

## **Regional Representation for the Middle East**

### **Mission Report Regional Workshop on contingency planning, compensation and communication for MENA Region**

**Beirut, Lebanon, 27-28 June 2006**

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East**

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#### **Objective:**

Within the framework of the TCP's 3005-6, a 2-day workshop on A.I. Contingency Planning, compensation and Communication for the ME and North Africa region was held in Beirut, Lebanon, on 27-28 June 2006.

The workshop aimed, according to the recommendations of various assessment reports on avian influenza status in the region to improve the understanding in the areas of contingency planning, compensation mechanisms and communication procedures.

#### **Participants:**

- 1- Countries: Algeria, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, KSA, Lebanon, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia and UAE.
- 2- Organization: OIE, FAO, World Bank, USDA Aphis, UNIDA, UNICEF, French Embassy, local representative of WHO, ministries of Agriculture, Health, Environment and Finance.

#### **Summary of the sessions:**

##### **Session one:**

After the opening ceremony a series of sessions addressed the topics mentioned in the objectives above.

Dr. Mathias Kramer (Institute of Epidemiology- Dasse-Germany) gave a presentation on the HPAI Preparedness and lessons learnt from the AI world crisis.

He had drawn up the methodology for implementing contingency plans, requirements and development. He focused on the measures to be taken at the national level and the criteria to be adopted for contingency plans set for the prevention and control of HPAI.

Dr. Kramer cited a case study that occurred in Germany followed by a desk simulation exercise; discussions followed.

The participants split into 3 groups: North Africa, Middle East and GCC countries.

### *Session two:*

In the afternoon several representatives presented their country reports on the occurrence and control measures taken.

The Egyptian Delegate explained that most of the disease outbreaks have been contained thanks to the efficient measures implemented, especially vaccination, compensation, stamping out, etc...

The Sudanese and the Jordanian Delegates also explained how the Veterinary Services in their respective countries rapidly succeeded in eradicating the disease.

The UAE Delegate presented a marvelous film on a simulation exercise implemented in his country.

Dr Charles Martin Ferreira (French Embassy) presented the French experience. He explained how France rapidly contained the outbreak that occurred in some districts and regained its freedom status vis-à-vis avian influenza.

The participants considered this experience successful and worthy to serve as guidelines in fighting against AI.

Prof. Nikolay Vlasov (Head of the Epidemiology Department in the Russian Federation) clearly highlighted all the epidemiological characteristics of the HPAI virus and the various factors supporting its spread in general, giving as an example the occurrence of the disease in some Russian districts.

He exposed the strategy used during the outbreaks and the goals of vaccination if implemented and the tools to carry out, monitoring and surveillance.

### *Session three:*

Ana Riviera Cinnamond (FAO) presented an overview on compensation policies, development and implementation.

A simulation exercise followed and the participants were asked to show the problem they may encounter in the implementation of compensation policy, especially with regard to the lack of legislation and the difficult process in evaluating the compensation strategy.

### *Session four:*

Dr Satyatjit Sarkar gave an excellent presentation on public awareness and communication, and clearly expressed how to reduce the risk and prevent the spread of the disease from animal to animal and its transmission to humans.

### *Session five:*

Dr Ghazi Yehya (OIE Regional Representative for the Middle East) presented an overview on the OIE activities in setting up a global strategic plan for AI control as well as the activities implemented by the OIE R.R. for the ME.

In this respect, he highlighted the formation of the GF-TAD's regional steering committee and future establishment of the regional animal health centre in collaboration with the FAO.

Dr Mestom (OIE-ME) described the steps of establishing the Bird Flu website in collaboration with the FAO and the involvement of the regional countries, which are asked to communicate directly through the website with the Regional Representation for the Middle East, to login their reports related to their various activities and research in the fight against AI.

The FAO representative, Dr Ahmad El Edrissi, also presented the work plan implemented by the FAO in both regions.

## **Conclusion and follow-up:**

The participation at the workshop was very dense with regard to the country delegates and the involved organizations. The discussions were very useful and

the participants called for a continuous collaboration between the two main organizations (OIE/FAO) in setting up the required programmes of assistance to the regional countries.