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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



Viet Nam - China aim for safer trade of animals and animal products

The fourth Viet Nam - China Bilateral Meeting on collaboration to address transboundary animal diseases took place in Ha Noi, Viet Nam, with technical support from the Food and Agriculture Organization's Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases (FAO ECTAD) and financial support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Thirty-four representatives from the governments of Vietnam and China gathered in Ha Noi on 26 – 27 January 2016 to share information about disease outbreaks and trade requirements, animal and zoonotic diseases surveillance results, value chain studies on both sides of the border, and to develop road map for to establishing safer trade of animals and animal products between the two countries.

As Viet Nam and China share a long border, unofficial livestock trade is unavoidable to keep up with the market

demand for animal protein. Both countries agreed to facilitate safer trade of poultry and cloven hoof animals in order to minimize the introduction and spread of priority diseases including Foot and Mouth Disease and Avian Influenza. In the aim of achieving this goal, strategies to enable safer trade in livestock and animal products were discussed.

The meeting, facilitated by Dr. Wantanee Kalpravidh from the FAO ECTAD Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, concluded with development of a roadmap and timeline for a results based collaboration to enable safer trade of animals and animal products. Based on 3 major milestones, 2016-2017 • 2017-2018 • 2018-2019, both parties agreed to accomplish major results and activities during each milestones and these milestones will act as a basis to guide and monitor the progress. For Milestone 1 (2016-2017), Disease information sharing at all levels will be commenced, and a draft with agreed definitions, locations and terms for proposals for safer trade will be prepared. After, in Milestone 2 (2017-2018), through

information sharing, people will aim to prepare the required documents, terms required, recognized constraints to consult with stakeholders. This will finally result in an agreed set of information that has been agreed and utilized. Lastly, in Milestone 3 (2018-2019), people agreed to pilot at least one site to have a pathway for safer trade and get the result submitted to policy makers, customs, private sector and other stakeholders.

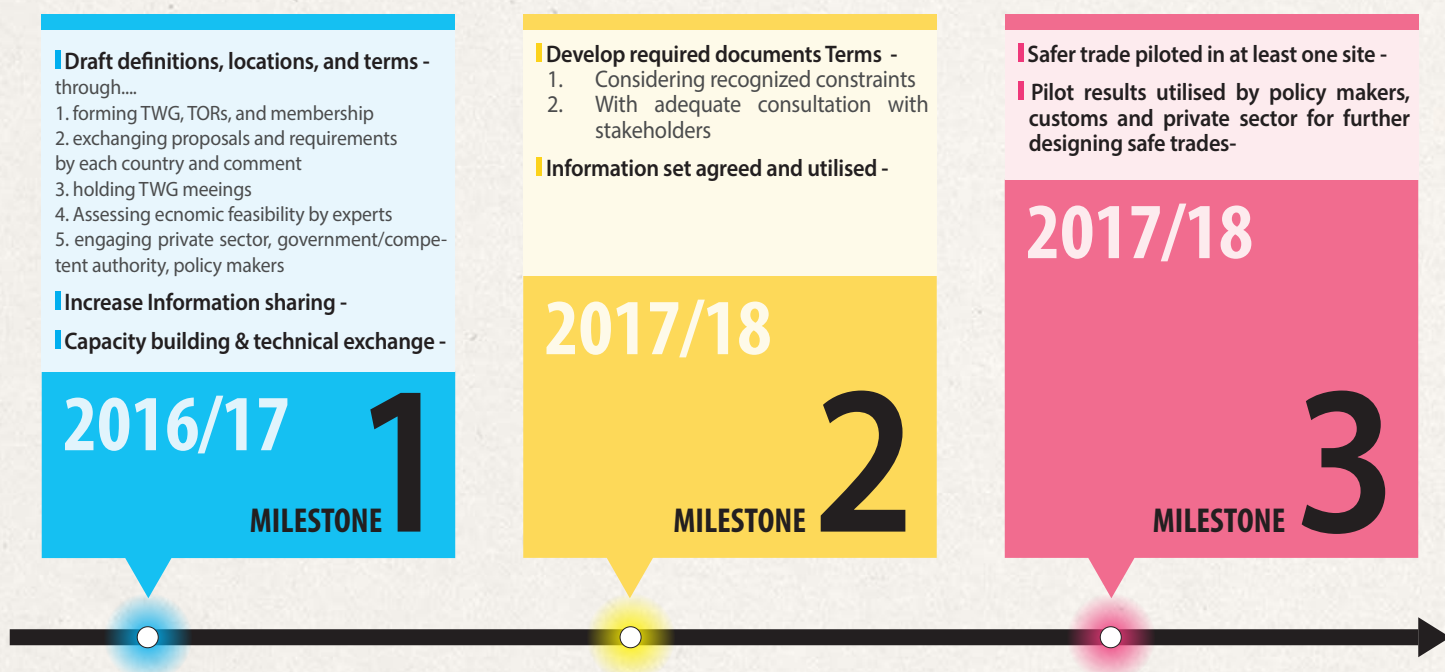
The meeting also agreed to establish a technical working group (TWG) to review and suggest necessary modifications to import and export requirements, to conduct feasibility study and to organize a stakeholder consultation before the end of 2016. For the revision of planned activities, the next meeting is planned to be organized in China in the first quarter of 2017.

