



# VNN

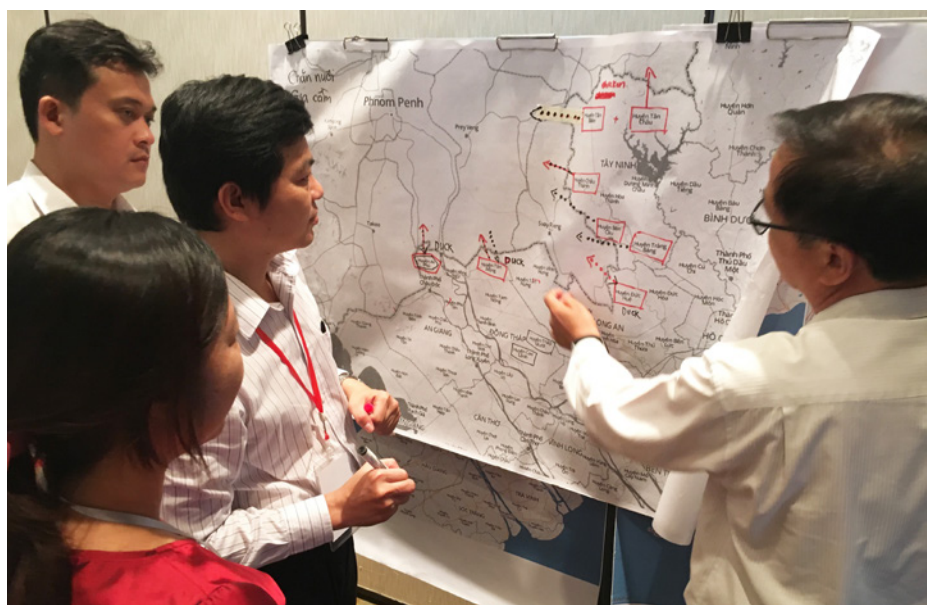
# FAO Viet Nam Newsletter

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

## Strengthening cross-border collaboration with Cambodia's animal health counterparts

Viet Nam and Cambodia share border along the vigorous Mekong River where many lives, including humans, animals and the ecosystem, depend on this stream of resources. Despite the dynamic economic and social exchange along this long spreading streamline, there have been concerns on the movement of infectious agents that could become a threat to both human and livestock health, as pathogens do not respect country borders.



Vietnamese and Cambodian animal health experts discussing the free-grazing duck movement across the border ©FAO

Realizing this potential risk, the Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases (ECTAD) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Viet Nam have been facilitating talks and

collaborations between Viet Nam Department of Animal Health within the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (DAH) and Cambodia Department of Animal Health and Production (DAHP). This effort is to minimize and prevent the effects of a

possible outbreak of zoonotic diseases, based on the experience from the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) H5N1 outbreak that has affected many poultry and human in the lower Mekong region previously.

### Technical collaborations

On 28 April 2016, FAO co-organized the Viet Nam – Cambodia duck farmer forum meeting in Rach Gia City, Kien Giang Province with the National Agricultural Extension Centre (NAEC). During the workshop, information on risks from free grazing ducks and cross border duck movement between two countries were discussed with experiences in collaborating at provincial level to manage cross border duck movements. Moreover,



Participants of the fourth Viet Nam - Cambodia cross-border meeting ©FAO

continued next page

## Welcome note

Xin Chao! Welcome to FAO ECTAD Viet Nam's March-September 2016 newsletter. For FAO ECTAD Viet Nam, we had a busy period from March to September 2016. I, myself, joined this dynamic team as the Senior Technical Coordinator in May.

Strengthening capacity is one of ECTAD's core objectives. We have rolled out different trainings in several areas. Firstly, the surveillance trainings, targeting provincial staff involving in the surveillance, were organized to improve understanding and implementation of the surveillance. Also, wildlife investigation training and poultry biosecurity trainings were held. The Longitudinal Influenza Surveillance Network (LISN) was developed to improve the detection of emerging infectious diseases. Detailed

information on the trainings and new surveillance is available in the newsletter.

