



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

FAO China ECTAD Highlights

➤ Further improving the veterinary epidemiology capacity of university academic staff in China



Veterinary epidemiology training for Chinese university academics

The advanced risk analysis and risk-based approaches for disease control for university academic staff was held in Wuhan, Hubei Province from 27-31 July 2015. Veterinary epidemiology training for Chinese university academics was initiated by the Veterinary Bureau of the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), FAO, Huazhong Agricultural University (HZAU) and China Animal Health and Epidemiology Centre (CAHEC) in January 2014, with an aim of facilitating veterinary epidemiology education in China, enhancing university teachers' understanding of veterinary epidemiology, and improving their capacity to teach veterinary epidemiology. It is the fourth training workshop since the launch of this initiative.

More than 40 academic staff from 13 universities attended the five-day training course. The main topics included risk-based surveillance, quantitative risk analysis, outbreak investigation and economic analysis. The training was delivered by Dr Cai Chang and Prof Ian Robertson from the Murdoch University. Dr Guo Fusheng and Mr Tang Hao from FAO China ECTAD office attended the training and provided the facilitation. The training course not only enhanced the university teachers' understanding on risk-based approaches for disease control and basic veterinary epidemiology, but also improved their capacity to teach veterinary epidemiology and conduct epidemiological research. The training was highly valued by the participants, 96% participants expressed that their understanding on epidemiology was improved after the training, the survey showed the training was very helpful for their teaching, research and services to government and industry.

While in Wuhan, FAO also organized a planning workshop with representatives from five national agricultural universities and Murdoch University, to discuss how to promote veterinary epidemiology application among the university network. Participants identified the following priorities: strengthen the application of veterinary epidemiology and field practice at farm level; set up the link between university and China Field Epidemiology Training Program for Veterinarians (FETPV) network; and facilitate exchanges among the networks.

➤ Emerging Pandemic Threats Plus (EPT+) Project Phase 3 conducting questionnaire survey in Guangdong and Hunan Provinces



Field questionnaire in Guangzhou

In order to better understand the local pig industry and the relevant risk factors of swine influenza virus infection in pig farms, the questionnaire survey was implemented by FAO China Emergency Centre of Transboundary Animal Diseases (ECTAD) office in Guangdong and Hunan Provinces from 3-7 August 2015. Dr Guo Fusheng, Dr Xu Tiangang, Dr Li Yin, and Ms Zhao Miao fielded a mission to Guangzhou to implement the field survey activity, with assistance from the South China Agricultural University (SCAU). FAO mission team selected seven pig farms in the Pearl River Delta area to conduct questionnaire survey, this was to demonstrate the key steps of the questionnaire survey to the investigators from the SCAU. FAO mission team visited different scales of pig farms and interviewed the farm managers

and local veterinarians to gain a deeper understanding of the model of animal husbandry in the southern part of China. It is noticed that the biosecurity level vary significantly from different scales of farms. The questionnaire survey for other 161 pig farms in Guangdong Province was conducted by the investigators from the SCAU. Meanwhile, blood samples were collected in these farms for further laboratory tests.

The mission team then travelled to Hunan Province to conduct the questionnaire survey. 10 pig farms in Changde and Liuyang Cities were selected, which aimed to compare the differences of the pig industry with Guangdong Province. FAO used face to face interview to gather information of the questionnaire from pig farm representatives. Field visits to the local pig farms were very helpful to gain better understanding of the situation of pig industry of Hunan Province.

➤ Training of Trainers (ToT) Workshop on Good Emergency Management Practice (GEMP)

The Training of Trainers (ToT) Workshop on Good Emergency Management Practice (GEMP) was held in Beijing from 20-22 August 2015. The workshop was jointly organized by the Veterinary Bureau of the Ministry of Agriculture and FAO. Over 40 participants from the Ministry of Agriculture, national, provincial and municipal animal health agencies and FAO China Emergency Centre of Transboundary Animal Diseases (ECTAD) office attended the workshop.



GEMP TOT group photo



Group discussion

The major objectives of the workshop were to provide a comprehensive introduction to GEMP, introduce and discuss primary principles of infectious disease control and surveillance system for outbreak responses, introduce the role of veterinary services in recovery and rehabilitation of farming communities as a result of devastating disease outbreaks, and training of trainers. Dr Ludovic Plee, Veterinary Epidemiologist/Response Officer and Mr Wang Jie, Operations Officer from the Crisis Management Centre–Animal Health (CMC-AH) in FAO Headquarters delivered the training. The training adopted participatory approach to encourage active discussion and participation from the participants.

On the last day of the training, all the trainees were awarded with the certification of successful completion of the training course.

Participants expressed that it is a good training course which combined theoretical knowledge and practical cases. What they learnt during the training will be very helpful to their future work. Meanwhile, they hope that FAO could organize similar trainings on other topics in future, such as on animal disease prevention and control, eradication, etc.

➤ Change of the FAO China ECTAD office structure

After more than three years working in FAO China ECTAD office, Prof John Edwards left China at the end of July 2015 and returned to Australia. Dr Guo Fusheng, National Technical Advisor will take over the responsibilities of the Team Leader of FAO China ECTAD office since early August 2015, and preside the overall work of FAO China ECTAD office. Dr Guo Fusheng has been working at FAO since 2004, who witnessed the start-up of the FAO China ECTAD office in 2006 and the development of the office throughout recent years.

! Upcoming activities

1. Dr Guo Fusheng will attend the Regional Consultation on Risk Management along Poultry Value-Chains in Bangkok from 2-4 September 2015.
2. The Fifth Meeting on Strengthening the Collaboration on Transboundary Animal Diseases and Emerging Infectious Diseases by China, Mongolia and the Russian Federation will be held in Mongolia from 11-13 September 2015.
3. African Swine Fever (ASF) awareness campaign will be conducted in Heilongjiang in September 2015.



No. 2-151C Tayuan Diplomatic Office Building, No. 14 Liang Ma He Nan Lu,
Chaoyang District, Beijing, P.R.China
Tel: (86 10) 8532 3634 | Fax: (86 10) 8532 3681