



# GUIDE FOR THE PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF AVIAN FLU IN SMALL SCALE POULTRY





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REGIONAL OFFICE FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN



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*The Latin America and Caribbean countries are one of the main worldwide poultry smallholders such as: chickens, fowls, ducks, geese and other. Brazil is the main producer of chicken followed by Mexico, Argentina and Colombia. They have the most high-tech production systems, and also thousands of small poultry producers and owners of birds which contribute significantly to the food security of the people. The products of these animals are the most requested and consumed in the region. In 2004 the gross value of poultry products correspond to 23.5 thousand million American dollars.*

*The Avian Flu is a disease caused by a virus that spreads easily between birds. It usually presents itself is presented usually as an epidemic and transboundary disease that could affect human beings. The H5N1 avian flu virus is now circulating in Asia and Europe and it corresponds to the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) virus, able to cause a 100% mortality in birds and more than 50% mortality in human beings. In the American Continent, the H5N1 virus is not present at the moment. However, in recent years outbreaks of other variations of the HPAI virus have occurred in Canada, Chile, El Salvador, United States, Guatemala and Mexico, which were successfully controlled and eradicated.*

*One of the measures to prevent and control the Avian Flu is diffusing the characteristics of the disease, in order to allow poultry smallholders, livestock experts and veterinaries to recognize the disease and immediately inform the local veterinary authorities. In consequence, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, FAO, has prepared the "Guide for Prevention and Control of Avian Flu in small scale poultry in Latin America and the Caribbean". This publication should be widely distributed among the FAO country members in the Region and also to the Latin America Poultry Producers Association (ALA). It would be useful to early detect the Avian Flu and other similar diseases, to improve the biosecurity measures in small scale poultry farms, and also, to contribute to reduce the contact between wild and domestic birds in order to improve the prevention levels.*



*This Guide is based on a similar publication elaborated by FAO and The Agronomists and Veterinaries Without Frontiers (AVSF - CICDA), using a previous experience regarding the implementation of the prevention and control HPAI activities in the Asian countries. This Guide was adapted to the Latin America and The Caribbean situation and to its poultry production with the technical assistance of the following specialists: Dr. Juan García García, Dr. Miguel Angel Marquez, Dr. Ariel Antonio Mendes, Dr. Isidro Molfese (ALA), Dr. Luis Alberto Espinoza (OIRSA) and Dr. Moises Vargas-Terán (FAO).*

*FAO would like to thank all the contributions and expects this Guide be useful in the prevention and control of the Avian Flu in Latin America and the Caribbean.*

**Joseph Domenech**

Chief Veterinary Services  
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations  
FAO, Rome, Italy