During this period, FAO ECTAD Viet Nam has been actively collaborating with Viet Nam's neighbouring countries, especially with Cambodia. Two joint technical activities on free grazing duck movement and technical exchange with animal health offices near the border of two countries were successfully conducted and a cross-border meeting was held in September.

This edition of ECTAD Viet Nam newsletter will also provide an insight on how One Health initiative is implemented in Viet Nam through an interview with FAO ECTAD Viet Nam colleagues involving in One Health implementation.

Please enjoy our Newsletter for March-September 2016, and we hope our activities could inspire your knowledge and projects. Any feedbacks will be appreciated.

Kind regards,  
Pawin Padungtod  
Senior Technical Coordinator



©FAO

information on AI virus (H5N1) in Mekong provinces in Viet Nam and Cambodia were shared and collaboration opportunities were identified to strengthen the cross border duck movement to reduce the risk of disease transmission.

In August, there were active technical exchanges between epidemiologists and laboratory experts of both countries. From 3-5 August, epidemiology and laboratory experts from DAH and Regional Animal Health Office (RAHO) 7 in Southern Viet Nam visited National Veterinary Research Institute (NAVRI) in Phnom Penh. Subsequently epidemiology and laboratory experts from NAVRI of DAHP visited RAHO 6, RAHO 7 and Dong Thap province in Southern Viet Nam to share information and experience in designing and implementing surveillance avian influenza, animal diseases diagnosis, laboratory biosafety and biosecurity, quality assurance and laboratory management on 10-12 August.

### Cross-border meeting

After three Viet Nam – Cambodia cross-border meetings, DAH organized a cross-border meeting on surveillance and prevention organized on 23 September. Based on past meeting recommendations, progress has been made in implementing joint animal health related activities in the lower Mekong Delta of Cambodia and Viet Nam including HPAI monitoring programme, harmonized diagnostic capacity, information sharing and market and value chain monitoring. In the fourth cross-border meeting, the Director General of DAH and DAHP, together with animal health authorities from border provinces agreed to implement the following activities from 2017 – 2019; 1) Share animal disease situation at both central and provincial levels, 2) further develop capacity and technical collaboration in the areas of epidemiology, laboratory and field response, 3) Conduct animal movement study and collaborative field research, and 4) Share communication materials.

“Based on the good relationship and collaborative atmosphere between the two agencies (DAH and DAHP), I am very glad that a specific action plan was agreed by animal health key players from both Viet Nam and Cambodia, I believe that both countries will have improved capacity to prevent and be better prepared to swiftly response to emerging pandemic threats in the lower Mekong region. The existing collaboration between the animal health sectors of the two countries could be extended to include public health sector using a One Health Approach” said Pawin Padungtod, the Senior Technical Coordinator of FAO ECTAD Viet Nam.

## FAO SUPPORTS GOVERNMENT OF VIET NAM TO EXPAND INFLUENZA SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM

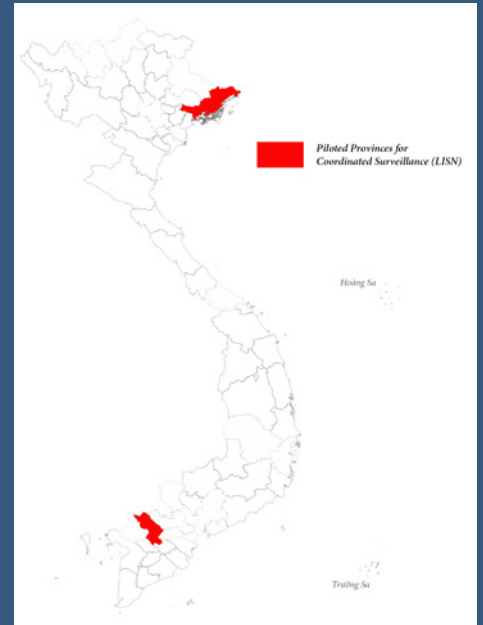
With globalization becoming a routine lifestyle, movement of human and animal is becoming more active in a fast pace. Pathogens that join these moving hosts are as well exposed to new environments and adapt along, bringing a higher risk for the ecosystem to encounter potential pandemic threats. Therefore, with the financial support from the United States Agency of International Development (USAID), the Longitudinal Influenza Surveillance Network (LISN) was proposed to be piloted in Viet Nam with the technical support from FAO and WHO.

