

## WHAT TO DO TO PROTECT A FARM WHEN THERE ARE OUTBREAKS REPORTED IN THE COUNTRY OR IN THE PROVINCE?



- When you hear about an Avian Flu outbreak being reported in the country or in the province, it is possible that the disease is already very close to your farm. Poultry and human beings may have travelled from the infected area to your area before the disease was observed and the outbreak known.

*This is a high risk situation!*

*Consider that Avian Flu may be next door!*



- By following some basic principles, your farm will remain free of disease. These principles are:

1

*Keep the poultry in a protected place*

2

*Do not buy or accept new animals on to the farm*

3

*Decrease and control entries from humans*

4

*Sweep the farmyard, clean the animal buildings, the equipment, the motorbike, more regularly*

5

*Store the manure*

*Rely on yourself to keep your farm free of disease!*

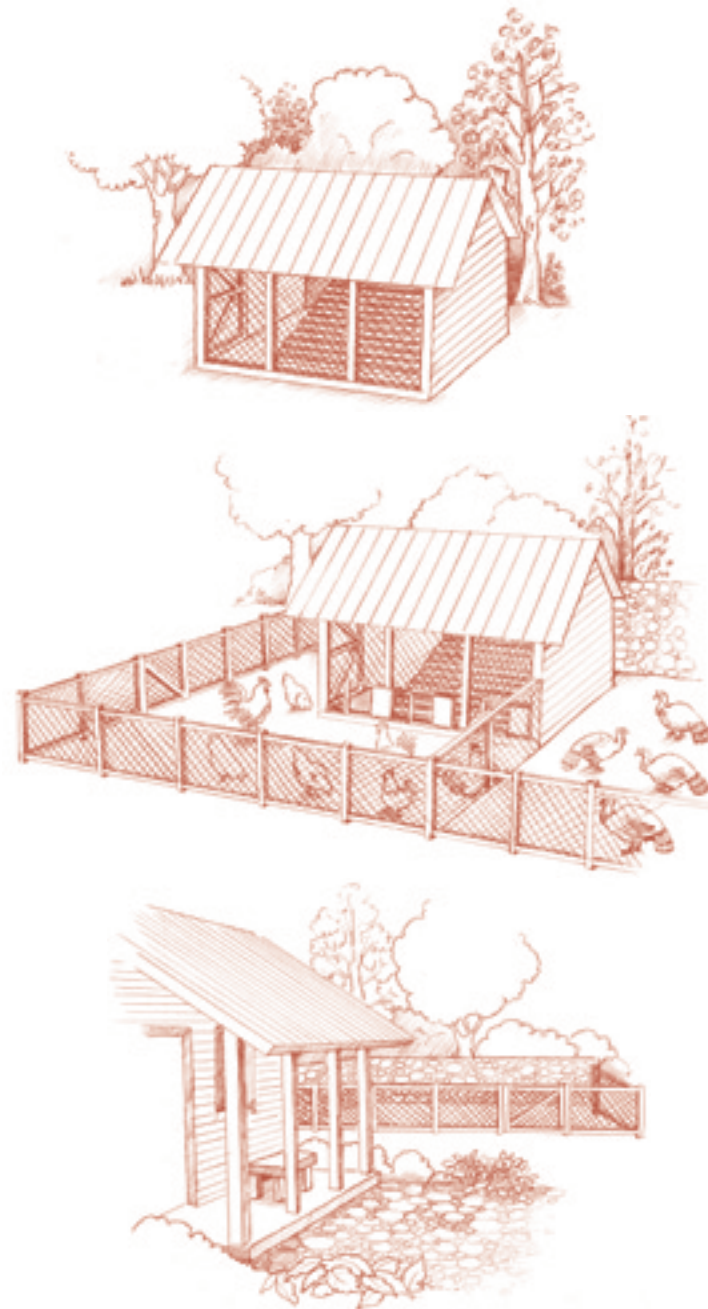


## PRINCIPLE

1

**Keep the poultry in a protected place**

- As mentioned before, in small-scale poultry production, poultry are more or less let free to walk around to get their feed themselves. When there is an outbreak nearby, allowing your poultry to be completely free, is a very risky practice.
- A closed building for the night and a fenced park (with a pond if necessary) for the day is a practical solution.
- Do not walk the ducks in the paddy fields anymore.
- Do not allow the poultry to walk freely the farmyard. Keep your poultry in a protected place: a fenced park, under the house protected with a fishing net or better, a poultry pen. Be sure that they have access to clean water and feed.
- Feed the poultry yourself (even if you may need to buy a bit of corn or other feed) rather than letting the poultry scavenge freely.



