

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: Avian Influenza Discovered in More States - Maharashtra
Government Announces Compensation

Country: India

Post: New Delhi

Report Category: Pest/Disease Occurrences, Poultry and Products, Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety,
Agricultural Situation, Agriculture in the News

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Report Highlights:

As of January 27, 2021, Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) outbreaks have been confirmed in nine states for poultry, and in 12 states for wild migratory and non-migratory birds. Control and containment operations, including cleaning and disinfection are occurring in the affected epicenters. So far, the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD), Government of India (GOI) has reported the bird flu outbreaks in Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Haryana to the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE).

OVERVIEW

As of January 27, 2021, Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) outbreaks are confirmed in nine states¹ for poultry, and in 12 states² for migratory and non-migratory birds, including crow populations. Avian Influenza was confirmed in poultry samples from the districts of Nanded, Solapur, Pune, Ahmednagar, Buldhana, Akola, Nashik, and Hingoli in Maharashtra; Bhavnagar district in Gujarat and Dhamtari district in Chhattisgarh. For non-poultry birds, Avian Influenza has been confirmed in crows in Uttarakhand (Rudraprayag Forest Division); in teetar (partridge and quail) in Junagad (Gujarat) and in peacocks in Beed (Maharashtra).

Control and containment operations, including culling, cleaning and disinfection are occurring in the various disease epicenters. So far, the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD), Government of India (GOI) has reported bird flu occurrence in Kerala ([January 9](#)), Madhya Pradesh ([January 16](#), and [January 24](#)), Maharashtra ([January 16](#)), Rajasthan ([January 23](#)), and Haryana ([January 15](#)) to the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE).

The Government of Maharashtra has authorized a compensation package of INR 13 million (USD \$178,100) for culling poultry and other birds, destroying eggs and poultry feed considered infected with HPAI. The disease control will occur within a one-kilometer radius of the infected area, carried out via the Bird Flu Disease Control Program. Compensation is paid to farmers whose poultry birds, eggs and poultry feed are culled or disposed by the State as per the DAHD's Action Plan 2021.

The DAHD provides funds to states and Union Territories on a 50 percent cost-sharing basis under the Assistance to States for Control of Animal Disease (ASCAD) component of its Livestock Health & Disease Control Scheme (Source: [PIB Press Release](#)). On January 6, the Government of Kerala announced a similar plan to compensate up to INR 5/egg and INR 100/bird if the animal is aged below 60 days, and INR 200 for older poultry birds (media reports). These government actions intend to assist poultry farmers recover their losses. It is possible that other affected states may take similar actions.

In mid-January, nervous consumers had reduced purchases of chicken and poultry products, despite consumer awareness campaigns through social and digital media to allay fears. In a span of a more than a week starting January 4, chicken and egg sales slowed down by 10 to 15 percent. Farm gate chicken prices fell 10-30 percent in different parts of the country. Likewise, egg prices dropped 15-25 percent.

On January 21, to prevent misinformation and reduce fear of poultry and egg consumption, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India issued a [guidance note](#) for food business operators and consumers on the safe handling, processing and consumption of poultry and eggs. Household and restaurant poultry sales have reportedly slowed down; while other meats including pork, goat, lamb, fish, and seafood have amplified. Last year, India's poultry industry suffered heavy losses due to false speculation on social media that chicken contributed to the spread of the coronavirus, while the COVID-19 national lockdown to contain the virus squeezed demand.

Attachments:

No Attachments.

¹ Includes Kerala, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and Punjab.

² Includes Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Delhi, Rajasthan, Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab.