



**Technical meeting on HPAI Vaccination:
Approach, tools, knowledge, and experience for the Americas**

Virtual Meeting – March 3rd in 2 sessions:

Morning session: 09:00 - 11:30 h (Eastern Time, GMT-5)

Afternoon session: 13:30 - 16:00 h (Eastern Time, GMT-5)

Agenda

Background

Global outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in poultry and wild birds have been happening periodically over the past 20 years impacting different regions of the world. Since 2020, there has been a worldwide significant increase in the number of HPAI outbreaks affecting poultry, wild birds and in occasions mammals in all regions, including the Americas. The countries in the region are implementing different contingency measures to prevent and control its dissemination; however, impacts on animal health, trade and food safety and security are very important.

Recommendations from the first meeting of the GF-TADs Standing Group of Experts on Avian Influenza for the Americas (SGE-AI) held on December 13, 2022, included to reinforce and strengthen surveillance in domestic (commercial and backyard) poultry, as well as wild birds, enhance biosecurity and to discuss when and how vaccination could be considered as a relevant ancillary control tool. To accomplish such recommendations, participants highlighted the need for improve laboratory capability, explore compensation mechanisms, communication and awareness campaigns, as well as promoting the use of Private Public Partnerships.

Regarding the use of vaccination, participants of the SGE-AI recognized that although WOAHO existing standard provides the conditions for its use, there is limited information on country experiences, the scientific state of play, and other specific considerations taken by each Country. Hence, there is a need for a technical high-level discussion on the topic.

Following the recommendation of the SGE-AI, a meeting is organized to share current scientific knowledge and relevant field experience available to help Members to advance in their consideration to use vaccination against HPAI and discuss on the different impacts to consider when designing HPAI vaccination strategies, based on the , and in particular:

- Types of strategies for vaccination; Objectives and entry/ exit strategies
- Target species/production/sector
- Need for fit for purpose surveillance in vaccinated flocks: reasons and implications
- Vaccines supply, Vaccine quality, efficacy, and strain matching
- Logistics of vaccination and strengthened surveillance and required implementation capacity.
- Impact on trade / information for consumers
- Impact on legislation, including registration and procurement.

Although the majority of the affected or at-risk countries in the Americas implement strict preventive and control measures such as movement control, enhanced biosecurity and stamping out, avian influenza



continues to spread. There is a need to explore science-based disease control alternatives, such as vaccination, that can reduce the burden of the disease.

The Chapter 10.4 of the WOAH Terrestrial Animal Health Code recognizes that vaccination could be an effective complementary control tool when a stamping-out policy alone is not sufficient, and it should not affect the status of the country if surveillance support the absence of infection. The decision on whether to vaccinate should be made by the Veterinary Authority on the bases of the AI situation as well as the ability of the Veterinary services to implement the vaccination strategy and an appropriate surveillance.

The meeting, organized *under the umbrella of the GF-TADs for the Americas*, will be an open-interaction forum, focusing on help to Countries in the Americas. Interactive discussion shall allow to clarify relevant aspects of vaccination, as one of the components of the epidemiological strategy for prevention and control of HPAI.

Objectives of the meeting

This interactive meeting is intended to provide the scientific knowledge and discuss the strengths and limitations of the use of vaccination against AI, based on the latest scientific developments and the relevant field experience on the use of vaccination as complementary tool for the control of AI.

Expected outputs:

- Technical information delivered to country members related to vaccination for AI control
- Gathering of available information and experiences for decision-making at country level concerning AI control and emergency response
- Regional strategy for AI prevention and control updated and completed with information related to the use of vaccines for AI control

Participants:

Meeting is open to Delegates and technical staff from the Veterinary Services, and national representatives from the poultry value chain. In addition, representatives from International and Regional Organizations as well as private sector regional associations shall participate.

Date:

March 3rd, 2023, in 2 sessions:

- Morning session: 09:00 - 11:30 h (Eastern Time, GMT-5)
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Link to access the meeting: <https://oie.zoom.us/j/92352288501>



GF-TADs

GLOBAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE
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TRANSBOUNDARY ANIMAL DISEASES



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



World Organisation
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Agenda

Morning session 09:00 – 11:30 h ET		March 3rd, 2023	
Time	Topic	Speaker	
08:30 h – 09:00 h 30 min	Participants connection		
09:00 h – 09:10 h 10 min	Welcome to participants and introduction to the meeting	Jack Shere, Chairman, RSC GF-TADs Americas	
09:10 h – 09:40 h 30 min	Vaccine usage to control highly pathogenic avian influenza in poultry and other domestic birds: Setting the scene	David Swayne, Bird flu Veterinarian, United States of America	
09:40 h – 10:00 h 20 min	Issues to consider when developing a vaccination program for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza	Les Sims FAO Consultant	
10:00 h – 10:05 h 5 min	Break		
10:05 h – 10:25 h 20 min	Challenges of vaccine availability. Available vaccines and field use systems	Erica Spackman, Department of Agriculture, United States of America	
10:25 h – 10:45 h 20 min	Surveillance for HPAIv in vaccinated populations.	Christian Grund Friedrich Loeffler Institute Germany	
10:45 h – 11:05 h 20 min	What do we have in the commercially available surveillance toolbox now and the advantages and disadvantages of existing systems	Sjaak de Wit, Professor Integral Poultry Health, Veterinary Faculty, Utrecht University Senior scientist, Royal GD The Netherlands	
11:05 h -11:25 h 20 min	Existing methodologies and protocols for identification of avian influenza virus infection in vaccinated and non-vaccinated populations	Gounalan Pavade - OFFLU	
11:25 h – 11:30 h 5 min	Recap of Morning session	Jack Shere	



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Afternoon session 13:30 h – 16:00 h ET		March 3rd, 2023	
Time	Topic	Speaker	
13:00 h – 13:30 h 30 min	Participants connection		
13:30 h – 13:50 h 20 min	Genetic profiles of HPAI strains in the Americas	Mia Torchetti, Expert, WOAH AI Reference Laboratory, United States of America	
13:50 h – 14:10 h 20 min	Vaccines development, preparedness, and availability, based on HPAI strains	David Suárez ARS, USDA United States of America	
14:10 h – 14:15 h 5 min	Break		
Country Experiences in Avian Influenza vaccination Facilitator: Luis Barcos			
14:15 h – 14:30 h 15 min	Trade poultry and products and live bird from vaccinated flock or country that apply the vaccination	Etienne Bonbon –President of the Code Commission of WOA	
14:30 h – 14:37 h 7 min	The experience from Mexico	Roberto Navarro Director Mexican – US Commission for Prevention of Foot and Mouth Disease and other Exotic Animal Diseases (CPA)	
14:37 h – 14:34 h 7 min	The experience from Guatemala	Julio Cordon Head of Avian Health Program Ministry of Agriculture	
14:34 h – 14:43 h 9 min	The experience from Hong Kong	Jeremy Ho -Recorded	
14:43 h – 14:53 h 10 min	The experience from Ecuador	Christian Zambrano	
14:53 h – 15:43 h 50 min	Plenary discussion and feedback for future work in the region	Facilitator – David Swayne and Luis Barcos	
15:43 h -15:48 h 5 min	Recap of Afternoon session	Jack Shere	
15:48 h	Closing of the meeting	Jack Shere / Luis Barcos / Andrés González Serrano	

Translation English / Spanish will be provided.