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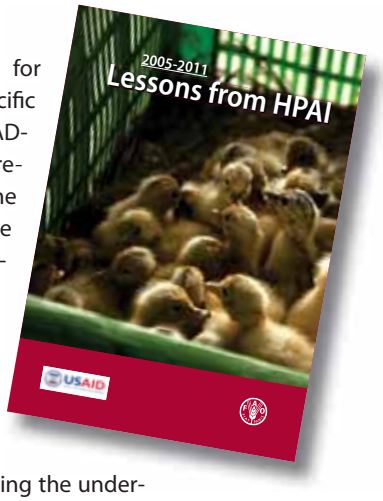
ECTAD-RAP News

EMERGENCY CENTRE FOR TRANSBOUNDARY ANIMAL DISEASES • FAO REGIONAL OFFICE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Taking stock of seven years

The Annual Regional ECTAD Meeting 2012 looks back at lessons learned from HPAI control



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Once a year around February, the entire team of the Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases (ECTAD) Regional office for Asia and the Pacific (RAP), have a get together and talk about things. It's called the Annual Regional ECTAD-RAP Meeting (AREM) and it brings together the best minds and professionals in the region to discuss the year gone by, share professional insights, assess the state of the pandemic and so on. It is an important meeting, for it is the one occasion when all the ECTAD-RAP Team Leaders as well as key technical and operational staff are guaranteed face-time with their colleagues to look back and look forward together.

AREM 2012 was held in Bangkok from February 20 to 22 this year. The theme selected, *From HPAI to One Health*, reflected changing times and imperatives. In the seven years since 2005, when ECTAD-RAP was set up, the fight against highly pathogenic avian influenza (H5N1 HPAI) has come a long way. In additional to a list of impressive regional achievements in coordination, building laboratory capacities and networking, among many others, ECTAD-RAP has played a role in deepening the understanding of the dynamics of H5N1 HPAI and also the challenges that lie ahead. As the world moves towards a more holistic and intersectoral approach to the prevention of high impact and infectious diseases, as encapsulated in the One Health approach, the lessons learned from HPAI acquire crucial importance. AREM 2012 was a time to take stock of ECTAD-RAP's work and to catalogue achievements, lessons learned, future directions, sustainability and other milestones.

The analysis process began in early January with the identification of eight regional themes that could capture the scope and depth of ECTAD-RAP's work in the Asia-Pacific region — Coordination, Disease

Right: Giant wall displays at the Annual Regional ECTAD Meeting summarized activites, outputs, outcomes, best practices and lessons learned in a thematic manner. Above, right: The output of the meeting was a document titled *Lessons from HPAI.*

The document emerging from this exercise, called Lessons from HPAI, will serve as a milestone in the battle against HPAI and also facilitate the transition to the One Health approach

Prevention, Disease Surveillance, Laboratory Capacity, Biosecurity, Socioeconomics, Wildlife, and Communication and Advocacy. To mine information in these areas, systematic and structured data-gathering templates were developed with the goal of standardizing the parameters along which stocktaking would be conducted. These included the situation in 2005 and in 2011; activities, outputs, outcomes and impact; successful practices and lessons learned; sustainability; and the future. The templates were filled in by ECTAD-RAP's Team Leaders as well as their professional staff: Dr Mat Yamage (Bangladesh); Dr Allal Lotfi (Cambodia); Dr Vincent Martin, Dr Fusheng Guo (China); Dr Mandavi Subba Rao (India); Dr

ECTAD-RAP's Dr Subhash Morzaria, Regional Manager, and Dr Wantanee Kalpravidh, Regional Project Coordinator, at the AREM workshop

James McGrane, Dr Eric Brun (Indonesia); Dr Tri Naipospos (Laos); Dr Murray Maclean (Myanmar); Dr Mohinder Oberoi (Nepal); and Dr Santanu Bandyopadhyay (Viet Nam), in addition to Dr Pawin Padungtod (Thailand), Dr Mia Kim (AGAH, Rome), Dr Wantanee Kalpravidh and Dr David Castellan (Thailand). Additional inputs came from Dr Scott Newman, Dr Yoni Segal, Dr Nicoline de Haan, Dr Julio Pinto and Ms Ariella Ginni, all from Rome.

