

Improving Biosecurity of Live Bird Markets and Promoting Public-Private Partnerships

A Seminar on Strengthening Biosecurity in Live Bird Markets (LBMs) was jointly held by the Ministry of Agriculture of China and FAO on 23 July in Guangzhou. This was followed by a field visit to the Jiangcun Poultry Wholesale Market. It was attended by government representatives from the Veterinary Bureau, China Animal Disease Control Center (CADC), China Animal Health and Epidemiology Center (CAHEC), FAO ECTAD China Office, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) of Hong Kong, local veterinary authorities from Shanghai, Jiangsu, Zhejiang, Hunan, Anhui provinces (where H7N9 was experienced earlier this year). They were joined by stakeholders from market management, vendors and the private sector.

Since the initial outbreaks of HPAI in the country, the Chinese Government has implemented scientific prevention and control measures and achieved notable progress. However, surveillance and research indicate that LBM are a key risk factor in the transmission of avian influenza and other animal diseases. To address this issue, China MoA partnered with FAO and conducted a LBM biosecurity project using the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) approach in Guangzhou in April 2011. With FAO's assistance, poultry transportation cages, high pressure washers, disinfection equipment and PPEs were procured and delivered to the pilot market (Jiangcun Poultry Wholesale Market). Two sessions of training were delivered and a vehicle cleaning and disinfection station was also constructed by the project. All contributed to the improvement of biosecurity in the pilot market.



▲ Group Photo of Participants after the Opening Remarks

This is the first time that FAO China has introduced the PPP approach to address veterinary and animal health issues, with a special focus on LBMs in China. The project implemented in Guangzhou has achieved support from both the public and private sectors. The seminar and field visit provide an opportunity for all interested stakeholders to participate in extending the current experience to other places. It is expected that LBMs in other places will adopt this approach in the future.

The event was also reported by key national media, including CCTV, People's Daily, Xinhua News Agency and Beijing Youth Daily.

Second module of China FETPV 2nd Cohort held in Qingdao and Beijing

The 2nd module of the China FETPV program was held from 1 to 26 July 2013. The course was mainly delivered by the international experts team from the Royal Veterinary College (Prof. Dirk Pfeiffer, Prof. Javier Guitian, Dr. Julian Drewe and Dr. Guillaume Fournie). Chinese trainers also assisted in course delivery. This module focused on building up knowledge and skills on outbreak investigation, risk assessment and disease control strategies. The course was designed as a combination of interactive lectures, case studies, group exercises, scientific workshops, as well as group and individual assignments. After this module, trainees will start their field epidemiological studies and outbreak investigations. The next module is planned for late November 2013 when trainees will review their field practices.

One Health for Veterinary and Medical Field Epidemiologists – China FETPV & CFETP First Joint Course

The training course 'One Health for Veterinary and Medical Field Epidemiologists' was held from 15 to 19 July 2013 in Beijing. It was the first joint course between China Field Epidemiology Training Program for Veterinary (China FETPV) and Chinese Field Epidemiology Training Program (CFETP). International and Chinese trainers with different disciplinary background gave lectures on social behavior change, policy development, and interdisciplinary approaches. There were in total 43 participants, including 29 FETPV trainees and graduates plus 14 CFETP trainees. The course was to help the participants to understand how to collaborate among of multiple disciplines when dealing with zoonotic diseases and thus better fulfill their role as field epidemiologists working to health for people, animals and the environment.

The anonymous pre-survey showed that 86% participants had worked on real disease outbreak investigations while 72% of them had never been involved in a public health/animal health joints investigation. Based on this, the training focused on building up participants' inter-disciplinary thinking and the relevant skills to be used in outbreak investigation. There were interactive outbreak exercises in the afternoons. Participants were divided into groups containing those from both veterinary and medical fields. Participants were required to use what they had learned, i.e. epidemiological skills and an inter-disciplinary approach, to deal with complex public health issues.



▲ One Health Joint Seminar

The workshop was sponsored by the EU-China Trade Project (EUCTP) Phase II and co-organized by FAO ECTAD, CFETP and CAHEC. The Veterinary Bureau of the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention (China CDC), EU Delegation in China and the U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention (USCDC) also provide their support as usual. This event is a good example of inter-disciplinary and cross-sectoral cooperation using a One Health approach.

Upcoming Activities:

1. An Event on "Sharing Experiences on the Application of One Health Approaches in China" will be held on 8-9 August 2013 in Beijing.
2. China-Vietnam Bilateral Cross-border Meeting on Transboundary Animal Diseases will be held on 22-24 August in Halong Bay, Vietnam.