**Figure 8.** Three different types of protected places (fenced park; poultry pen; poultry kept next to the house within a fishing net)

## PRINCIPLE

2

**Do not buy or accept new animals on to the farm**

- Even if the new animals are isolated from the rest ("quarantine"), the risk of getting the virus is too high.
  - Do not introduce new animals even for a short duration.
  - Do not bring live poultry for cooking at home. If it is necessary to do it, prepare the poultry in a separate place which can be cleaned thoroughly. Burn or bury the feathers and other wastes away from the farmyard.
- Avoid taking your poultry to the market for selling and taking it back again to your farm if you do not manage to sell it all. In case you have to take back the poultry, keep it separated from the rest.
- Do not attend competition of fighting cocks.



**Figure 9.** Fighting Cocks

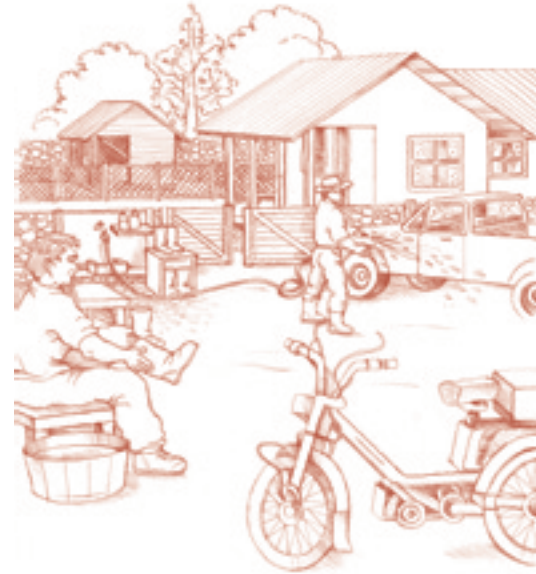


## PRINCIPLE

3

**Decrease and control entries from humans**

- Only family members should be allowed to come on to the farmyard.
- Everyone, including family members, should wash with soap, brush and disinfect their hands, shoes, sandals, wheels of motorbike / bicycle, at the farm gate before going onto the farmyard.
- Only one family member should take care of the poultry.



## PRINCIPLE

4

**Sweep the farmyard, clean the animal buildings, the equipment, the motorbike, more regularly**

- The farmyard should be swept everyday (wear a mask to do it)
- The fenced park and poultry housing should be swept and brushed every day if possible.
- Take away the faeces and the unconsumed feed. Destroy or store them in a protected place.
- Wash, brush and disinfect the small equipment more regularly.





## PRINCIPLE

5

**Store the manure**

- Viruses can stay alive in the manure for many weeks. If the manure is spread too quickly in the fields, the virus may contaminate poultry.
- Composting enables:
  - Killing bacteria and viruses.
  - Increase the quality of the manure for fertilization.
- Method:
  - Take the manure away from the poultry everyday.
  - Store the manure (away from ponds, wells, etc):
    - in a plastic bag,
    - on the ground under a plastic,
    - in a hole in the ground
  - When you have 10 kilos or more, add some water to the manure (2,5 litres for 10 kilos of manure)
  - Add some quicklime (half of kilo for 10 kilos of manure)
  - Turn twice a week for the first 2 weeks and then once a week
- The length of time required for decomposition is extremely variable from compost to compost (depending on volume, particle size, frequency of turning, moisture content, ambient air temperatures, etc).
- The compost is ready when the temperature has come down, when the colour is dark brown and when it has a humus smell.

