

BIOSECURITY MEASURES TO BE ADOPTED BY THE FARMERS

1. Specific to Organized Farms
2. Specific to Backyard Farms

1. SPECIFIC TO ORGANIZED FARMS:

The following biosecurity measures are recommended to be followed by the organized farm sector.

- A) Location of Farm: It is preferable that organized poultry farms are not located in close proximity to the water bodies.
- B) Construction of buildings:
 - a) In all organized poultry farms, provision should exist to prevent the entry of wild birds and to extent possible, of rodents and other vermin also into the sheds used by poultry.
 - b) Buildings should be constructed in such a way, so that they can be cleaned easily and disinfected effectively when needed.
- C) Restrictions on farm personnel/visitors:
 - i) Entry of non-essential visitors including pharmaceutical and vaccine representatives inside the farm should be regulated.
 - ii) Personnel involved in the day-to-day activities of the farm viz. service personnel, delivery personnel, utility personnel veterinarians, scientists, state health personnel etc. must wear appropriate coveralls i.e cap, dress and shoes. Shoes if not changed, must be scrubbed with a long-handled scrub brush to remove droppings, mud or debris. The clothes should also be washed with laundry detergent and must also be disinfected.
 - iii) Provision of a facility should be made at the gate of the farm for changing clothes; shoes etc. during entry and that facility should have sufficient quantity of sanitizer/disinfectant for use of concerned person(s).
 - iv) Breeding farm personnel should be prohibited from visiting other farms unnecessarily and if necessary, they should visit the farm after taking every precautionary measure.
 - v) Farm personnel should not attend bird shows or other events where other birds from other farms are present.
- D) Restriction on vehicle movement and its personnel:

All vehicles should be parked in designated places and should be disinfected before entry and immediately after leaving

- ii) Only disposable egg trays and egg boxes should be sent from farms to hatcheries or reusable boxes should be disinfected on exit entry point. Wooden pallets or cardboard egg cartons should not be shared as they are porous and cannot be adequately cleaned and disinfected.

F) Farming Practice:

- i) In a poultry farm, practice of uniform age-group policy should be adopted. This is best done by 'all- in-all-out' production system.
- ii) Mixed farming of duck, poultry, pig etc. should be discouraged.
- iii) Regarding entry of new flock, care must be taken to ensure that all birds are obtained from healthy stock.
- iv) As feed and water can be a source of infection, feed should be tested for each batch and clean water be provided.
- h) Farm premises should be disinfected periodically to prevent ingress of any disease, especially before introduction of new batch.
- vi) A recommended area of nearly six feet around the building should be kept free from any vegetation, organic matter/litter, feather, debris, decaying material to the extent possible to provide a protective ring.
- vii) Proper measures/strategies may be adopted for effective and early detection of disease. Any unusual mortality/any such suspicion should be reported immediately to the nearest veterinary authorities.
- viii) Dead birds should be disposed off scientifically within the farm premises.

G) Provision of Quarantine Facilities:

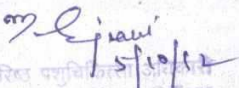
- a) Before introduction of new batch of flock, the birds should be kept separate from the rest of the flock for at least 30 days.
- b) Any bird sent to a fair/exhibition should not be allowed back into the farm to mix with the farm birds.

2. SPECIFIC TO BACKYARD FARMS:

- a) Access to the poultry from outside should be restricted to the extent possible e.g. by way of fencing etc.
- b) Cockfighting should be prevented.
- c) Washing of hands with soap, water and a disinfectant before and after handling of poultry birds is advocated.
- d) As regards consumption of poultry products, WHO advises the "poultry and poultry products can be safely consumed provided these items are properly cooked and properly handled during food preparation. The H5NI virus is sensitive to heat. Normal temperatures used for cooking (70 C in all parts of the food) will kill the virus. Consumers need to be sure that all parts of the poultry are fully cooked (no "pink parts) and that eggs, too, are properly cooked (no "runny yolks)".
- e) Care should be taken for proper washing and sanitizing cutting knives by using soap/disinfectant including the village market.
- f). Limiting contact between poultry flocks and other birds/species through good biosecurity practices is the key to minimizing the likelihood of entry of any type of avian influenza virus. Water and feed supplies for poultry flocks

and sickness and to report any such sickness and to report any such suspicion immediately to the nearest veterinary authorities. Some of the symptoms are as under:-

- Sudden death
 - Diarrhoea
 - Decrease or complete loss of egg production, soft-shelled, isshapen eggs.
 - Sneezing, grasping for air, nasal discharge, coughing
 - Lack of energy and appetite.
 - Swelling of tissues around eyes and I neck
 - Purple discoloration of the wattles, combs and legs.
 - Depression, muscular tremors, drooping wings, twisting of head and neck, incoordination, complete paralysis.
- h) Local and voluntary surveillance is advocated to be strengthened on part of poultry owners in the vicinity of wetland or other places visited by wild/migratory birds. Unusual mortality in wild/migratory birds should be reported immediately to the nearest Forest/Veterinary Officials.


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