



RECOMMENDATIONS

Regional Workshop for Avian Disease Prevention and Control in Asia and the Pacific

Qingdao, People's Republic of China

29-31 August 2023

Considering that

- Poultry provides a valuable source of protein through both meat and eggs for many communities in the Asia Pacific Region and diseases of poultry continue to have an impact from commercial production to backyard or subsistence farming, livelihoods and food security.
- The global recurrence, spread and significant increase of high pathogenicity avian Influenza (HPAI) outbreak is affecting domestic and wild birds, and some terrestrial and aquatic mammals, reflecting a distinct change in the epidemiology and ecology of the virus and posing a threat to animal health, public health, food security and biodiversity.
- Members are exploring additional prevention and control measures to complement stamping out policies, which may impact scope and design of national and regional disease surveillance.
- Avian influenza is identified as a priority disease by Global and Regional GF-TADs Strategies.
- OFFLU (FAO-WOAH network of expertise on animal influenza) is a well-established global network providing technical advice, expertise and training to improve diagnosis and surveillance for animal influenza and collaborates closely with WHO on issues related to the human-animal-environment interface.
- Regional network among the WOAH reference laboratories for Avian Influenza, Newcastle Disease and other poultry diseases in Asia and the Pacific Region has been established in order to share timely disease outbreak and surveillance information, communicate new diagnostic and scientific developments, and inform disease control and preparedness.
- Partnerships between the public and the private commercial sectors can provide mechanisms to address prevention, preparedness and control of poultry diseases.

The workshop recommends:

Members

- To maintain transparency through timely and comprehensive reporting of avian influenza events to WOAH as described in the *Terrestrial Code* and detailed virus information sharing among networks as soon as it is available.
- To strengthen the regional effort to control avian infectious diseases by promoting information sharing on all bacterial and viral avian diseases in addition to those described in WOAH *Terrestrial Code*.
- To conduct appropriate, risk-based, comprehensive and systematic monitoring and surveillance in domestic birds, wild birds and other susceptible animal species to support early warning and risk management at the human-animal-environment interface.
- To support the OFFLU Avian Influenza Matching programme and WHO Vaccine Composition Meeting through provision of genetic data and genetic materials from new isolates.
- To intensify the exchange of relevant information and coordination with public health, environment (wildlife), and other relevant authorities.

- In consultation with the poultry sector, may consider the implementation of vaccination as a complementary disease control tool that is based on sound surveillance and takes into account local factors such as circulating virus strains, risk assessment and vaccination implementation conditions with an exit strategy.
- To actively participate in the development process of Global Avian Influenza Strategy and implement the regional specific actions under the strategy once it is adopted.
- To take responsibility for the continued participation in appropriate accredited proficiency testing programmes for the purpose of external quality assurance of their diagnostic assays.
- To improve and strengthen biosecurity practices in live bird market settings.
- To share the success stories of disease-free status, national and international collaborations, laboratory capacity, animal movement and border control measures, risk assessment, zoning and compartmentalization, and farm management practices in the Regional Workshop for Avian Disease Prevention and Control in Asia and the Pacific.

Regional Expert Group for Avian Diseases:

- To evaluate and pilot potential novel diagnostics for the rapid detection of avian disease pathogens.
- With the support of its Reference Laboratories and OFFLU, to provide up-to-date information to Members, the poultry sector and vaccine manufacturers on the genetic and antigenic characterisation of circulating virus strains, including comparison with existing vaccines, to infer levels of protection.
- To support members for strengthening diagnostic capacity and early warning systems.
- To continue to meet physically at least once a year and hold a virtual meeting between and maintain regular digital communications between physical meetings.

WOAH:

- To follow the changes in LPAI and HPAI virus ecology, epidemiology, validated sampling (e.g., novel technologies and environmental sampling) and diagnostic methods, to ensure the WOAH Terrestrial Animal Health Code and Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals are up to date with the latest science and feedback from implementation.
- To continue working with the Quadripartite partners to assess and address barriers to intersectoral collaboration and promote the One Health Approach to mitigate the risks of avian influenza.
- To coordinate with funding institutions, the private sector, resource partners and development agencies in support of strengthening the human resource capacity and sustainable infrastructure of Veterinary Services, including diagnostic capacity and early warning systems.