

MOST IMMEDIATE

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Government of India
Ministry of Agriculture
Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries

Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi
Dated the 8th July, 2015

Subject: Preparedness of the States for prevention of ingress of Avian Influenza.

Avian Influenza is a highly contagious avian disease & causes huge losses in terms of mortality and trade of poultry and poultry products. The disease has a zoonotic potential. This Department has been issuing the advisories to the States from time to time on preparedness to prevent ingress of Avian Influenza which are available on Department's website (www.dahd.nic.in) at the link Bird Flu.

2. As per the previous experiences, Avian Influenza may strike during any season, although there is a high risk of occurrence of Avian Influenza during the winters. Hence, all the states need to be in preparedness and keep a watch on any unusual sickness or mortality in birds (poultry as well as wild/migratory birds) and be fully prepared for early detection and thus prevent ingress of disease in the States.

3. It is reiterated that the following measures/ precautions should be undertaken for Prevention and Control of Avian Influenza:-

i). This Department has revised Action Plan on 'Prevention, Control and Containment of Avian Influenza' in March 2015 which is available on the website at the same link. The Surveillance Plan prepared in 2013 has also been made a part of revised Action Plan which needs to be implemented meticulously. The special surveillance is needed to be carried out in wet markets at the bordering areas, market chain on poultry supply areas with high duck population, water-bodies and the nesting places of wild birds as stipulated in surveillance Plan. The veterinary officers should arrange to send samples on regular basis.

ii). Migratory birds play an important role in transmission of Avian Influenza viruses resulting Low as well as Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza. Hence, there is a need of strengthened surveillance in areas where migratory birds are visiting. Special emphasis should be laid on sero-surveillance in poultry in such areas.

