

MOST IMMEDIATE

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

Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi
Dated the 14th October, 2015

Subject: Preparedness of the states to prevent ingress of Avian Influenza.

Avian Influenza, a highly contagious avian disease, having zoonotic potential, causes huge losses in terms of mortality in birds and trade of poultry and poultry products. From time to time, the advisories are being issued by this Department to the States on preparedness measures to prevent ingress of Avian Influenza which are available on Department's website (www.dahd.nic.in) at the link 'Bird Flu'.

2. Like other Influenza viruses, Avian Influenza virus thrives more in cooler months of the year. Since the winter is about to set in, there is an immediate need that all the states should 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 to prevent disease in their States.

3. It is reiterated that the following measures/ precautions should be undertaken for robust surveillance against disease:-

i). This Department has revised Action Plan on 'Prevention, Control and Containment of Avian Influenza' in March, 2015 which is available on the website under the link "Bird Flu". The surveillance Plan prepared in 2013 has also been made a part of revised Action Plan which needs to be implemented meticulously. There is a need to carry out special surveillance 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 given in surveillance Plan. The veterinary officers should arrange to send samples on regular basis.

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

iii) An information, Education and Communication campaign in the state needs to be undertaken to familiarize the risk population about Avian Influenza and the precautions that should be taken to prevent it. If any unusual sickness and mortality is noticed, the same needs to be reported to concerned authorities without any loss of time. It should be emphasized on the poultry owners, general public, people involved in poultry business & wild life staff to report such unusual

