

Planning for cooperation with Huazhong Agricultural University (Wuhan)

Prof John Edwards, Dr Guo Fusheng and Mr Tang Hao visited Huazhong Agricultural University (HZAU) in Wuhan City on 2nd December 2013. The main objectives of this mission were to finalize a plan for cooperation on epidemiology capacity building with HZAU, and to assist HZAU with the delivery of a program for training on veterinary epidemiology for university academic staff.

The FAO team met with the management of HZAU, the College of Animal Sciences & Technology and the College of Veterinary Medicine. HZAU expressed strong interest in the plans for cooperation and this will be of benefit to HZAU in terms of engaging international organizations to assist them with capacity building. During the meeting, both parties agreed on details about the proposal for joint "Veterinary Epidemiology Training for University Academics". The primary aim of the training is to enhance the understanding and knowledge about veterinary epidemiology for university teachers, and to improve their capacity to teach undergraduate veterinary epidemiology. Both FAO and HZAU agreed that a one-week training course will be arranged from 13th to 17th January 2014. During the next few weeks, FAO experts will work closely with HZAU to launch the training course.



▲ Visit to Huazhong Agricultural University

Participation in the LinkTADs Kick-off meeting in Rome

Prof John Edwards and Dr Guo Fusheng attended the "Linking Epidemiology and Laboratory Research on Transboundary Animal Diseases (TADs) and Zoonoses in China and EU (LinkTADs)" kick-off meeting in Rome from 9th to 10th December 2013. The LinkTADs project is a one million Euro initiative funded by the EU. It aims to coordinate research on animal disease control between partners in the EU and China. By fostering networking between scientific institutions, LinkTADs will establish systematic linkages between animal health research, training programs and innovation projects in the EU and China.

The kick-off meeting aimed at bringing together all partners of the LinkTADs project in order to foster the direct discussion on the strategic and operational issues linked to the project implementation. Four Chinese institutions are involved in this project, including Shanghai Veterinary Research Institute (SVRI), Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS), Harbin Veterinary Research Institute (HVRI), Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS), China Animal Health and Epidemiology Center (CAHEC) and Huazhong Agricultural University (HAU).



▲ Group Photo for LinkTADs Kick-off Meeting in Rome

The LinkTADs project is an important part of FAO's strategy to work with partners to better control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (TADs). FAO ECTAD China is strongly committed to further developing its network of partnerships, and will play an important part in supporting Chinese partners with the implementation and in facilitating linkages among all partners. It will also be a very good platform to assist with the implementation of ECTAD China's key programs involving animal influenzas, epidemiology capacity development and promoting One Health approaches. It is expected that through the linkages established that the partners will also attract additional project opportunities.

FAO ECTAD China to assist in organization of the OFFLU technical meeting

The World Organization for Animal Health (OIE)/FAO Network of Expertise on Animal Influenza (OFFLU) hosted a technical meeting on vaccines and vaccination against Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) from 4th to 6th December 2013 in Beijing. The main objectives of the meeting included develop guidance from lessons learned from the proper selection, use and delivery of vaccines towards control of HPAI, build consensus among experts in avian influenza from government, academia and international organizations, and incorporate views of poultry producers and vaccine manufacturers. Representatives from countries where vaccination against HPAI is used, International Federation for Animal Health (IFAH), poultry production companies, Harbin Veterinary Research Institute, OIE and FAO attended the meeting. The meeting was launched by Dr Zhang Zhongqiu, Director General of the Veterinary Bureau, Mr Percy W Misika, FAO Representative for China and Dr Joseph Domenech, Special Adviser to OIE. Prof John Edwards, Senior Technical Coordinator, FAO ECTAD China co-chaired one of the sessions of the meeting, while ECTAD China assisted in the organization of the meeting to ensure the smooth delivery of the meeting.



▲ Group Photo for OFFLU Technical Meeting

Participation of the USAID Partners' Meeting on Value Chains and Zoonotic Pathogens

The USAID Partners' Meeting on Value Chains and Zoonotic Pathogens was held in Bangkok from 16th to 17th December 2013. This meeting aimed to share information with USAID on the application of value chain approaches as part of an ongoing process of increasing the use of value chain approaches in the investigation of emerging infectious diseases in future phases of work. Prof John Edwards presented at the meeting on previous, current and future plans for the application of value chain analysis for work on influenza viruses in China. The meeting provided an opportunity to review the state of knowledge on value chain and disease transmission and helped to identify the list of information within the animal value chain required to understand the emergence and spread of diseases. It will also contribute to the planning for the future of the USAID Emerging Pandemic Threats (EPT) program.



▲ Group Photo for USAID Partners' Meeting in Bangkok

Upcoming Activities:

1. The one-week training course on teaching veterinary epidemiology for university academic staff will be held from 13-17 January 2014 in Wuhan.
2. The Chinese Spring Festival (Chinese New Year) will start from 31 January 2014. Greet your friends and neighbors with the following phrases: Xin Nian Kuai Le (Happy New Year) and Gong Xi Fa Cai (wishing you prosperity).