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Avian Influenza Prevention and Control Strategies, Including the Use of Vaccination

4th International Conference on Avian Influenza
Bamako, Mali,
6-8 December 2006

Avian influenza: “H5N1 Asian Strain”



- End of 2003: Start of epizootic of this new subtype in South East Asia
- End of 2005: Spread to Central Asia, Siberia, Balkans, Middle East and Eastern Europe
- Beginning of 2006: Spread to Western Europe and Africa

Reaction of the international community has not been timely enough!

Strategy from Beginning: To Minimize Threat at Animal Source



- Early warning and early detection
- Rapid and transparent notification
- Rapid confirmation of suspects
- Rapid response
 - containment, management of poultry movements and humane stamping out
 - use of vaccination when available and if appropriate
- Improvement of governance and legislation in compliance with OIE international standards

Main constraints to HPAI control

- Weakness of national veterinary services
- Often no appropriate legislation in place
- Disincentives for reporting disease
- Limited ability to control poultry movements and to increase biosecurity
- Difficulty of implementing stamping out and vaccination
- Insufficient laboratory diagnostic capacity and capability

Important Lessons learned

- Control programs involving all stakeholders have had most success in controlling the virus
- Vaccination can limit spread but used alone it will never eliminate avian influenza viruses
- Compensation is crucial to encourage transparency
- Good Governance including legislation and efficient VS are essential
- Support through evaluations and gap analysis, using PVS instrument, is crucial to design priority actions and investments

Important lessons learned

- Early detection and rapid adequate response has prevented spread and persistence of disease in some countries
- Delayed detection and response, and too much decentralization has led to persistence of the virus in other countries
- Some developing and in transition countries are at the limit of their abilities to eradicate the disease

Improvement of governance, including strong national chain of command is essential!!

Improvements for safe trade



- Update Terrestrial Code Chapter on avian influenza in 2004 to protect importing countries
- Development of specific recommendations for most important commodities being traded
- Update of the surveillance guidelines and Introduction of compartmentalisation concept
- Development of OIE/FAO guidelines on Vaccination

Development of Guidelines on the implementation of AI Vaccination



- To guide countries in their decisions whether to implement vaccination programs or not
- To establish detailed guidelines and a decision tree for the application, monitoring, precautionary measures of vaccination strategies
- Guidelines distributed during the Vienna Conference
- World Conference on AI Vaccination in March 2007

Vaccination Guidelines: Country situation



- Epidemiological situation
- Poultry production systems
- Logistical factors (vet services, cold chain)
- Diagnostic capacity
- Compensation mechanism
- Objective of the campaign (emergency, preventive, routine)
- Strategy (mass, targeted, ring)
- Monitoring
- Financial Resources

Agreement for virtual vaccine bank for Africa between OIE, AU/IBAR and Donors



- AU/IBAR/PACE assess needs of countries and order the vaccines through OIE
- OIE manages a vaccine bank and selects the companies complying with OIE standards on quality of vaccines through an international call for tenders
- FAO acts as partner in this program
- This concept could be extended worldwide

Specific needs for Africa

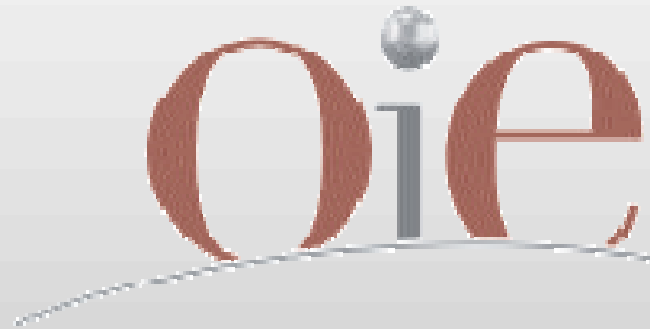


- ALive Partnership to be reinforced in conjunction with AU/IBAR
- ALive proposals to be discussed during this conference
- Short and medium term needs
- Compliance with OIE animal health standards on veterinary services and capacity building, including laboratories

Next Steps



- National and international political commitment is essential
- Harmonisation of governance and policies
- Coordination of donors, national and international partnerships must be reinforced
- Laboratories need to be supported: twinning concept
- Importance of communication strategy in collaboration with WHO and UNICEF



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