

Actively Engaging with National Partners - Strategic Planning Workshop for FAO ECTAD China Office

A Strategic Planning Workshop was held in Beijing from 14th to 15th January to identify future priorities and directions and enable better collaboration with the Veterinary Bureau (VB) and the Department of International Cooperation (DIC) of the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), and identifying future work priorities. The Workshop was attended by representatives from the VB, China Animal Health and Epidemiology Center (CAHEC), World Food Program (WFP), FAO China and all staff from FAO ECTAD China Office.



▲ Dr. Song Junxia is having discussion with Dr. Wang Youming

Representatives of VB and CAHEC expressed their willingness to collaborate with FAO and introduced their vision and priorities in 2013. The participants reviewed the works and activities being implemented by ECTAD China in 2012 and had active discussion of activities to be conducted in 2013. Because communication and branding had been identified as an area that needs further improvement, Ms. Xu Nan, Public Information Officer from the WFP was invited to share her experience with communication strategies of the WFP and to provide valuable recommendations on ECTAD China's communication and branding approaches.

The workshop not only actively engaged the key national partners of ECTAD China, but also produced a number of positive outcomes, including suggestions on how to integrate ECTAD China's priorities with international good practice, expertise and information sharing, One Health, resource mobilization, and communication and branding. All the participants agreed such activity enhanced the understanding of each organization's interests and work priorities, and will promote better cooperation and collaboration in future.



▲ Mr. Guo Fusheng is having discussion with Mr. Zhang Zhongjun



▲ Strategic Planning Workshop

Successful Completion of First Round of Sampling in Hunan and Guangdong Province

The first round of sampling of the China component of the Emerging Pandemic Threats Plus (EPT+) Project was successfully completed in January. This was conducted by a sampling team from the Harbin Veterinary Research Institute (HVRI), and supported by local Animal Disease Prevention and Control Centres (ACDC) in Hunan and Guangdong Provinces, VB of the MoA and FAO ECTAD China Office.

Dr. Guo Fusheng, National Technical Advisor, FAO ECTAD China; Mr. Xu Tiangang, National Project Coordinator of EPT+ accompanied the experts from HVRI in Hunan Province from 16th to 19th January when they collected swine swab and blood samples. A coordination meeting was organized in Hunan Provincial Center for Animal Disease Prevention and Control (ACDC) on 17th January. The sampling team was divided into two groups. One group took samples in the largest slaughterhouse in Changsha City, while another one took samples in pig farms and a slaughterhouse in West Dongting Lake District. Over 2,000 sets of nose swab and blood samples were taken in Changsha City. 100 nose swab samples were taken from the farms and 580 sets of samples were taken from the slaughterhouse in Dongting Lake District. Samples were sent to the HVRI for laboratory testing.

The sampling process in Guangdong Province also went smoothly and 3,000 samples were collected and were delivered to HVRI for testing.

It was agreed that the second round of sampling would take place in mid March 2013.



▲ Taking samples in a pig slaughterhouse

Upcoming Activities:

1. The Launching Ceremony for the recognition of the Animal Influenza Laboratory (AIL), Harbin Veterinary Research Institute (HVRI) as an FAO Reference Centre for animal influenza will be held in Harbin on 4th March 2013.
2. Prof. John Edwards, Dr. Guo Fusheng, Mr. Wang Jie and Mr. Tang Hao will attend the 7th Annual Regional ECTAD Meeting (AREM) and the "Strengthening Response to Emergencies – Implementing Good Emergency Management Practice (GEMP) in the Region of Asia and the Pacific Workshop" from 26th February to 1st March in Bangkok.
3. China Field Epidemiology Training Program for Veterinarians (FETPV) – Executive Training and Launching Ceremony of the second cohort of the China FETPV will be held from 9th to 10th March in Beijing.

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