

RAPPORT DE MISSION/ MISSION REPORT

Dr Bernard Vallat, Directeur général

Vérone (Italie)

Dates de la mission/Dates of the meeting : 21 – 22 mars 2007

Objet de la mission / aim of the meeting:

- Participer à la Conférence internationale OIE-FAO sur la vaccination dirigée contre la grippe aviaire.
- Co-présider la séance finale de discussion et d'adoption des Recommandations.
- Participer à la Conférence de presse et à la réalisation d'un film sur la vaccination réalisé par le Centre collaborateur de l'OIE sur la vaccinologie de Ames (USA)

Autres participants / Other participants:

Bureau central de l'OIE

- Dr Christianne Brusckke, Chargée de mission, Service scientifique et technique,
- M. Zampaglione, responsable de l'Unité Communication,
- Dr Sarah Khan, Chef du Service du Commerce international,
- A. Balmont, Assistante de conférence,
- Dr Gideon Bruckner, Chef du Service Scientifique et technique,
- Dr Karim Ben Jebara, Chef du Service de l'Information sanitaire.

Résumé et conclusions / Summary and conclusions:

La conférence a été co-organisée par l'OIE, la FAO et le Centre collaborateur de Padoue (Italie) avec l'appui de la Commission européenne.

L'objectif était d'associer la communauté scientifique internationale et les organisations internationales impliquées dans la lutte mondiale contre la grippe aviaire afin de parler d'une seule voix dans le domaine des préconisations en matière d'usage de la vaccination animale pour prévenir et contrôler la grippe aviaire dans le monde.

L'objectif a été atteint. Le niveau de participation a été supérieur aux objectifs. Néanmoins le budget ordinaire de l'OIE devra être imputé pour contribuer partiellement au coût élevé de cette conférence. Les Recommandations (en annexe) proposées ont pu être adoptées en séance publique avec tous les participants, ce qui permettra une appropriation des stratégies à la fois par la communauté scientifique et par les organisations internationales impliquées. Ces conclusions ont pu être expliquées et communiquées lors de la conférence de presse et lors de l'interview filmée réalisée par le Centre collaborateur de Ames.

Conclusions et suites à donner / Conclusions and Follow-up:

- Publier les Recommandations de la Conférence sur le site Web de l'OIE (MZ, EV, CB, GKB, MR),
- Intégrer les Recommandations dans le document sur la vaccination grippe aviaire qui sera distribué par l'OIE lors de la Session générale en mai 2007.

Annexes : Recommandations finales

Diffusion : Directeurs généraux adjoints, Chefs de Service et adjoints, A. Dehove, Chargé(e)s de mission, S. Bègue, C. Brusckke, M. Teissier, M. Zampaglione, Représentants régionaux et sous-régionaux, R. Abila, S. Forman, C. Planté, A. Thiermann

Vaccination: a tool for the control of Avian Influenza

RECOMMENDATIONS

Considering:

1. The occurrence and dynamics of H5N1 in the current HPAI epizootic.
2. The OIE standards, guidelines and recommendations, the FAO guidelines and recommendations, and the FAO/OIE global strategy on HPAI.
3. The experience with AI control programmes in countries or regions such as Italy, Mexico and South East Asia.
4. The successful control of HPAI outbreaks using vaccination as one of the critical control measures in countries such as Vietnam, Hong Kong SAR and other parts of China
5. The need to stop the spread of H5N1 at animal source and to decrease the risk of human infections and potential emergence of a human pandemic strain, when detection, reporting and/or implementation of other control measures are delayed.
6. The importance of disease awareness and surveillance programmes for the early detection and warning of infection
7. The experimental and field evidence that vaccination with high quality authorized vaccines increases the resistance against infection decreases the excretion rate of the virus into the environment and in so doing decreases the probability of infection of poultry, other animals and humans.
8. The scientific advancement in the development of novel AI vaccines that allow using the DIVA concept and the accompanying diagnostic tools.
9. That vaccination is not the only tool available for control of AI, can not eliminate the virus alone and when applied must be combined with other methods such as culling of (potentially) infected animals, increase of bio-security at farm, household and market level, and movement controls.
10. That vaccination is a logistically demanding and costly method with inherent uncertainties under field conditions regarding the level and duration of protection against infection.
11. That the overall aim should be not to rely on vaccination on a long term basis and an exit strategy should be defined based on a regular review of the disease situation.
12. That accessibility to poultry can be difficult in dispersed backyard and small holder farming systems.
13. The need for overall transparency on the use of vaccination, to have knowledge on the effectiveness of vaccination campaigns and virus circulation post-vaccination and the need to share these field data.
14. the need to prevent unjustified trade barriers related to vaccination
15. The need to preserve and protect valuable birds such as specific poultry breeds (conservation of genetic biodiversity), zoo birds, pet birds, ornamental birds and (grand)parent flocks,
16. That there are no elements indicating negative human health implications related to the vaccination of poultry and the subsequent consumption of their products.
17. The indispensability of high quality Veterinary Services to implement and monitor vaccination strategies as well as all other preventive measures and control programmes including early detection and response.

18. The need to involve public and private sectors together with Veterinary Services for successful prevention and control of HPAI.
19. That sustainability of vaccination strategies requires private / public commitment and cost sharing.
20. The need for good veterinary governance, strong political commitment and appropriate legislation.
21. The need for appropriate communication and general awareness on risks of avian influenza for both poultry and humans as part of a vaccination campaigns.