On 20-21 July, FAO Viet Nam's Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases (ECTAD) and World Health Organization Viet Nam supported the launch of 'Coordinated Surveillance for Influenza and Other Viruses of Pandemic Potential Inception workshop' in Ha Noi. This meeting was organized by the General Department of Preventive Medicine of the Ministry of Health (GDPM-MOH) and the Department of Animal Health of the Ministry of Agriculture and

Rural Development (DAH-MARD) to introduce the concept of coordinated surveillance among public health, livestock and wildlife. LISN aims to reduce the risk and impact of emerging pandemic threats, applying a One Health (OH) approach through the surveillance for influenza A virus and other potential pandemic threats in livestock, wildlife and humans at their interface or points of contacts.

Bringing counterparts from national, regional, provincial level leaders and implementing partners from human and animal/wildlife health sectors, the roles and responsibilities of each implementing partner were discussed and agreed during the workshop. Furthermore a work plan was developed for the period from August 2016 to September 2017. During this pilot phase, the coordinated surveillance will be implemented in Dong Thap and Quang Ninh provinces.

What makes the Coordinated Surveillance for Influenza and Other Viruses of Pandemic Potential special is that it is built upon the already existing resources and networks, ultimately increasing the practicality and effectiveness for animal and human health sectors. LISN is not a new surveillance initiative and it is specifically designed based on the existing infrastructure so that it could be sustained without donor support in the future.



Map indicating location of selected provinces based on existing surveillance activities for diseases in humans, livestock and wildlife (Source: FAOVietNam)

*The designations employed and the presentation of material in the map(s) do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of FAO concerning the legal or constitutional status of any country, territory or sea area, or concerning the delimitation of frontiers.*

Under the Coordinated Surveillance for Influenza and Other Viruses of Pandemic Potential, DAH will utilize the poultry and swine samples that are already collected from existing surveillance programmes in Viet Nam to monitor and characterize influenza viruses and other viruses with potential pandemic. The results of expanded virus characterization will be shared across sectors for joint situation analysis and risk assessment for future policy development in disease control and prevention.

"Health security is the most important goal we all strive to achieve and the collaboration among public, animal and environmental health sectors in this coordinated surveillance could increase the effectiveness of disease detection, prevention and control in all sectors. With existing capacity, system and the strong relationship among all agencies involved in surveillance activities, both from Government of Viet Nam and international development partners, I believe we can all contribute to the Viet Nam and Global health security," said Pawin Padungtod, the Senior Technical Coordinator of FAO ECTAD Viet Nam.



## Talking about the #OneHealth implementation in Viet Nam with FAO experts

After responding to emergency zoonotic outbreaks, the importance of One Health Approach has been emphasized worldwide in effectively preventing and controlling these diseases. In order to discover more about this approach within the Viet Nam country context, a discussion was held with FAO Viet Nam's Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases (ECTAD) core One Health technical staff members (Pawin Padungtod – Senior Technical Coordinator, Nguyen Thuy Hang – One Health Advocacy and Communication Coordinator and Nguyen Phuong Oanh – Operations Officer) to talk about the One Health implementation in Ha Giang and Quang Nam provinces.

### # 1

Could you explain a bit on One Health?



Pawin

It is an integrated approach that calls for multidisciplinary and inter-sectoral cooperation and communication, among human health, animal health and ecosystem health to address health issues facing our ecosystem. One Health approach has been applied to infectious diseases emerged at the human-animal interface, especially those with the potential to cause pandemic and can seriously impact public health and livelihoods.



Hang

Experiencing outbreaks originated from different animals, especially like H5N1 and rabies, we have learnt that One Health provides solutions to effectively prevent and control zoonotic and transboundary diseases from the farm level in Viet Nam.

