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Indian HPAI Outbreak in Tripura State

Report Categories:

Livestock and Products

Pest/Disease Occurrences

Poultry and Products

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

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Report Highlights:

On January 28, 2012, the Government of India (GOI) notified an outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in Tripura State to the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE). This is the fourth finding of HPAI in 2012. The last outbreak of avian influenza (AI) in Tripura was reported on a government poultry farm in March 2011. There is no visible impact on the domestic poultry market due to the recent outbreaks.

General Information:

On January 28, 2012, the GOI notified an outbreak of HPAI in Tripura state to the OIE. India's National Institute of Virology has not yet identified the strain. The outbreak was detected at an Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) poultry farm in the Mohanpur area of the West Tripura District in Tripura State. The Tripura outbreak is India's fourth H5N1 HPAI outbreak notified to the OIE in 2012 (see GAIN IN2007, IN 2008, and IN2010). The details of the GOI's January 28, 2012 notification can be accessed at: [January 28, 2012 OIE Report](#). The GOI reports that over 12,000 birds are considered susceptible to the disease and over 4,000 birds are reported dead following the Tripura outbreak. In response, the Government of Tripura is carrying out the GOI's protocol, as described in "[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 last outbreak of AI in Tripura was reported on a government poultry farm in Gandhigram region in March 2011 (see GAIN IN1129).

Since 2006, India has maintained an emergency AI ban on the importation of a wide range of poultry products from all countries reporting HPAI and low pathogenic avian influenza (see GAIN IN1167). Products affected by the ban include live poultry; day-old chicks, turkeys and other newly hatched avian species; unprocessed meat and meat products of domesticated and wild birds and other avian species; hatching eggs; table eggs and egg products; other domestic and wild birds; unprocessed feathers; live swine; pathological material and biological products from birds; and poultry semen. The duration of the emergency AI ban is unspecified. India declared itself free of AI on January 4, 2012 through a [Press Release](#) issued by the Ministry of Agriculture on the GOI's Press Information Bureau website. However, the declaration was followed shortly after by HPAI outbreaks in the states of Odisha and Meghalaya.

Trade:

Industry representatives maintain that AI outbreaks occurred outside of India's major poultry production areas and will not affect trade.

Table 1. India: Culling Statistics as of January 28, 2012

	Outbreak reported in	Birds Susceptible	Birds reported dead	Birds culled
1	Rural backyard poultry, Khorda, Odisha	35,589	3	31,912
2	State government poultry farm, William Nagar, Meghalaya	20,194	2,732	4,666
3	Rural backyard poultry, Mayurbhanj, Odisha	4,923	19	NA
4	ICAR poultry farm	12,385	4,229	NA
	Total	73,091	6,983	36,578

Source: [January 28, 2012 OIE Report](#)