The meeting recommends

1. To implement the OIE standards, guidelines and recommendations, the FAO guidelines and recommendations, and the FAO/OIE global strategy on HPAI.
2. That importing countries respect the OIE standards to avoid unjustified trade barriers related to vaccination against avian influenza
3. To adopt an iterative approach to disease prevention and control by continuously assessing the HPAI disease situation and the success of the implemented prevention and control strategies to be able to modify/ adjust these strategies when needed.
4. That the objectives of any vaccination strategy should be defined before implementation in a country or region.
5. To consider vaccination when relevant as an additional tool to classical methods such as stamping out and increase of biosecurity, but always in combination with these classical methods
6. To consider vaccination to be a valuable approach in reducing infection in an endemic situation and to consider these countries as high priority for implementing preventative blanket vaccination programs.
7. That vaccination should be considered on the basis of a comprehensive analysis including risk assessment of the country situation and context covering:
 - The disease situation in the country (e.g. endemic, number and location of outbreaks)
 - The consideration of preventive blanket vaccination to control the virus in endemically infected countries.
 - The structure of the poultry production sectors 1-4, the market chain and poultry density
 - The risk of introduction and subsequent secondary spread
 - The expected costs and benefits of vaccination to different stakeholders taking into account impacts on consumption in rural and urban environments, production and trade in different farming systems.
 - The feasibility, constraints and costs of applying vaccination compared to or in combination with other methods.
 - The availability and quality of veterinary diagnostic laboratories.
 - The quality of the Veterinary Services and the institutional environment
 - The capability of the Animal Health Systems to implement the various prevention and control measures including vaccination
 - The availability of quality controlled vaccine authorised according to local regulatory standards
 - The possible impact on consumers behaviour (fears regarding food safety) and subsequent market price development
 - Appropriation of policies by stakeholders including poultry owners

8. To build a decision support method for policy makers that should be incorporated into national preparedness plans based on the criteria mentioned under 7
9. Vaccination plans should be an integral part of the contingency and emergency preparedness plans.
10. That in countries or sub regions a comprehensive approach by utilising the combined tools and measures for HPAI prevention, containment and elimination should be adopted.
11. That any vaccination policy should include an exit strategy which results in termination of vaccination depending on a reconsideration of the conditions which prevail at the regional and national level.
12. For countries to consider vaccination to protect valuable birds such as specific poultry breeds (conservation of germ plasm genetic biodiversity), zoo birds, pet birds, ornamental birds, (grand)parent flocks and fighting cocks when there is an increased risk of infection.
13. For countries to address in the vaccination plan specifically the issue of vaccination in small holder and backyard farming systems where high level vaccination coverage is difficult to achieve. Participatory community based approaches under supervision of veterinary authorities may be integrated in the vaccination plan
14. For countries to ensure the availability of sufficient quality controlled vaccines in the contingency plans, when necessary through the establishment of vaccine banks and/or strategic stockpiling of vaccines and/or specific arrangements with vaccine producers.
15. For countries to design all accompanying measures, methods and protocols for the necessary post vaccination monitoring:
 - Post vaccination immunity evaluation
 - Monitoring of field virus circulation in vaccinated flocks.
 - Routine testing of dead birds on farms
 - Clinical inspections and monitoring of live bird markets
 - Monitoring of the genetic and antigenic characteristics of the circulating field virus
16. For countries to develop appropriate capacity building programmes including training in epidemiology, disease surveillance and reporting, field and laboratory diagnosis, vaccination skills, campaign implementation, farming system guidance, socio economic analysis, programme evaluation, decision making and policy development.
17. For countries to provide the appropriate legislation and governance to implement HPAI control measures including vaccination and the means to enforce it and to streamline the regulatory process of vaccine authorization.
18. To evaluate and strengthen the Veterinary Services, public private partnerships including farmers organisations.
19. To promote the cost sharing of the respective Public or Private Good dimensions, to advocate for investments from Governments and International Community to assure the sustainability of intervention strategies.
20. That the commercial poultry industry reinforces its engagement in the control on HPAI with national authorities.
21. To increase investments into quality vaccine production through private led initiatives with local partnerships and to make these vaccines available particularly in developing countries.
22. To develop and fund research programmes in the following fields:
 - The epidemiology of AIVs including the molecular epidemiology, the role of wild birds and other animal species.
 - Development of decision support models taking into account all relevant factors.

- The onset, level and duration of immunity after vaccination for different species under laboratory and field conditions and immunosuppressive factors that may interfere with the development of immunity.
 - The combination of the AI vaccination with the control of other poultry diseases particularly Newcastle disease.
 - Development of new and improved vaccines including accompanying diagnostic tests and the definition of requirements for high quality vaccines
 - Development of antigen banks
 - Optimise methods for surveillance strategies.
 - Possible social and economic impacts of vaccination including impacts on production, consumption and trade with vaccination vis a vis other control methods
 - Design of cost-effective administration methods (“one shot) and delivery systems particularly regarding small holders and backyard systems (Participatory approaches, private sector delivery)
 - Collection and analysis of data generated during vaccination campaigns for the purpose of epidemiological and economical analysis.
 - Consider stakeholder alliances with OFFLU and platforms like the ETPGAH to coordinate global research efforts on avian influenza.
23. To provide urgently an evaluation and a peer-interpreted summary of published and presented information on avian influenza vaccination.
 24. To develop communication strategies to enhance the vaccination coverage, to mitigate the possible market impacts, to clarify the consumer concerns of food safety issues and concerns of farming communities.
 25. To recognise that control of HPAI including vaccination has a substantial Global Public Good component and that the international community should continue to support this control particularly in developing countries.