Then how would you define FAO's role in the implementation of One Health initiatives in Viet Nam then?



Hang

FAO Viet Nam ECTAD has been providing technical assistance to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) to control H5N1 outbreaks in poultry, One Health collaboration, surveillance, laboratory diagnosis, biosecurity, value chain analysis and advocacy have been the core areas of work we supported.



Pawin

In order to implement the One Health approach, we have facilitated the conversation between animal health and human health government agencies to identify opportunities for collaboration. Within the UN system, we have been supporting various policy dialogues, multi-stakeholder coordination and consultation between national and international partners with WHO and UNDP. One Health approach can also be extended beyond Viet Nam borders, and together with the Government of Viet Nam, FAO organized animal-public health cross-border talks with neighbouring countries such as China or Cambodia to improve information exchange and build up a quicker response to outbreaks.

So, where in Viet Nam were the One Health activities supported by FAO?



Oanh

Following from last year's One Health mission to Thanh Hoa and Binh Dinh Provinces, this year we went to Quang Nam and Ha Giang Provinces in Viet Nam with officials from six agencies including Department of Animal Health, Regional Animal Health Office 2 (RAHO2), Department of Preventive Medicine (GDPM), National Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology (NIHE), FAO and WHO. Like a troop of One Health promoters! It was a joint mission with the animal and human health key players from the government and UN.

### # 2

What were your impressions of One Health implementation in Viet Nam?



Oanh

We could see the substantial effort from both sectors to enhance working relationships but there could be more engagement of local authority's leadership at provincial, district and commune level to support the Circular 16 (Guidelines for coordinated prevention and control of zoonotic disease) implementation plan. Capacity building to better understand and properly apply the Circular 16 is critical for One Health implementation at the field.



Hang

If local government could allocate funds to support the plan, invest in human resources, infrastructure and professional training at the commune level, it would improve the implementation of the Circular 16 a lot. Also capacity development on outbreak response and investigation for the public and animal health professionals at all levels is always needed.

Are there any upcoming activities to improve the implementation of circular 16?



Pawin

We have developed several training programs to promote Circular 16 implementation, including response to priority zoonoses such as rabies. These trainings have been piloted in Ha Giang and Quang Nam. We will collaborate with the relevant agencies to organize a training course on Joint outbreak investigation before the end of 2016.



Hang

Along with the training, FAO ECTAD Viet Nam will cooperate with the Department of Animal Health, General Department of Preventive Medicine to implement the Circular 16 activities and support the provincial public and animal health staff in both Ha Giang and Quang Nam Provinces.

Do you have any thoughts to share on this mission before wrapping up?



Pawin

As a joint mission involving both animal and public health sector, I would say this mission was truly a demonstration of One Health collaboration. By interviewing officials from provincial to commune levels in Ha Giang and Quang Nam Provinces, we could witness their efforts to implement the Circular 16 at all levels despite their limited resources and capacity. On this occasion, we would like to reaffirm our technical assistance to the project in the spirit of One Health.



## Master trainers and model farms to bring cleaner poultry farms

**K**eeping clean and healthy poultry from the early stage of the value chain is essential in providing safe food to dinner tables and preventing any potential diseases for both livestock and human. In Viet Nam, the poultry value chain often starts from small and medium scale family owned breeding farms and there have been concerns that these farms tend to lack hygiene unlike the big industrial chicken farms.

With the financial aid from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), FAO Viet Nam's Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases (ECTAD) and the National Agriculture Extension Centre (NAEC) has launched two Trainings of Trainers (TOTs) courses for good practices and biosecurity in small and medium scale chicken parent flock farms in Northern and Southern Viet Nam. The objective is to train poultry experts in Northern and Southern region to be master trainers those will train poultry parent flock farmers who may have less access to biosecurity knowledges than big poultry factory farms. Poultry experts from National Agricultural Extension System, agriculture universities, poultry research centers, and poultry association were invited to participate in the trainings.

