



Third Meeting of the Standing Group of Experts on Avian Influenza of GF-TADs (SGE-AI)

Virtual Format

February 19, 2025, 10:00 AM – 12: 00M (Panama Time)

Considering that:

- The new season of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI), which began in October 2024, has continued its spread into 2025, with 144 outbreaks in poultry and 160 in non-avian species across various regions of the world, posing a significant challenge to animal health.
- Approximately 14.9 million poultry have died or been culled as a result of the disease, with a predominant impact in the Americas, affecting poultry production and food security.
- The number of poultry outbreaks reported in the first four months of the current seasonal wave (October 2024 – January 2025) is already comparable to the total outbreaks reported in the previous wave (October 2023 – September 2024), highlighting the persistence and magnitude of the problem.
- Although a slight decrease in the number of outbreaks reported to the WOA in January 2025 compared to December 2024 has been observed, an increase in cases among wild birds in Europe, as well as reports of cases in mammals in the Americas and Europe, reinforces the need to continue epidemiological surveillance.
- The global spread of HPAI underscores the importance of continuous surveillance in both domestic and wild species, as well as the need to implement the One Health approach, considering the virus's impact on wildlife, livestock production, and public health.
- The members of the Standing Group of Experts of the Americas and the participants of the Third SGE-IA Meeting of GF-TADs:

For Organizations:



- Strengthening cooperation and technical support to member countries for the implementation of prevention, control, and response measures against outbreaks of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI).
- Promote the development and funding of surveillance and diagnostic programs in high-risk regions, ensuring the availability of resources for early detection and virus containment.
- Facilitate the harmonization of health regulations and guidelines at the regional and international levels to improve coordination in the prevention and response to transboundary outbreaks.
- Promote research to address key knowledge gaps and encourage the exchange of scientific and epidemiological information among countries, with a focus on virus evolution, its impact on different species, and the effectiveness of control strategies.
- Support countries in assessing their training needs by facilitating capacity-building opportunities and evaluating the risks of transmission and spread of avian influenza, as well as identifying vulnerable species, populations, or habitats.
- Foster participation in existing One Health platforms or in the establishment of regional and national One Health platforms that collaborate with quadripartite partners at the regional level.
- Convene regular exchanges of information and regional updates on avian influenza, emphasizing the local context and high-risk periods associated with increased poultry trade and wild bird migration.
- Facilitate cooperation within a regional laboratory network and enhance the capacity of reference laboratories to optimize the detection and characterization of HPAI viruses.
- Engage key stakeholders in the regional assessment of poultry value chains to identify priority areas for transformation.

For Countries:

- Review the existing national strategy and/or action plan (or develop one if it does not exist) in alignment with the recently published GF-TAD global strategy for the prevention and control of HPAI.
- Strengthen epidemiological surveillance and diagnostic systems in poultry, wild birds, and susceptible mammals, ensuring the early detection, timely reporting, and containment of outbreaks.
- Promote risk communication regarding prevention measures and the protection of people and animals, emphasizing the importance of reporting bird and wildlife mortality to veterinary services.



- Implement and reinforce best practices related to biosecurity on farms and in poultry markets, reducing the risk of virus introduction and spread in poultry production and wildlife.
- Enhance communication and cooperation among key sectors (animal health, public health, and the environment) through the One Health approach, promoting integrated prevention and control strategies.
- Engage regional and local governments in preventive actions against HPAI within the country.
- Review and reinforce communication about contingency plans and emergency response procedures among relevant stakeholders to strengthen preparedness for action.
- Ensure the timely reporting of outbreaks and the sharing of epidemiological information, including genomic data, to facilitate a coordinated and effective response, in line with international transparency standards and guidelines.
- Develop and/or update national action plans for HPAI, guided by the global strategy, to identify and adapt control measures appropriate to the national context and based on the latest scientific evidence.
- Advocate for political and financial support to prevent and control HPAI within the country.
- Analyze past HPAI outbreaks in the country, including lessons learned, to identify systemic contributing factors, prevention barriers, and potential future challenges.
- Collaborate with regional partners to share experiences and data related to HPAI, discuss challenges and progress in national plans, and identify solutions to support ongoing efforts.

Adopted on February 19, 2025