Peer reviewed

The draft inputs were reviewed and critiqued at Bangkok, and requests sent for additional data or clarifications in some cases. The

ABOVE from left: Dr Nitish Debnath, Dr Mat Yamage, Bangladesh Country Team Leader, and Mr Tesfai Tseggai, FAO-Technical Assistance Services Team Leader, study some posters at the AREM meeting

templates resulted in a gallery of presentations on successful practices and lessons learned.

All data received went to Dr Laurie J Gleeson, consultant, who took notes through the discussions and professional question-answer jousting sessions, and then collated, edited, revised and arranged the data into draft chapters.

Significant technical inputs and guidance towards the document's content and final shape came from Dr Subhash Morzaria, Regional Manager, ECTAD-RAP. Inputs in coordination of data, editing, re-writing, design and production of the final document came from C Y Gopinath, Regional Communication Coordinator.

Day-to-day logistical support in the management and successful conduct of the 6th AREM, as well as production of all materials, gathering and systematic logging of data, and final printing of output materials came from the Operations team, including Mr BryceTyler Fieldhouse, Operations Manager; Ms Linda Muangsombut; Ms Chananut Auisui; Ms Ornusa Petchkul; and Ms Thapanee Tayanuwattana.

The document emerging from this exercise, called *Lessons from HPAI*, will serve as a milestone in the battle against HPAI. The valuable lessons and practices recorded in it will facilitate the transition from the HPAI focus of the last several years to the more holistic multisectoral focus prescribed by the One Health approach.

Of dogs and men

The 2012 Rabies Workshop *was organised by FAO, the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) from 19-20 January in Chiang Mai, Thailand. The goal was to collaboratively review member countries' accomplishments and progress in the control of rabies in the Southeast Asian region. The meeting was attended by 73 participants — 4 in every 10 of them women — representing the national animal and human health sectors of 12 countries in Asia, ASEAN and the South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), international and intergovernmental organisations (FAO, OIE, and WHO), and international NGOs.*

Recommendations included, among others, that ASEAN member states continue gathering data to better understand the impact of rabies in humans and animals, including indirect impacts on livestock, and assess the roles of dogs in society, as well as sociocultural behaviour and its implications for rabies prevention and control in humans; assess the cost-effectiveness of canine rabies vaccination and dog population control measures; apply dog population and movement management in compliance with OIE standards, and promote responsible ownership at community level; and develop national step-wise action plans leading to the progressive control of animal rabies with focus on dogs.

REGIONAL UPDATE

The animal and human sectors nexus

Planning the future of intersectoral collaboration

The Second Regional Workshop on Collaboration between Human Health and Animal Health Sectors on Zoonoses Prevention and Control

16-18 January 2012 • Chiang Mai, Thailand

It is always an important time when human health and animal health sectors sit at the same table to discuss collaboration, and that is what happened in Chiang Mai, Thailand from January 16 to 18 this year. The *Second Regional Workshop on Collaboration between Human Health and Animal Health Sectors on Zoonoses Prevention and Control*, was attended by 93 people representing the animal and the human health sectors of 17 countries from Asia and the Pacific — governments and national organizations, regional organizations (ASEAN and SAARC), international organizations (FAO, OIE and WHO), donors, and INGOs. A third of the participants were women. The workshop's reviewed progress made in the implementation of the five recommendations from the previous such workshop.

Countries have made considerable progress towards establishing a functional and sustainable coordination mechanism between the animal and the human health sectors, and advocated to raise awareness and obtain support from policymakers.

Participants shared good examples from their countries of collaboration between animal and human health sectors on zoonotic disease prevention and control, focusing on coordination mechanisms, capacity building, surveillance and response, One Health advocacy and risk communication, and laboratory diagnosis capacity.

FAO experts at the Inception Workshop (clockwise from left): Dr Subhash Morzaria; Dr Scott Newman; Dr Mat Yamage; Dr Ian Douglas; and Dr Santanu Bandyopadhyay.

