

## The fourth OIE Regional Meeting on Strengthening Animal Health Information Networking in Asia

### (Final version) Conclusions and Recommendations

#### (Background)

1. OIE/Japan Trust Fund (JTF) Project on Strengthening HPAI control in Asia was launched in April 2008. The project is planned to be carried out for five years from April 2008 to March 2013.
2. The 4<sup>th</sup> OIE Regional Meeting on Strengthening Animal Health Information Networking in Asia was organised in Chiang Mai, Thailand from 14 -16 September 2011 with the support from the Japanese Government, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) in collaboration with the Department of Livestock Development (DLD), Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives of Thailand, with the main objectives as follows:
  - (1) To share updated information and experience in animal health information networking
  - (2) To review progress made by the OIE Members in Asia in line with the previous meeting recommendations
  - (3) To discuss how to improve animal health information networking to strengthen animal disease control and prevention measures at national and regional levels
  - (4) To discuss and review current H5N1 HPAI control measures in the OIE Members in Asia in particular focusing on vaccination
3. The meeting was attended by participants from 21 countries/territories namely: Bangladesh, Brunei, Bhutan, Cambodia, PR China, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong SAR, Indonesia, Japan, RO Korea, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam, local observers (Thai-DLD) and the FAO.
4. The participants actively participated in discussions to share their progress in animal health information networking made after the third meeting in 2010.
5. Experience and lessons learnt in HPAI control including vaccination policy/strategy by the participants and the governments that they represented were well shared for future actions/activities to be developed and implemented to further improve the information networking.

## **(Recognition)**

The Meeting recognised:

6. The efforts and progress made by National Veterinary Services of OIE Members after the third meeting in 2010 to improve and strengthen the disease reporting mechanism at six stages; namely farmer, private veterinarian, local Veterinary services (including laboratory) and central veterinary services (including laboratory) levels.
7. Several OIE Members in Asia considered that constraints still exist in animal health information networking due mainly to the following.
  - 1) Limited knowledge in animal diseases and notification
  - 2) Delay in reporting
  - 3) Limited incentive to report diseases, for example, inadequate compensation mechanism
  - 4) Limited capacity to identify infectious diseases of animals and collection of appropriate specimen at field level for diagnosis
  - 5) Limited capacity in diagnostic laboratories at local and central levels and laboratory networking
  - 6) Limited legislation support
  - 7) Limited logistic support and financial resources
8. Progress achieved by some OIE Members in revising/drafting their incentive scheme/provision in order to encourage farmers/veterinarians/para-professionals to report disease outbreaks to the veterinary authorities.
9. Efforts made by some OIE Members to improve communication means (through telephone, fax, internet, SMS gateway, radio, etc.) for disease notification at field and local levels.
10. That good coordination and collaboration between OIE and other international and regional organizations, and bilateral development agencies is required to avoid duplication and make the most of their resources to promote animal health.
11. H5N1 HPAI is still persistent in some OIE Members in Asia even though they have made great efforts to improve the disease control and some OIE Members have experienced reintroduction of the disease or emergence of new clade of HPAI virus.
12. The continued efforts to eradicate HPAI in Asia by strengthening control and preventive measures, in particular early detection, stamping out, movement control, enhanced bio-security, post outbreak decontamination and surveillance systems.

The meeting reaffirmed that:

13. Vaccination against H5N1 HPAI is a relevant complementary measure in specific situations to prevent and control the disease. Vaccination should be always accompanied by and used with other classical control measures including stamping out, active surveillance systems and movement control.

### **(Recommendations)**

The Meeting recommended:

14. That veterinary legislation be revised and be implemented in some countries/territories to regulate/improve/introduce adequate incentives, e.g. appropriate compensation scheme so that farmers and veterinarians will be encouraged to report and notify animal diseases to the relevant veterinary authorities.
15. That national Veterinary Services continue working to improve public awareness and veterinarians'/para-professionals' knowledge and capacity to identify and report animal diseases.
16. That the national veterinary services identify and support appropriate and sustainable laboratory capacity including both human and physical resources to address the need for animal disease surveillance and control.
17. OIE Members in Asia reporting HPAI, either sporadically or persistently, continue to review their control strategies, and adopt appropriate, evidence based control measures.
18. That OIE Members in Asia share information on HPAI virus strains circulating in their countries/territories including antigenic and genetic characteristics of these viruses.
19. That the participating countries/territories make efforts to establish/strengthen network and communication amongst them to share relevant information and data to improve the animal health situation in Asia.
20. Member countries/territories, who have not yet requested the OIE-PVS Evaluation, GAP Analysis and OIE Legislation missions, are encouraged to use these OIE initiatives to strengthen/improve their veterinary services including their national animal disease surveillance systems.

21. The OIE Regional Meeting on strengthening animal health information networking be organised annually to encourage OIE Members in Asia to strengthen animal health information networking in the region, with the following broad objectives.

- (1) To share updated information concerning animal health information networking at national level
- (2) To share experience, good practice and lessons learnt in relation to the function of animal health information networking
- (3) To review progress and achievement made by countries/territories in relation to animal health information networking
- (4) To discuss effective animal health information networking to strengthen animal disease control and prevention measures at national and regional levels

**(Acknowledgement)**

22. The participating countries/territories acknowledged the support from the government of Thailand in hosting the fourth meeting and continuous support from the Japanese Government (MAFF-Japan) through the JTF (Japan Trust Fund) Project.