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FAO Viet Nam Newsletter

Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases (ECTAD)

FAO supports Viet Nam's Department of Animal Health and Department of Livestock Production with HPAI Surveillance Activities since 2012



EPT2 PROJECT DOCUMENT SIGNED TO KEEP LIVESTOCK AND PEOPLE IN VIET NAM SAFER FROM DISEASES

The Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases (ECTAD) Programme of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Viet Nam is launching the "Emerging Pandemic Threats 2 (EPT2): Risk Mitigation and Management of Human Health Threats along Animal Value Chains" project with the goal of making both livestock and people in Viet Nam safer from potential diseases.

In this globalized world characterized by ever-increasing cross-border movement of animals and people, farming intensification, increasing global demand for livestock and transforming ecosystems, it is not a matter of "if" the next zoonotic outbreak or pandemic will take place, but rather, "when". In light of "when", we must take actions to be prepared to detect the event early, rapidly respond, and mitigate the impacts on people, animals, livelihoods, food security, and global economies.

Over the last 8 years, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) and FAO have collaborated closely to combat highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 which had significant impacts to the agriculture and public health sectors, trade, and tourism.

Significant financial and livelihood impacts were also felt by farmers, traders, vendors and others linked to poultry production, poultry sales and value chains. During this long period of collaboration between MARD and FAO on this zoonotic disease, key activities and outcomes were achieved in areas such as coordination, surveillance, laboratory services, vaccination, biosecurity, socio-economics, communications and advocacy.

Through funding provided by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the long-standing successful collaboration between FAO ECTAD Viet Nam and MARD will continue. The new project will build upon successes of the collaborative work accomplished in the HPAI program, fill additional gaps, and result in the Government of Viet Nam becoming even better prepared to detect a disease event early, rapidly respond, and mitigate the impacts on health of people and animals, food security and food safety. Collaboration with MARD Departments of Animal Health (DAH), Livestock Production (DLP), National Agriculture Extension Center (NAEC) and CITES Management Authority of the Viet Nam Administration of Forestry (VN Forest) will enable the new project to succeed.

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#EmergingPandemicThreats2
project at a glance

Collaborate for One Health:
Strengthening the Animal health-
Human health-Wildlife-Ecosystem
interface

**Make value chain safe to get healthy
and disease-free food to our tables,
#FromFarmToChopsticks**

**Prevent and control
diseases based on
Epidemiological approach**

**Cross-border collaboration
to better detect and
control diseases**

Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases - FAO ECTAD Viet Nam

The four main components of the new project include: 1) Collaborating for One Health at the animal-human-wildlife-ecosystem health interfaces; 2) Making value chains safer to get healthy, disease-free food to our tables; 3) Preventing and controlling diseases based on epidemiological approach; and 4) Strengthening cross-border collaborations in the Lower Mekong and Red River Deltas to better detect and control diseases. While this project focuses largely on a sustainable disease prevention and control, it will also contribute to food safety, food security and improved livelihoods for livestock farmers.

A signing ceremony to celebrate the commencement of the project "Emerging Pandemic Threats 2 (EPT2): Risk Mitigation and Management of Human Health Threats along Animal Value Chains" was held at MARD in September 16, Hanoi with the presence of FAO Viet Nam, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), and USAID Viet Nam.

CHILD EDUCATION FOR RABIES PREVENTION

In Vietnam, it is estimated that approximately 30% of human deaths due to rabies are children. Field reports reveal that children are considered highly vulnerable to rabies as they love playing with dogs and most children do not think a friendly dog that approaches them could ever hurt them.

Unfortunately, because young children are short, dogs often bite children in the face or head. Bites to these locations are particularly dangerous because of the rich nerve supply and the short time frame that would take the rabies virus to enter the child's brain resulting in death. In some instances, children get bitten by dogs and do not tell their parents or guardians about their dog encounter, resulting in children not receiving appropriate care following a dog bite.

The Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Disease (ECTAD) of the Food and Agriculture Organizations (FAO) of Viet Nam, in close partnership with Department of





Animal Health within the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development has implemented a rabies outreach communication initiative that targets and educates children, teachers and parents about rabies prevention and control.

“Education is a key element in protecting children from rabies. To this end, FAO ECTAD Viet Nam, in collaboration with our partners, implemented an outreach communication initiative to enhance inter-sectoral coordination and increase rabies awareness among children and their parents. Our goal is to facilitate behavioural change through education resulting in an increased awareness about the importance of proper wound washing followed by seeking early medical care after being bitten by a dog. The communication initiative also encourages more dog owners to vaccinate their dogs,” said Dr Scott Newman, Senior Technical Coordinator of ECTAD Viet Nam.

FAO ECTAD has facilitated more than 160 school-based education and awareness events in 30 schools in Phu Tho and Thai Nguyen Provinces and has reached to more than 18,000 children, teachers and parents – many of whom own dogs. It is believed that by teaching students, they will carry this knowledge home to their families and

friends, and in turn disseminate information to their peers and the wider community.

“We have learned a lot today such as needing to wash bite wounds with soap and clean water, getting vaccinated as soon as possible and telling our parents to vaccinate our dogs as well as puppies annually” Hoang Thu Nga – a fourth grade student from Bao Ly Junior Secondary School in Phu Binh District.