The training for the Northern region was held in Ha Nam and Tuyen Quang provinces in June 2016, focusing on participatory methodology programs and good practices and biosecurity for chicken parent flock farms. Afterward, a follow up training was conducted for the TOT graduates to provide mock training for chicken parent flock farmers under supervision of the main trainers.

"After thorough supervision and evaluation of the trainees' training ability, we have selected 12 trainees as master trainers for Northern Viet Nam. Currently, we have just finished another TOT in Vung Tau city with the aim that biosecurity knowledges could be shared widely to a number of small-middle scale chicken farmers in Southern Viet Nam. A follow up training is planned where it will further develop master trainers for good practices and biosecurity for small and medium scale chicken parent flock farms in Southern Viet Nam." said Minh Nguyen Thi Tuyet, the National Technical Expert in FAO ECTAD Viet Nam.

Striving to achieve FAO's objective to strengthen the biosecurity standards in small and medium scale poultry parent flock farms of Northern region, FAO Viet Nam ECTAD is also working with the Department of Livestock Production (DLP). In collaboration with DLP, FAO would select 4 duck farms and 4 chicken farms and apply FAO minimum biosecurity guidelines as pilot model farms. These model farms aim to inspire other farmers in the region with successful farm management and biosecurity practices.

"For the past few years, FAO ECTAD Viet Nam's advocacy and training projects for biosecurity in small and medium scale poultry hatcheries and parent flock farms, including FAO biosecurity guidelines into the national circular, has led to significant improvement in small and medium scale farms' biosecurity. Following this accomplishment, this time we hope to disseminate the message and importance of biosecurity in chicken parent flock farms and ultimately contribute to the improvement of food safety and effective disease prevention in Viet Nam." stated Pawin Padungtod, the Senior Technical Coordinator of FAO ECTAD Viet Nam.

## Building wildlife investigation capacity for livestock diseases and public health

The majority of infections involve multiple hosts, many originating in wildlife where they are maintained, undetected, and contribute to an endemic level of disease. However, when investigating the source and spread of pathogens, the role of wildlife is often not investigated and disease ecology is not adequately considered. As a result, wildlife disease epidemiology remains poorly understood.

Recognizing this limitation, FAO Viet Nam's Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases (ECTAD) organized a One Health introductory course with the Department of Animal Health within the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural

Development (DAH-MARD) in Dak Lak Province from 6 – 10 June 2016. Gathering animal and human health, forestry and wildlife experts from government to university institutes and development partners, this training provided an occasion for participants from various backgrounds to network and encourage further collaboration.

During the training, the global context of One Health with a focus on the Vietnamese ecosystems and the importance of ecological services in protecting human and animal health were featured with the additional information on the anthropogenic issues, farming intensification and expansion and the environmental drivers of disease emergence. Also, subjects like zoonotic disease prevention, and control program, the role of wild birds in H5N1 spread in Viet Nam, health risk communication and management and participating in the development of a regional multi-sectoral project to address safeguarding

livestock/wildlife/human health were taught.

After a theoretical training, a field trip in Yok Don Elephant Conservation Center and Yok Don National park was conducted to practice joint assessment on ecosystem and eco-health learned from classroom.

"By engaging wildlife and environmental sectors, this training will enable greater interaction and cooperation between government agencies and help facilitate planning, coordinating and conducting more effective outbreak response and surveillance activities. We hope to further seek opportunities for coordinated activities and trainings to enhance the capacity and insight of wildlife health management in Viet Nam." said Pawin Padungtod, the Senior Technical Coordinator of FAO ECTAD Viet Nam.



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

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases Operations Viet Nam

No 304 Kim Ma street, Hanoi, Viet Nam  
www.fao.org/vietnam - Tel: (84 4) 39424694 - Fax: (84 4) 39423257

FAO ECTAD Viet Nam projects are financially supported by the United States Agency of International Development (USAID) and the UN One Plan Initiative

**ECTAD** Emergency Centre  
for Transboundary Animal Diseases **Viet Nam**