

Enhancement of Salmonella surveillance and control as a model for food-borne diseases in the region

Purpose:

The goal is to prevent, protect, control and provide a public health response to salmonella outbreaks in the region.

Principles:

- The three participated country-members of MECIDS recommend adopting a common plan for surveillance and control.
- Both MOH and MOA are responsible for implementation of the project .
- The relevant IHR and OIE guidelines should be adopted when necessary.
- The three countries should exchange experiences and information in a transparent manner.
- The three countries should try to reach an agreement regarding movement of related materials .
- If one of the countries wells to gain the capability for performing the tests then one of the countries who has the ability should assess in this regard.
- Promotion of joint research projects is a priority.

Surveillance targets:

Veterinary sector:

- Poultry parent and grandparent stocks.
- Egg layers
- Eggs
- Broilers
- Backyard and organic poultry
- Poultry houses and hatcheries
- Slaughter houses

Public health sector:

- Patients
- Food handlers
- Food
- Water

Building of diagnostic capabilities:

- Improve the diagnostic capability to include:
 - Diagnosis
 - Serotyping
 - Genotyping
- This should be accomplished by:
 - Training
 - Exchange of educational materials
 - Cooperate for obtaining a supply of reagents when possible.
 - Provide parities with latest technologies needed to achieve the goals (materials, equipments and training)

Activities:

- Each country should perform a preliminary survey on parent stocks, grandparent stocks, layers, eggs, broilers, farms and hatcheries and slaughter houses.
- Enhancement of the public health awareness for handling potential hazardous food stuff.
- Educating the poultry keepers and poultry handlers on principles of bio-safety and bio-security.
- Based on the results and on previous findings the three countries together should:
 - agree on a common plan for surveillance.
 - work on applying and unifying more efficient isolation and diagnostic techniques.
 - Apply serotyping and genotyping techniques for positive isolates.
 - Activate the existing notification system in case of outbreaks.
 - Exchange the relevant information on a regular basis.
 - Develop an efficient epidemiological surveillance system.
 - Develop an efficient registration and reporting system.
 - Analyze and summarize the findings separately and evaluate the outcomes in a trilateral forum.

Joint research promotion:

The following research subjects are recommended to be performed in a joint manner:

1. Comparison of salmonella serotypes and genotypes isolated from poultry, food, food handlers, water and patients both at national and regional levels.
2. possible vertical transmission of S. Virchow from layers to eggs.
3. determination of the state of antibiotic resistance among salmonella isolates from poultry and human sources in the region.
4. evaluation of the vaccination efficiency in poultry.