

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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India

Post: New Delhi

India Reports Meghalaya AI Outbreak- New Outbreak in Odisha

Report Categories:

Poultry and Products

Pest/Disease Occurrences

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Report Highlights:

On January 13, 2012, India reported an outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) on a government-operated poultry farm in Meghalaya State to the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE). The Meghalaya State Government is taking measures to contain the disease, including destruction of all domestic poultry in a 3-km radius zone around the outbreak. Additionally, on January 14, 2012 to January 17, 2012, the Indian press reported additional HPAI findings in Odisha. This outbreak has not yet been reported to the OIE.

General Information:

Background

On January 13, 2012, India reported an HPAI outbreak to the OIE ([January 13, 2012 OIE report](#)). The outbreak was detected in a government-operated poultry farm near William Nagar in Meghalaya State. The outbreak has killed more than 2,700 birds and more than 20,000 birds are considered susceptible to the disease. In response, the Meghalaya government is carrying out measures as per the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries' "[Action Plan of Animal Husbandry For Preparedness, Control and Containment of Avian Influenza.](#)" This includes destruction of all domestic poultry within a 3-km radius zone of the outbreak, creation of an intensive surveillance system in a 10-km radius zone, poultry market closures, a prohibition on the sale and transportation of poultry products in the affected area, a ban on the movement of farm personnel, and clean-up and disinfection of the contaminated premises with proper disposal of dead birds and infected materials.

The January 13th outbreak follows on the heels of an HPAI incident that took place in the Khurda District of Odisha State on January 11th (Refer GAIN IN2007 and [January 11, 2012 OIE Report](#)). While the State of Odisha has taken actions to contain the January 11th outbreak, on January 16th the Indian press reported additional HPAI incidents in Odisha's Mayurbhanj District, which borders Jharkhand. This outbreak has not yet been reported to the OIE, as identification and characterization of the strain is still underway. However, the outbreak correlates with wild bird HPAI findings in Jharkhand during December 2011. According to interviews with India's National Institute of Virology (NIV), wild bird deaths in Jharkhand were due to a new Avian Influenza strain. While conclusive information on the January 16th outbreak is not yet available, there is a reasonable possibility that this outbreak is due to the same strain found in wild birds in Jharkhand.

Market Conditions

According to interviews with Indian poultry industry representatives, there is little concern that the recent HPAI outbreaks will cause serious market interruptions. Industry representatives note that the outbreaks were not found in significant egg and meat producing regions. As well, they noted that outbreaks in northeastern India are seasonal and common, and that the government of India is very experienced at containing HPAI outbreaks. Nonetheless, the Indian poultry industry continues to take precautionary measures and is maintaining surveillance over flocks in major production areas.