The Inception Workshop on Partnership on Global Animal Health and Biosecurity Initiatives

27-28 February 2012 • Bangkok, Thailand

The FAO project on *Partnership on Global Animal Health and Biosecurity Initiatives*, funded by the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) held its inception workshop in Bangkok, Thailand from 27-28 February to develop the project's conceptual framework and implementation plan.

The meeting was attended by 55 participants from the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam, the participating countries, as well as technical staff from FAO HQ in Rome and ECTAD-RAP, WHO and OIE, in addition to representatives from DAFF.

In the project, FAO will safeguard animal and veterinary public health in line with DAFF's pre-border security goals primarily aimed at addressing disease risks at their sources in animals overseas, and help neighbouring countries to effectively manage animal diseases and reduce the prevalence of poultry diseases.

It was recommended that the Global Early Warning System (GLEWS) work with ECTAD-RAP to define a development strategy for EMPRES Global Animal Disease Information System (EMPRES-i) that would take it to the next level by integrating data on risk factors.

Another proposal was to establish a rabies control and prevention programme in the region involving international organizations such as FAO, OIE and WHO, with closer collaboration within member countries in the region on rabies control and prevention.

First-ever laboratory directors meet

The First Laboratory Directors' Forum Meeting organized by FAO on 23 January 2012 in Dhaka, Bangladesh was attended by 27 participants from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, in addition to the Australian Animal Health Laboratory, OIE and FAO.

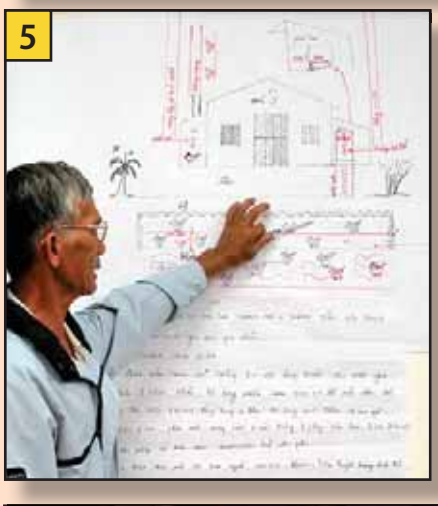
The meeting recommended that laboratory capacity building and laboratory networking activities be coordinated by Regional Leading Diagnostic Laboratories in South Asia and that the roles and responsibilities of the leading laboratories be in line with the international guidelines for foot and mouth disease (FMD), Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) and HPAI.

Among the recommendations was also that Regional Guiding Principles be prepared for priority diseases including FMD, PPR, and HPAI; that diagnostic laboratory and epidemiological networks be coordinated and supported through information sharing; and that guidelines be developedfor sample collection, transportation, submission and interpretation of diagnostic results, and awareness be created among all stakeholders.

Dr Nitish Debnath of FAO, Bangladesh speaks at the meeting

FAO tests new dialogue tools with Viet Nam's farmers

About 25 backyard farmers from Hau Giang province, Viet Nam, took part in an unusual four-day workshop to test out new participatory dialogue-based tools developed by FAO to communicate the science behind biosecurity and prevention to lay poultry farmers. The workshop, held towards end-2011, was an expanded follow-up on a similar workshop held in Bogura, Bangladesh earlier, to test a module representing One Health approaches to communicating with non-technical audiences on issues of health, livelihood, prevention and well-being. Participants were exposed to a module of 13 sessions, with additional simulations and role-play based games. Among these was body-mapping [2] in which participants drew the insides of human and chicken bodies to the best of their knowledge and discussed differences and similarities. In another simulation, they took on the roles of different body cells and disease viruses to understand their relative sizes [4]. The pre- and post- multiple option tests not only indicated that people enjoyed learning and left with a deeper understanding of the science underlying biosecurity, but also that their enthusiasm spilled over into the field exercise on the last day. Visiting selected farms, they mapped high-risk areas [1] and then developed detailed risk maps [3, 5] showing 'hot spots' where viruses could breed and how they could move around the environment and pose a disease threat to other farms and beyond.



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