

Sri Lanka

Updates on Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD)

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WOAH Regional Capacity Training on Priority Animal
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- **Susceptible population**

Neat cattle - 1.65 million , buffalo - 49.000 (DAFH annual report 2025)

- **Production system overview**

- Predominantly **extensive** management in dry zone.
- **Intensive** and **semi intensive** management in wet and intermediate zones

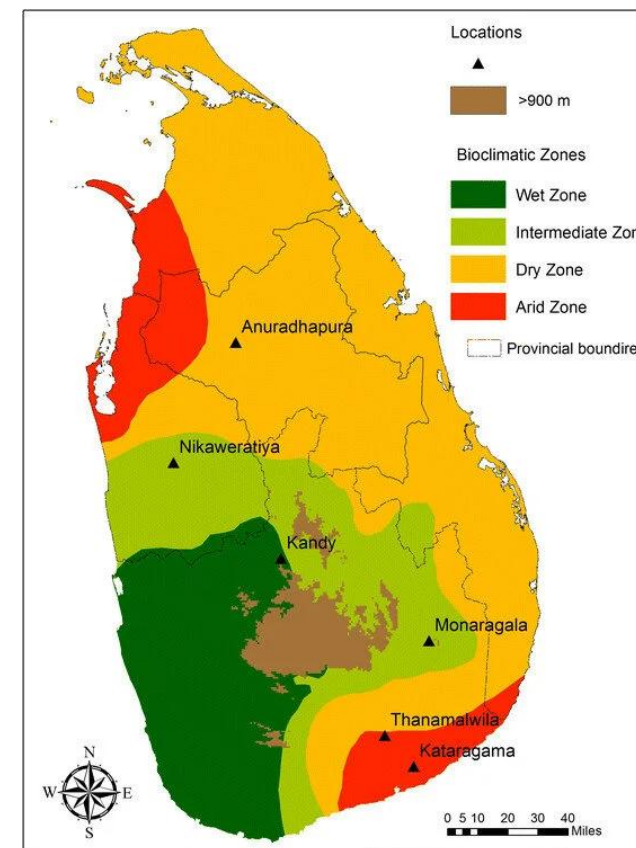
- **Disease prevention and control system**

- Notifiable-disease reporting under the Animal Diseases Act No. 59 of 1992
- Daily updates on WhatsApp hot line.



- **Major risks for LSD introduction / spread**

- Uncontrolled cattle and buffalo movement,
- Vector abundance (following monsoon seasons)
- Low biosecurity in extensive systems
- Limited vaccination coverage





Disease situation

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- **Disease status**

- **Endemic**; disease now reported in all 9 provinces

- **Geographic distribution**

- In 2020 started from Northern Province → 2021–22 Southern & Central provinces → present nationwide

- **Disease trend – three waves**

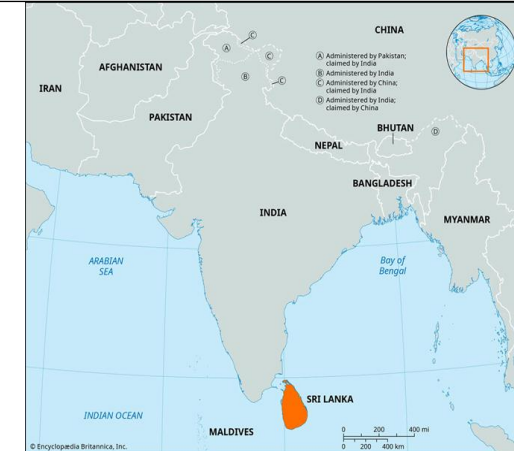
- **2020 (1st wave)** : mild, mostly **dermal form**; high morbidity, very low mortality
- **2021–2022 (2nd wave)**: reached southern and central provinces; **dermal form**
- **2023– ongoing (3rd wave)**: more virulent – **respiratory + dermal forms** – more deaths