“We strongly believe that teaching children about rabies provides a solid base for decreasing risks of rabies infection and supports a rabies-free future.” said by Dr Nguyen Tuan Anh, Thai Nguyen Preventive Medicine Centre.

FAO ECTAD Viet Nam has assisted the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development in developing a wide range of rabies communication materials including posters, factsheets, brochures and films (hotlinks). These collective efforts aim to decrease the number of rabies-related human deaths by increasing the dog vaccination coverage and engaging all partners in a multi-sectoral One Health approach to move towards rabies eradication in Viet Nam.



10 HATCHERY EXPERTS COLLABORATE TO INSPIRE CLEAN HATCHERY PRACTICES IN VIET NAM

Who are Hatchery Experts?

Hatchery Experts have excellent knowledge on proper management of small and medium scale hatcheries and parent flock farms. Top experts have been selected through a rigorous training and evaluation process developed by the Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases (ECTAD) of Food and Agriculture (FAO) Viet Nam and the Department of Livestock Production within the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (DLP-MARD).

Training of Trainers (TOT)

In order to effectively disseminate biosecurity guidelines for hatcheries and parent flock farms in Viet Nam, FAO ECTAD Viet Nam organized a series of Training of Trainers (TOT) on hatchery good practices and biosecurity in collaboration with DLP. Funded by the United States International Poultry Development Program (UIPDP), these courses aimed to strengthen biosecurity knowledge of the trainees (the hatchery expert candidates), and enabled them to improve the participatory training methodology for their future trainings.

After two TOTs in April and June 2015, 10 hatchery experts were selected by FAO ECTAD Viet Nam and DLP to teach hatchery owners and workers good hatchery biosecurity practices at the ground level, where stakeholders will directly benefit. The hatchery experts will also serve as technical mentors to farmers and

workers and continuously communicating with them for further supervision and providing feedbacks.

By improving biosecurity, not only will farmers be able to prevent diseases such as avian influenza, but they also gain economic benefits from better production. After H5N1 HPAI (Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza) emerged in Viet Nam in 2003, poor biosecurity in poultry farms has been identified as one of the factors that contributed to threatening food security and food safety along the poultry value chain in Viet Nam.

“After witnessing the improved health and quality of ducklings from the pilot farms where we implemented our minimum biosecurity guidelines, we are confident of the impact and importance of biosecurity standards in terms of disease prevention and food safety. We believe that if the 10 hatchery expert trainers effectively use our biosecurity guidelines, biosecurity standards at small and medium scale hatcheries and parent flock farms in Viet Nam will improve significantly.” said Scott Neman, the Senior Technical Coordinator of FAO ECTAD Viet Nam. Along with the training of hatchery experts, FAO ECTAD Viet Nam will further map hatcheries in 4 major poultry provinces in the north of country to assess hatchery networks and propose standard designs and infrastructure for establishing new small to medium scale hatcheries.

ASSESSMENT ON IMPLEMENTING THE INTER-MINISTERIAL CIRCULAR OF COORDINATED PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF ZONOTIC DISEASES

Key fact

Global experience in prevention and control of H5N1 HPAI (Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza) has shown that the cooperation between the public health and agricultural sector is crucial, and, where successfully applied, results in significant positive benefits. In order to mitigate risks from zoonotic diseases and to ensure sustainable and effective coordination and collaboration, mechanism between the human and animal health sector are vitally important and need to be strengthened ultimately minimizing impacts of diseases on animals, people, and national economies.

Ministry of Health (MOH) and Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) issued the Inter-ministerial Circular 16 “Guidelines for coordinated prevention and control of zoonotic diseases” on 15 July 2013. The Circular aims to address gaps in coordination, information sharing and collaboration between the human and animal health sectors in surveillance, risk assessment and response activities at central and local government levels. After two years of , international partners (FAO and WHO) and government counterparts have started to assess implementation, identify challenges and document lessons learned to date, for improved future One Health success.

An inter-sectoral mission team including communication and technical staff from WHO, FAO, MOH and MARD conducted a joint assessment in Thanh Hoa and Binh Dinh Provinces. The team was able to conduct a number of in-depth interviews with key managers and officials at the Province, District and Commune level in order to gain insights and suggestion for future development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) to compliment Circular 16. It is important that:

- Information about Circular 16 reaches Provincial, District, Commune, and Village level animal and public health professionals. The assessment found that most local participants believe Circular 16 is useful during

emergency outbreak situations but they do not fully understand the benefits of joint collaboration between the public health sectors for their routine work.

- Currently routine information sharing across sectors happens informally through personal relationships with other professionals.
- Joint outbreak investigation teams remain to be established, and joint investigation is not conducted routinely.
- Public and animal health sectors are unaware of communication plans and activities implemented by their counterparts as result of limited coordination.
- Disease reporting associated with Circular 16 are considered by some colleagues as repetitive with the existing guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health.

FAO and WHO have briefed national and provincial officials on these findings. Both agencies are committed to providing further technical assistance to strengthen Circular 16 implementation in the form of: 1) developing standard operating procedures (SOPs); 2) training workshops; 3) development of joint risk communication plans; 4) reinforcing inter-sectoral outbreak response; and 5) information sharing.



**Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations**

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FAO ECTAD Viet Nam projects are financially supported by the United States Agency of International Development (USAID), the Government of Republic of Korea, the Government of Australia, the United States International Poultry Development Program (UIPDP), and the UN One Plan Initiative