

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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POLICY

Voluntary Public

Date: 2/22/2011

GAIN Report Number: IN1115

India

Post: New Delhi

H5 Notifiable Avian Influenza Found in Tripura State

Report Categories:

Poultry and Products

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Report Highlights:

On February 17, 2011, the Government of India (GOI) confirmed the outbreak of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) on a Government Duck Farm in the North East state of Tripura. The last outbreak of Avian Influenza (AI) was reported in January 2010 in West Bengal. In June 2010, India declared itself free from Notifiable Avian Influenza and notified the same to the OIE. With the current outbreak in Tripura, India has lost its AI free status.

General Information:

Introduction:

On February 17, 2011, the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying, and Fisheries (DADF), issued a letter to the Chief Secretary of the Government of Tripura, stating that samples collected from the Government Duck Farm in Agartla (capital of Tripura) were found positive for notifiable Avian Influenza. Testing was conducted in the government labs at Kolkata and Bhopal. The DADF asked the state department to take action to immediately control the situation. To prevent any further outbreak, DADF directed the state to start culling all poultry in the affected area within a radius of 3 kms. The DADF also ordered that surveillance be carried out within a radius of 10 kms. The Government of India notified the outbreak of HPAI to the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) on February 17, 2011. The details of the official notification from India to the OIE can be seen at: [Details of Notification](#)

The Ministry of Agriculture prohibits the imports of specified live animals and livestock products from all countries reporting Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) and Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza (LPAI). India declared itself free of Avian Influenza in June 2010 and also reported the same to the OIE, as of that date. Since 2006, India has banned the importation of a wide range of products due to AI and continues to extend its emergency AI ban with modifications on a six month basis. Products currently affected by the ban include live poultry, day old chicks, unprocessed poultry meat and poultry meat products, hatching eggs, egg and egg products, and semen of poultry among others. While India has made changes to the measure over the past three years (moving from all avian influenza to notifiable low pathogenic and highly pathogenic avian influenza for example), those changes still do not bring India's measure into line with the provisions of the OIE Code Chapter on avian influenza.

Disclaimer:

This summary is based on a cursory review of the subject announcement and therefore should not under any circumstances be viewed as a definitive reading of the regulation in question, or of its implications for U.S. agricultural export trade interests.

Details on confirmation letter no 50-362/2011- LDT (AQ) dated February 17, 2011:

- **Issue Date:** February 17, 2011
- **Agency in Charge:** Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (DADF), Ministry of Agriculture (MOA), Government of India (GOI).
- **Letter** (Text as issued is attached)

No. 50-362/2011-LDT (AQ)
Government of India
Ministry of Agriculture
Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries

Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi
Dated the 17th February, 2011

To

The Chief Secretary
Government of Tripura
Agartala

Subject: Confirmation of Avian Influenza in Government Duck Farm, R. K. Nagar, Agartala, Tripura.

I am directed to refer to the Government of Tripura, Animal Resources Development Department letter No. 9-25/ARDD/DIL/RKN/ 2011 dated 15th February, 2011 reporting unusual death of ducks in Government Duck Farm, R.K. Nagar, Agartala, Tripura. The poultry samples collected from the affected site were forwarded to the ERDDL, Kolkata and High Security Animal Disease Laboratory (HSADL), Bhopal for testing.

2. The tests conducted at ERDDL, Kolkata and subsequently by HSADL, Bhopal confirmed that the samples from Government Duck Farm are positive for H5 strain of Avian Influenza.

3. In this connection, it has been decided that the culling of birds and destruction of eggs and feed material etc. may commence immediately without any delay so as to control further spread of the disease without loss of time.

4. Accordingly, a series of strategic actions are now required to be taken immediately in the above area. Such actions are to be taken by the Animal Husbandry and Public Health Departments. The strategy has been detailed in the 'Action Plan of Animal Husbandry for Preparedness, Control and Containment of Avian Influenza' revised and circulated by the Government of India in November, 2006 and other instructions/guidelines issued by the Government of India from time to time and also the 'Contingency Plan' circulated in 2005 by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India.

5. It is requested that necessary actions as contained in the Action Plan of Animal Husbandry referred to above (especially under Part III) are initiated immediately by the State Government. These include declaration of infected and surveillance areas, ban on movement of poultry and its products in the infected area/closure of poultry and egg markets and shops within a radius of 10 kms. from the infected site, ban on movement of farm personnel, restricting access to the infected premises; destruction of birds; disposal of dead birds and infected materials; clean-up and disinfection followed by sealing of the premises and issue of sanitization certificate; post operations surveillance; imposition of legislative measures etc. along with necessary measures laid down in the Contingency Plan (2005) of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India.

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6. It has been decided that the entire poultry will be culled within a radius of 3 kms. of the focus of infection as given below :-

S.No.	Village	City
1.	State Duck Breeding Farm, R.K. Nagar	Agartala

In addition to the culling strategy mentioned above, surveillance will be carried out over a further radius up to 10 kilometers.

7. It is the policy of the Government to compensate for loss of poultry on account of culling and destruction of birds. The rate for payment of compensation has also been indicated to the State Governments. The Government of India has conveyed the decision to share costs of compensation on 50:50 basis with the State Governments and authorized State Governments to utilize funds available with them under the programme of 'Assistance to States for Control of Animal Disease' (ASCAD), which is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme. It may please be ensured that payment of compensation is immediate and simultaneous to culling.

8. A daily report on the control and containment operations may please be furnished to this Department by 11 a.m.

9. International Organizations will be notified by the Government of India at its level.

10. Surveillance throughout the State may be intensified to monitor further spread of infection, if any.



(R.S. Rana)

Joint Secretary to the Government of India

Copies for information to:

- 1) Prime Minister's Office (Shri Sanjay Mitra, Joint Secretary), New Delhi
- 2) Cabinet Secretariat (Shri M. Sarangi, Additional Secretary), New Delhi
- 3) Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi.
- 4) Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India, Paryavaran Bhawan, New Delhi.
- 5) Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, North Block, New Delhi.
- 6) Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.
- 7) Director General (M&C), PIB, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.
- 8) Principal Secretary, Department of Animal Resources Development, Government of Tripura.
- 9) Director, Department of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services, Government of Tripura.

Copy also to:

- (1) Secretary (AH) of all States/UTs.
- (2) Commissioners/Directors (AH) of all States/UTs.



(R.S. Rana)

Joint Secretary to the Government of India