- **Disease impact**

- Health impact - mainly reduced milk production, weight loss , complications , infertility
- Economic loss - loss of income ,treatment cost , vaccination cost
- Effects on farmers' livelihoods
- Restrictions in animal movement

- **Animal species affected**

- Cattle and buffalo (bovine)





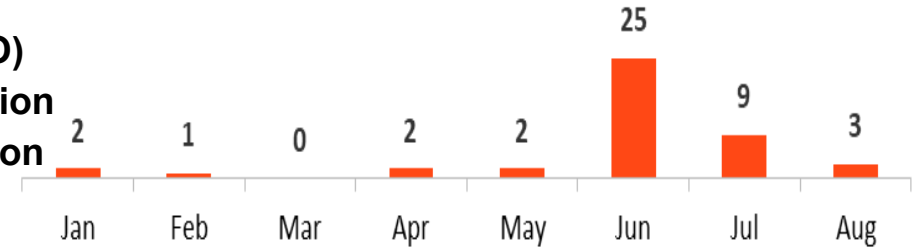
- **Surveillance activities (passive, active)**

- At present only passive surveillance.

LSD hotline reports by month, 2026

- **Prevention and rapid response measures against disease incursion**

- Field Veterinary Surgeon (**FVS**) → Veterinary Investigation Officer (**VIO**)
- Immediate attend of VIO do **epidemiological investigation, sample collection** and **dispatch** to main laboratory (Veterinary Research Institute) for **confirmation**
- Make aware the adjacent FVS, Provincial Director and the VIOs via hotline.



- **Control measures**

- Isolation of sick animals
- Vector control
- Protect healthy animals from vector contacts
- Cleaning and disinfection of affected farms
- Movement restrictions on live animals/products from affected areas

- **Vaccination programs**

- No mass scale vaccination programmes yet.
- Risk based vaccination using imported live attenuated vaccines.



- **Key laboratory diagnostic tests conducted**

- Veterinary Research Institute (VRI) is the national level veterinary research and diagnostic institution of Sri Lanka.
- **PCR testing** Central Veterinary Investigation Centre (CVIC) of VRI for confirmation.
- **Histopathological testing** at VRI.

- **National / sub-national laboratory network**

- There are **25 district-level Veterinary Investigation Centers (VICs)** as the regional level laboratories.
- Sample collection and submission to the VRI for identification and confirmation.

- **Proficiency testing and human resource capacity**

- Though the human resources are limited , skilled veterinary surgeons and Research assistants are available.





- **Collaboration mechanism (National and International)**

- **National level –**

- Regional level government institutes (Divisional Secretariate Offices, Gramaniladari offices) in animal movement control.
- Private pharmaceutical companies in vaccine importation.
- provide services to private sector dairy farms on disease diagnosis

- **International level -**

- LSD vaccine importation
- When need dispatch samples to Pirbright institute of UK for gene sequencing
- Collaborate with SAARC Agriculture Centre for trainings on “LSD surveillance and control measures in South Asia.



- **Challenges**

- Resource constraints for preparedness, prevention, detection and control
- Vector control problems after rainy season
- Limited vaccination coverage due to funding and vaccine-availability constraints
- Nomadic movement of livestock
- Illegal animal movement
- No post vaccination monitoring

- **Possible solutions**

- Engage policymakers and development partners to expand access to quality vaccine production .
- Continuous awareness of public sector and pay attention to stop animal movement and illegal transportation.
- Promote routine vector control measures and improve bio security measures in farms to limit vector breeding sites.
- Issue of vector control drugs freely or with 50 subsidy for farmers.



Future plans

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- Prepare LSD progressive control plan for the country.
- Implement active and passive surveillance activities in all districts.
- Expand and sustain nationwide vaccination coverage with quality vaccines
- Strengthen the early-warning and reporting system, anchored on immediate hotline notification
- Deepen regional collaboration through the ASEAN mechanism and continued WOAHH/WHIS reporting



Thank you!

Contact information

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