

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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India

Post: New Delhi

India Reports Four HPAI Outbreaks in Wild Birds

Report Categories:

Pest/Disease Occurrences

Poultry and Products

Livestock and Products

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

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Report Highlights:

On February 6, 2012, the Government of India reported four highly pathogenic avian influenza outbreaks to the World Organisation for Animal Health. The outbreaks were reported in wild birds in the states of Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Odisha, and Bihar. These outbreaks occurred between October 2011 and early February 2012.

General Information:

On February 6, 2012, India reported four highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) outbreaks to the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE). The Government of India's (GOI) OIE notification can be accessed at: [February 6, 2012 OIE Report](#). The outbreaks were reported in wild birds (crows/*Corvus macrorhynchos*) in Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Odisha, and Bihar states. The GOI reported 1159 crows died as a result of the disease. 1143 died in the state of Jharkhand, 5 in Maharashtra, 5 in Odisha, and 6 in Bihar. The Jharkhand outbreak took place between October and December 2011. The findings in Odisha, Bihar, and Maharashtra took place throughout January 2012.

According to India's National Institute of Virology (NIV), the strain present in the Jharkhand birds was H5N1 clade 2.3.2.1. (see GAIN IN 2012). NIV has not confirmed the strains from the wild bird outbreaks in Odisha, Maharashtra and Bihar. There is no evidence that the HPAI strain identified in the Jharkhand birds is responsible for any of the 2012 outbreaks in commercial poultry in India.

The recent OIE notification is India's first official confirmation of HPAI in wild birds in 2012. For additional reporting on 2012 HPAI outbreaks in India, please see GAIN IN2007, IN 2008, IN2010, IN2014, IN2019, and IN2020.

Table 1. India: HPAI Wild Bird Findings (Crows) as of February 6, 2012

	Outbreak reported in	Birds reported dead	Date of Outbreak
1	Tata Steel Command Area, Jamshedpur, Jharkhand	1,143	10/30/2011-12/13/2012
2	Sadak Arjuni, Gondia, Maharashtra	5	01/03/2012-01/10/2012
3	Keranga, Mayurbhanj, Odisha	5	01/03/2012-01/11/2012
4	Fathehpur, Gaya, Bihar	6	01/10/2012-02/03/2012
	Total	1,159	

Source: [February 6, 2012 OIE Report](#)

Source News:

Crow deaths create panic in Hazaribag (Source: [The Times of India](#), 12/12/2011)

Massive crow deaths in India (Source: [The Watchers](#), 12/12/2011)

Statewide zoo alert on crow deaths - Team from UN, Centre in Jharkhand for probe (Source: [The Telegraph](#), 12/17/2011)

Mass death of crows creates puzzle and scare in Jharkhand (Source: [The Bihar days](#), 12/17/2011)

Death of crows, hens triggers panic in Odisha (Source: [The Sunday Indian](#), 01/07/2012)

Dying crows deny India is bird flu free (Source: [Topnews.in](#), 01/16/2012)

New bird flu strain killed Jharkhand crows (Source: [The Indian Express](#), 01/17/2012)

Govt gets cracking on crow deaths (Source: [The Times of India](#), 01/29/2012)