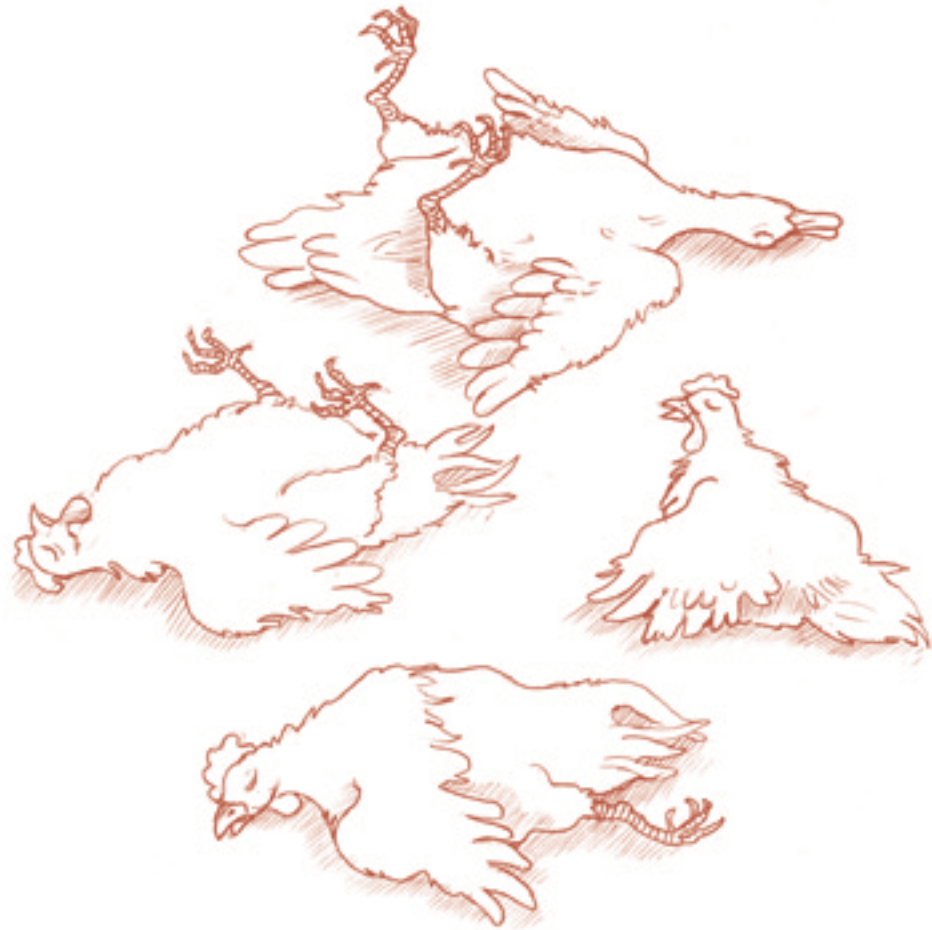




### What to do when there is high mortality on the farm?

- In poultry production, the death of few birds can be a regular problem. Poultry may die for several reasons, including because of diseases.
- Some diseases are not so important because they will only affect a small number of animals.
- Avian Flu is different: consequences can be much severe. This means that when you observe High Mortality you should think about Avian Flu.
- For the farmer or the veterinary, it is impossible to be certain that the death of the poultry is due to Avian Flu. But they should act as if it was Avian Flu. This is why, in this chapter, we refer to “Suspect Mortality”.
- **What is suspect mortality?**
  - Sudden death of your poultry (this means that your chicken were healthy and they die suddenly in less than 24 hours)
  - and a daily mortality over 5 % of your flock during few days.

For instance, if you have 50 chickens, the first day you have 3 chickens dead, without symptoms, and the second day 3 again, and the third day 4 and so on.



**Figure 10.** Sick and dead birds.

- When you have suspect of mortality in a farm:
  - **Only the laboratory can confirm that it is or that it is not Avian Flu.**
  - **The farmer and the veterinary must act before getting the results from the laboratory. If you wait for the laboratory results, the situation will become impossible to control.**
- When you observe suspected mortality on your poultry, **the farmer and the veterinary must work together.** Their objectives must be:
  - To eliminate the virus from the infected farm as soon as possible.
  - To avoid contamination of other farms.
  - To avoid infection of human beings.
  - To report immediately to the Village & Commune leaders and to the District Veterinary Officer.
  - To write down information about the event.

#### **The farmer must inform immediately the veterinary**

- Usually, most of the small-scale poultry producers do not use the services of the veterinary to take care of the poultry. One of the reasons is because the economic value of few poultry is not high enough in comparison with the fees of the veterinary or the cost of treatment.
- However, when suspected mortality occurs, it is crucial to

inform the veterinary or the district vet. This is the law, but it is also simply in the farmers' interests. Why?

