

Preface

The first version of this manual was written in 2004–2005 by FAO while the H5N1 HPAI crisis in Asia and parts of Eurasia was at a high level of occurrence and spread. Subsequently, the H5N1 virus spread to other continents. The second edition takes into account lessons learned from working with and engaging countries and regional bodies in the fight to prevent and better control H5N1 HPAI. Some of the examples used in the first edition were meant only for illustrative purposes but were interpreted by some readers as actions to be applied in their particular setting. Changes have therefore been made for clarity.

In addition, it is evident that the procedures recommended as an immediate response to an H5N1 HPAI incursion are often not sustainable, for logistical or socio-economic reasons, if the disease is entrenched throughout the poultry production sector, markets and the environment. Though the title of this manual refers to preparedness – which alludes to prevention and detection – users of the manual have requested that further guidelines address aspects to be implemented for the progressive control of the virus and its eventual elimination from poultry.

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