“This cross-border meeting is a first and important step in evaluating the feasibility of safer trade among Viet Nam and China. Over the past two days, we witnessed Viet Nam and China’s strong willingness and interest to keep both countries safer from transboundary and emerging infectious diseases. We hope this cross- border meeting will serve as a milestone for effective disease control in the region and enhance public health security” stated Dr. Scott Newman, the Senior Technical Coordinator of FAO ECTAD Viet Nam.

Broad Road Map towards safe and formal trade



3 milestones for the China-Vietnam Collaboration on Transboundary Animal Diseases (TADs)



* Milestones and activities to be revised at future meetings

REACHING THE UNREACHED, ETHNIC MINORITIES IN VIET NAM

Involving ethnic minority groups for rabies prevention and elimination

Ethnic minority groups (EMG) in Viet Nam are considered as one of the most vulnerable population groups to rabies accounting for about 41% of total human death cases during the last five years since 2011. Most of them live in remote areas and have limited access to resources and services such as education/ information, vaccines and medical services. Their low awareness about rabies in dogs and humans leads to wrong risk perception and practices toward the fatal but preventable disease. The recent joint FAO-DAH field missions further revealed that no education or outreach activities were held to the group, none of them were fully aware of safety of modern human vaccine, the importance of annual dog vaccination and proper wound washing despite the fact that they all raised dogs for generations and live in rabies high-risk areas.

As an effort to reach the unreached groups, the Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Disease (ECTAD) of the Food and Agriculture Organizations (FAO) of Viet Nam, in partnership with Department of

Animal Health within the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), General Department of Preventive Medicine within the Ministry of Health (MOH), has implemented an outreach advocacy and communications campaign to village heads of minority groups in high risk districts in Thai Nguyen and Phu Tho provinces.

“We understand that the village heads have a big influence and are highly respected by their group members. By engaging the leaders in our rabies control efforts, empowering them with up-to-date knowledge on vaccines, and supporting them with better understanding on rabies transmission risks, FAO believes that they will be able to assist animal and public health officials in spreading rabies preventive messages to their people, contribute to increase dog vaccination in their areas and eventually decrease preventable death in human” said Dr. Scott Newman, Senior Technical Coordinator of ECTAD, FAO Viet Nam.

“What I have learnt today is new and very useful as I now fully understand

that dog vaccination is to protect human against rabies not only dogs. I will share with my group about importance of both dog and human vaccines, advise them to go to the doctors instead of herbal treatment” said Ms Ha Thi Nhung from Muong tribe, Yen Lap district, Phu Tho province.

The advocacy and behavior change communications campaign focusing on the EMGs is one of the outreach priorities that FAO ECTAD has been supporting MARD and MOH. This initiative also includes the production of radio spots in ethnic minority languages concerning protective measures against rabies, such as vaccinating your dogs annually, immediately washing your dog bites with soap and clean water for at least 15 minutes, going to a hospital after being exposed to dog bites and scratches and reporting dog bites to your local public and animal health workers. The messages are disseminated nationwide to all the high risk provinces in Viet Nam.



ECTAD Viet Nam unveils its new hatchery biosecurity training manual

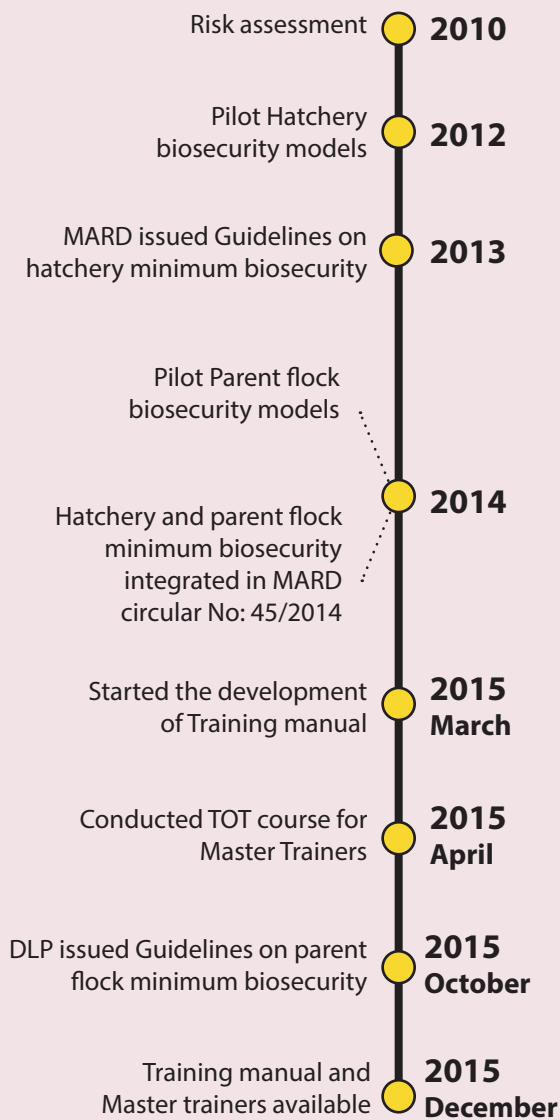
Since the H5N1 HPAI (Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza) outbreak started in 2003, poor biosecurity in poultry farms has been recognized as one of the factors that contributes to the risk for disease introduction, and spread, as well as threatening food safety along poultry value chains in Viet Nam. Although big industrial farms follow biosecurity guidelines, small and medium scale hatcheries and parent flock farms, which comprise a significant part of the Vietnamese poultry production system, lack standards and practical guidance for implementation at farm level.

