

REPORT OF AVIAN INFLUENZA IN INDONESIA

Statement by Indonesia at the meeting of 22-23 June 2004

1. Deaths of poultry had been reported in layer, broiler and native chicken in some areas in Central Java and East Java since September 2003. The Government of Indonesia officially declared in January 2004 that deaths of poultry were caused by highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) with H5N1 subtype. Although it is well understood that H5N1 subtype is pathogenic to poultry and could affect humans if the virus were to mutate, based on surveillance to farmers and farm workers, no human case has been reported by Department of Health of Indonesia up to the present. However, preventative measures are being continuously implemented.
 2. Since January, Indonesia has taken the measures required in order to prevent further spread of the disease. As an effort to speed up the implementation of control of the disease, the government has issued and distributed Guidelines for Prevention, Control, and Eradication of Avian Influenza. These describe the strategy of disease control and eradication as well as operational measures involving improvement of bio-security; depopulation of affected poultry in infected areas; stamping out in new infected provinces; vaccination of healthy poultry in infected areas; movement control of poultry, poultry products and farm waste; surveillance and tracing back; restocking; public awareness as well as monitoring and evaluation.
 3. To control and eradicate the disease, Indonesia selected the strategy of vaccination and depopulation (selective culling). This is because the outbreak has been widely spread into several provinces; 65-70 per cent of the poultry industry is located on Java island (including GP breeders and feed mills); and the structure of the poultry industry is such that small farms of native chicken and other indigenous poultry are scattered around the commercial poultry farms. Depopulation is done to all infected farms through elimination of healthy poultry in contact with infected poultry. The strategy of vaccination and depopulation is in line with the recommendations of the FAO, OIE and WHO issued in February 2004 in Rome. The recommendations also stated that targeted mass vaccination campaigns should be implemented within short period (six months), and an emergency situation declared in order to control the spread of the disease.
 4. The Government of Indonesia is planning to conduct mass vaccination in early July 2004 for backyard farms and smallholder farmers. Meanwhile, the vaccination conducted previously has covered approximately 21.4 million heads of poultry.
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