meeting of the United Nations Theme Group on Health (UNTGH), Sub-Working Group on Diseases at the Human-Animal Interface, was held on 14 September 2012 to review progress and to seek agreement on an Action Plan for the group. Prof. John Edwards from FAO Emergency Center for Transboundary Animal Diseases (ECTAD) China chaired the meeting. Representatives from the WHO, UNDP, U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention (USCDC), Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention (China CDC), Changchun Veterinary Research Institute (OIE Reference Laboratory for Rabies), EU-China Trade Project, international embassies and FAO ECTAD China attended the meeting. Highlights of the meeting were presentations and discussion on recent developments with Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) and Rabies.

Prof. Edwards and Dr. Guo Fusheng described the emergence of the new strain of HPAI (2.3.2.1C) in Vietnam, and some discussion was revolved around the new vaccine for clade 2.3.2.1. Dr. Shi Jinghong from the Chinese National Influenza Center, China CDC described the collaborative project between the USCDC and China CDC at Dongting Lake and the preliminary findings of their study which demonstrated evidence of a wide variety of influenza viruses circulating in the area.

Dr. Sirenda Vong from the WHO and Dr. Feng Ye from Changchun Veterinary Research Institute (OIE Reference Laboratory for Rabies) gave presentations on the control of rabies in China. Participants strongly supported the idea of Rabies control. However, there was active discussion about the achievability of elimination. All parties showed willingness for collaboration in future.

During the meeting, the Action Plan for the sub-working group during September 2012 to September 2013 was presented and an Executive Team for the sub-working group was established.

EMPRES-i (The Global Animal Disease Information System) Training

Following the visit of a China MoA Delegation to Rome in May, a training on the Global Animal Disease Information System (EMPRES-i) was provided in China. Dr. Caryl Lockhart, Livestock/ Veterinary Specialist from FAO HQs, assisted by Ms. Zhou Xiaoyan, Geographic Information System (GIS) Specialist from FAO ECTAD China, delivered a two-day EMPRES-i Training in Qingdao from 17-18 September 2012. The main objective of this training was to enhance national capacity of information sharing on animal disease and outbreaks.

FAO全球动物疫病信息系统应用培训班

2012.09.17 青岛



▲ EMPRES-i Training in Qingdao

In total, 22 participants from the China Animal Health and Epidemiology Center (CAHEC) and China Animal Disease Control Center (CADC) participated in the training. Dr. Lockhart lectured on various components of the EMPRES-i System (including the mobile application), risk assessment and modeling. The participants showed great interest in learning these functions of EMPRES-i. It was recommended that an advanced training on risk assessment for a small group of specified personnel could be held in future.

FMD Surveillance Training in Inner Mongolia



▲ FMD surveillance training in Inner Mongolia

As part of the TCP Facility project "Cross Border Trade and Transboundary Animal Disease (TAD) Risk Reduction (with a special focus on Foot-and-Mouth Disease [FMD])", Prof. John Edwards, Senior Technical Coordinator, Dr. Guo Fusheng, National Technical Advisor, and Mr. Wang Jie, Program/ Operation Officer from FAO ECTAD China, one official from the China Animal Disease Control Center (CADC) and Inner Mongolia Provincial Center for Animal Disease Prevention and Control (Animal CDC) undertook a mission to Xinlinhot City, Inner Mongolia during 17-18 September 2012. The objectives of the mission were to emphasize the importance of the surveillance in the selected border areas, to standardize sampling methods, transportation and testing, as well as to agree on reporting deadlines.

During the mission, ECTAD China staff provided training on FMD sero-surveillance to 35 veterinary staff from Xinlinhot Prefecture Animal CDC (four Counties [Sunite You Qi, Sunite Zuo Qi, Abaga Qi, Dongwuzhuqin Qi] and one City [Erenhot]). All parties agreed to carry out the sampling process in early October and to send samples to the Prefecture Animal CDC by 15 October. Then all the samples will be sent to the Provincial Animal CDC for laboratory testing. This will ensure the TCPF project be delivered on time. The preliminary results will be shared and discussed before the tripartite meeting in the Russian Federation.

EPT+ Project In-country Consultation

The China component of the Emerging Pandemic Threats Plus (EPT+) Project commenced with a mission to Guangzhou on 21 September by Prof. John Edwards, Senior Technical Coordinator, Dr. Guo Fusheng, National Technical Advisor, Dr. Blesilda Verin, Regional Project Coordinator and Mr. Xu Tiangang, National Project Coordinator. They met with Dr. Liao Ming, Vice President of Huanan (South China) Agriculture University (HAU) and Guangdong Provincial Center for Disease Prevention and Control (Guangdong CDC) about the potential for collaboration on surveillance for influenza viruses in pigs. They also met with Ms Corina Monagin, Asia Region Coordinator for the USAID Predict program.

On return from Guangdong, the team and Dr. Scott Newman from FAO Headquarters (HQs) met with Dr. Song Ying from USCDC China and Dr. Su Yuelong, Director of Chinese National Influenza Center, China CDC about the possibility of collaboration in the Dongting Lake area. Further missions to these two provinces will be conducted in October.



▲ EPT+ project consultation in Guangzhou

Upcoming activities:

1. The 1st cohort of the China Field Epidemiology Training Program for Veterinarians (FETPV) trainees have finished their two-year training, and the Graduation Ceremony and final presentations will be held in Qingdao from 10-11 October 2012.
2. The National Project Coordinator and FAO ECTAD China staff will travel to Guangzhou and Wuhan to discuss with local partners and universities on the surveillance activities for the Emerging Pandemic Threats Plus (EPT+) Project.
3. The event for celebrating the 30th anniversary of FAO's presence in China and the World Food Day will be organized in Shandong Province, Jinan City on 16 October.