Therefore, after piloting simple, practical and feasible biosecurity standards within 12 hatcheries and parent flock farms, DLP and FAO created biosecurity guidelines as a part of a USAID funded project. Following on from this work, and through the support from World Poultry Foundation (WPF), FAO Viet Nam and DLP developed a training manual, frequently asked questions and answer handbook for farmers, as well as trained experts on good hatchery practices and biosecurity.

Therefore on December 18th 2015, a National Dissemination Workshop for good hatchery practices and biosecurity training manual and handbook was held to introduce the materials and hatchery training experts. On this occasion, key industry partners, government departments, research centers, universities, training centers, and development agencies gathered to learn about the new training materials and trainers.

After its official launch, a training was organized in Bac Ninh Province receiving positive responses from participants. Currently FAO is finding ways for resource mobilization to support future trainings and further biosecurity activities.

How Hatchery and Parent flock farm Biosecurity Improved in Viet Nam with FAO



Hatchery Training Experts

Hatchery training experts were chosen through a rigorous training and evaluation process by FAO and DLP and they will introduce and promote good practices to farmers, serve as technical mentors and continuously communicate with farmers to support production.

Training manual

A Powerpoint material of good practices on hatchery management was made for training experts, enabling them to conduct trainings nationwide. It is filled with comprehensible photos and guideline steps for trainees to easily understand and follow.



Frequently asked Questions and Answers for Farmers

A simple handbook made for farmers to resolve their questions on good farming practices.



Behaviour change stickers

4 stickers on key points for behaviour change were made to distribute to farmers. These stickers will act as a reminder for hatchery workers in locations such as hatchery entrance, fumigating points, and hatching areas.



FAO receives **Certificate of Merit** from the Minister for substantial contributions to **livestock development** in Viet Nam



In light of the 10th year anniversary of the Department of Livestock Production within the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (DLP-MARD), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Viet Nam received a certificate of merit from the Minister of MARD in recognition of significant contributions to improving Viet Nam's livestock sector. In order to celebrate this occasion, an award ceremony was held at the Department of Livestock Production in Ha Noi, attended by the staff from FAO Viet Nam and DLP-MARD.

Mr. Hoang Thanh Van, The Director General of DLP on behalf of the Minister of MARD, awarded the certificate of merit to Mr. Jong Ha Bae, the FAO Representative of Viet Nam for FAO's contribution to the development of the livestock sector in Viet Nam in 2010-2015. During the ceremony, Mr. Hoang Thanh Van specifically acknowledged and thanked the FAO Emergency Center for Transboundary Animal Diseases program in Viet Nam (FAO ECTAD VN) for supporting DLP on; (1) poultry value chain studies (2) biosecurity standards for hatchery and parent flock farm (3) poultry traceability and food safety work FAO and DLP have successfully implemented in the past 5 years.

Since 2010, FAO ECTAD VN has been collaborating with DLP-MARD in various projects to support a

healthy livestock sector in Viet Nam. Starting from an avian influenza risk assessment on poultry value chains in 2010, additional value chain studies within Viet Nam and across borders have been conducted to advise the government on disease and food safety risk management. The poultry pilot traceability project in Ho Chi Minh City and surrounding Provinces continues to support a public-private collaboration that can potentially be expanded nationally.

Throughout the successful FAO ECTAD VN and DLP-MARD collaboration, biosecurity guidelines for both small and medium scale hatcheries and parent flock farms were officially published by MARD (No: 1057/Decision-MARD-DLP and No: 713/Decision-DLP) and was integrated into the Vietnamese circular (No: 45/2014/Circular-MARD). Furthermore, recently, two parties have launched its training manual on based on the guidelines in the goal of reaching out to stakeholders to ground level and implementing a more sustainable solution for the future of poultry production and disease control in Viet Nam.

Recently, FAO ECTAD VN has supported work on antimicrobial resistance in collaboration with DLP-MARD and this focuses on the safe and responsible use of antimicrobials in livestock sector.

"Just as crop production has impressively increased in the recent years in Viet Nam, and helped to improve livelihoods in rural areas and generate profits, we believe that livestock production has the same potential. We hope to further continue the great collaboration between FAO and DLP-MARD to keep Viet Nam safer from zoonotic diseases, but to also improve the quality of livestock production" stated Jong Ha Bae upon receiving the award.



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

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