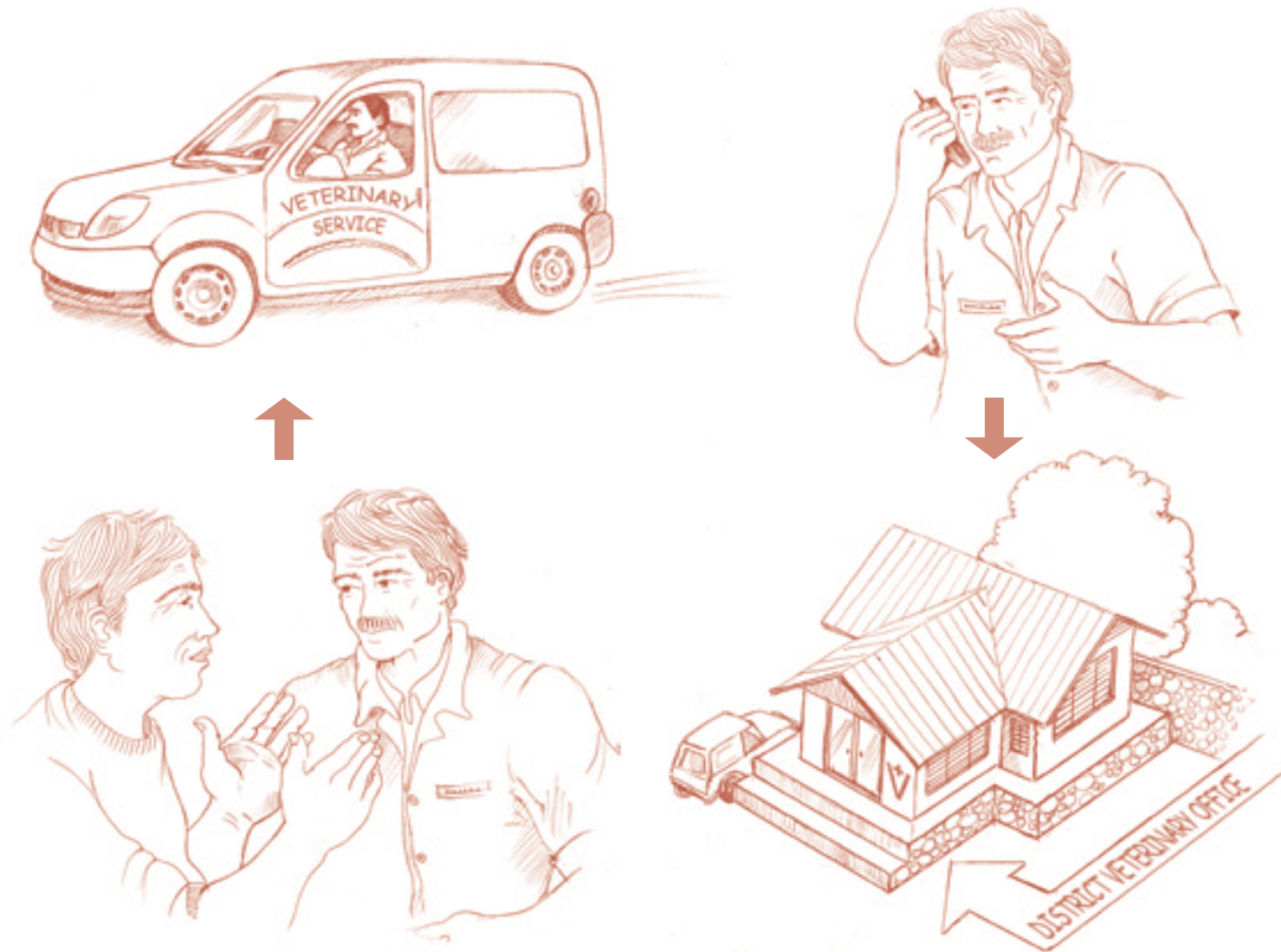
The veterinary will help eliminate the virus from the farm:

- It will be safer for the farmer and his family and will reduce the risk of the farmer and his family of getting sick.
- The farmer will be able to restart poultry raising quicker.
- It will help prevent the disease go to the neighbour's farms. If the neighbours' poultry are kept free of the disease, it may be possible for you to buy some poultry from them to restart poultry activities.
- It is possible that the farmer receives money from the State to compensate for the economic losses.

#### **The veterinary must:**

- Immediately visit the farm and give the appropriate advise to prevent the disease from spreading.
- Then inform the District Veterinary Office (DVO) as soon as possible.





**Figure 11.** Veterinarian contacting the District Veterinary Office (telephone or visit).