

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Date: 9/28/2011

GAIN Report Number: IN1191

India

Post: New Delhi

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Reported in Assam and West Bengal

Report Categories:

Poultry and Products

Pest/Disease Occurrences

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Report Highlights:

On September 19, 2011, India reported an outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) to the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE). The outbreak was detected in a rural backyard poultry flock in the Nadia district of West Bengal. On September 8, 2011, India also reported an outbreak of avian influenza (AI) in rural backyard poultry in a village of the northeastern state of Assam. Measures have been initiated to ensure containment of the outbreak. India had recently declared avian influenza freedom on July 4, 2011, following outbreaks in February and March 2011.

General Information:

Background

On September 19, 2011, India reported an outbreak of HPAI to the OIE. The outbreak was detected in a rural backyard poultry flock in the Nadia district of West Bengal. Prior to this, on September 8, 2011, an H5N1 AI outbreak was reported in a rural backyard poultry flock in a village of the state of Assam. The lab report confirming samples from Assam for H5N1 is available on the website of the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (DADF) and can be accessed at: [weekly report September 11, 2011](#). Another lab report confirming samples collected from the West Bengal positive finding for H5N1 can be accessed at: [weekly report September 18, 2011](#). The details of the OIE notifications for the West Bengal and Assam outbreaks can be found at [September 19, 2011 OIE notification](#) and [September 8, 2011 OIE notification](#).

On February 17 and March 7, 2011, the state of Tripura reported two outbreaks of H5 avian influenza to the OIE. The details of the two notifications are available at: [Feb 17, 2011 OIE notification](#) and [March 7, 2011 OIE notification](#) (Please refer GAIN IN 1115 for more details). Measures to contain the AI outbreaks were taken by the Government of India in a timely manner and the spread of AI to other areas was thus controlled. As a result, on July 4, 2011, India declared itself free from AI and notified the same to the OIE. The related notification is available at: [India declares itself free from avian influenza](#)

Current Status

The central government issued orders to the government of West Bengal and Assam to cull all poultry in a 3 km radius zone around the outbreak regions. Compensation is to be provided to the poultry owners. An intensive surveillance system was launched on a 10-km-radius zone, poultry markets were closed and the sale and transportation of poultry products in the affected area was prohibited. Other strategic actions to contain the disease, as per DADF's "[Action Plan of Animal Husbandry For Preparedness, Control and Containment of Avian Influenza](#)" include a ban on the movement of farm personnel; restricting access to wild and stray birds; restricting access to the infected premises; proper disposal of dead birds and infected materials; and clean-up and disinfection followed by sealing of the premises and issuing of a sanitization certificate etc.

Impact on the Market

Assam does not have a significant share of national egg and meat production (See table 1). West Bengal, however, is among the largest egg and poultry meat producing states in India, ranking 6th nationally in egg and poultry meat production (contributing more than 5% and 10%, respectively). Trade sources have not yet confirmed any impact on trade nor have any official statistics or estimates been released on the economic impact of the recent AI outbreaks.

Table 1: Estimate of Eggs and Poultry Meat in India for 2009-10

		% share to the national production	
		Eggs	Poultry meat
1	Andhra Pradesh	32.41%	17.89%
2	Bihar	1.84%	1.53%
3	Chhattisgarh	1.76%	0.59%
4	Goa	0.02%	NA
5	Gujarat	2.13%	0.84%
6	Haryana	6.43%	11.34%
7	Himachal Pradesh	0.17%	0.03%
8	Jammu & Kashmir	1.29%	NA
9	Jharkhand	0.66%	0.17%
10	Karnataka	4.86%	0.99%
11	Kerala	2.73%	0.74%
12	Madhya Pradesh	1.18%	0.54%
13	Maharashtra	6.46%	15.23%
14	Orissa	3.88%	2.91%
15	Punjab	5.49%	3.70%
16	Rajasthan	1.12%	0.49%
17	Tamil Nadu	18.13%	19.96%
18	Uttar Pradesh	1.77%	11.38%
19	Uttarakhand	0.42%	0.05%
20	West Bengal	5.40%	10.00%
21	Arunachal Pradesh	0.06%	NA
22	Assam	0.78%	0.25%
23	Manipur	0.19%	0.30%
24	Meghalaya	0.17%	0.20%
25	Mizoram	0.06%	0.07%
26	Nagaland	0.14%	NA
27	Sikkim	0.02%	NA
28	Tripura	0.24%	0.59%
29	A&N Islands	0.11%	NA
30	Chandigarh	0.04%	NA
31	D.& N. Haveli	0.01%	NA
32	Daman & Diu	0.00%	NA
33	Delhi	0.00%	NA
34	Lakshadweep	0.02%	0.01%
35	Puducherry	0.02%	0.25%
	ALL India	100%	100%

Source: Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture
NA: Not Available

