

**MEETING OF THE STATES PARTIES TO THE
CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF
THE DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCTION AND
STOCKPILING OF BACTERIOLOGICAL
(BIOLOGICAL) AND TOXIN WEAPONS AND
ON THEIR DESTRUCTION**

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Items 5 and 6 of the agenda

Animal disease surveillance and response in Thailand

Submitted by Thailand

Background

1. Thailand is regarded as agricultural based country which a major part of Gross Domestic Products arise from agriculture products.
2. Hence, agriculture is Thailand's major foreign currency earning where export of agriculture products contribute to over 50% of the total Gross National Product. Moreover, Thailand is the world largest producers of many agriculture commodities including cassava, rubber and the country is placed as the world top tenth in term of export volumes of rice, shrimp, pineapple and frozen chicken.
3. In term of livestock, Thailand is the world leader of poultry productions in which mostly export to Japan and EU markets. The livestock farming is predominated with two different types: large commercial scale high throughput process and home rearing type of farming. Other than chicken, cattle, pig and buffalo are livestock being raised in Thailand.
4. Thailand is the signatory member of OIE.

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Strategy for animal health and disease control

5. The strategic plan for animal health control and disease control programs are conducted with particular emphases on the followings:

- (i) Immunization or vaccination scheme
- (ii) Quarantine or movement restriction
- (iii) Destroy of animals at risk with infectious agents.
- (iv) Epidemiological application.
- (v) Public relation such as people participation and private sector involvement.

6. Looking at these 5 major strategies for disease control, there are constrains in implementing the above strategies:

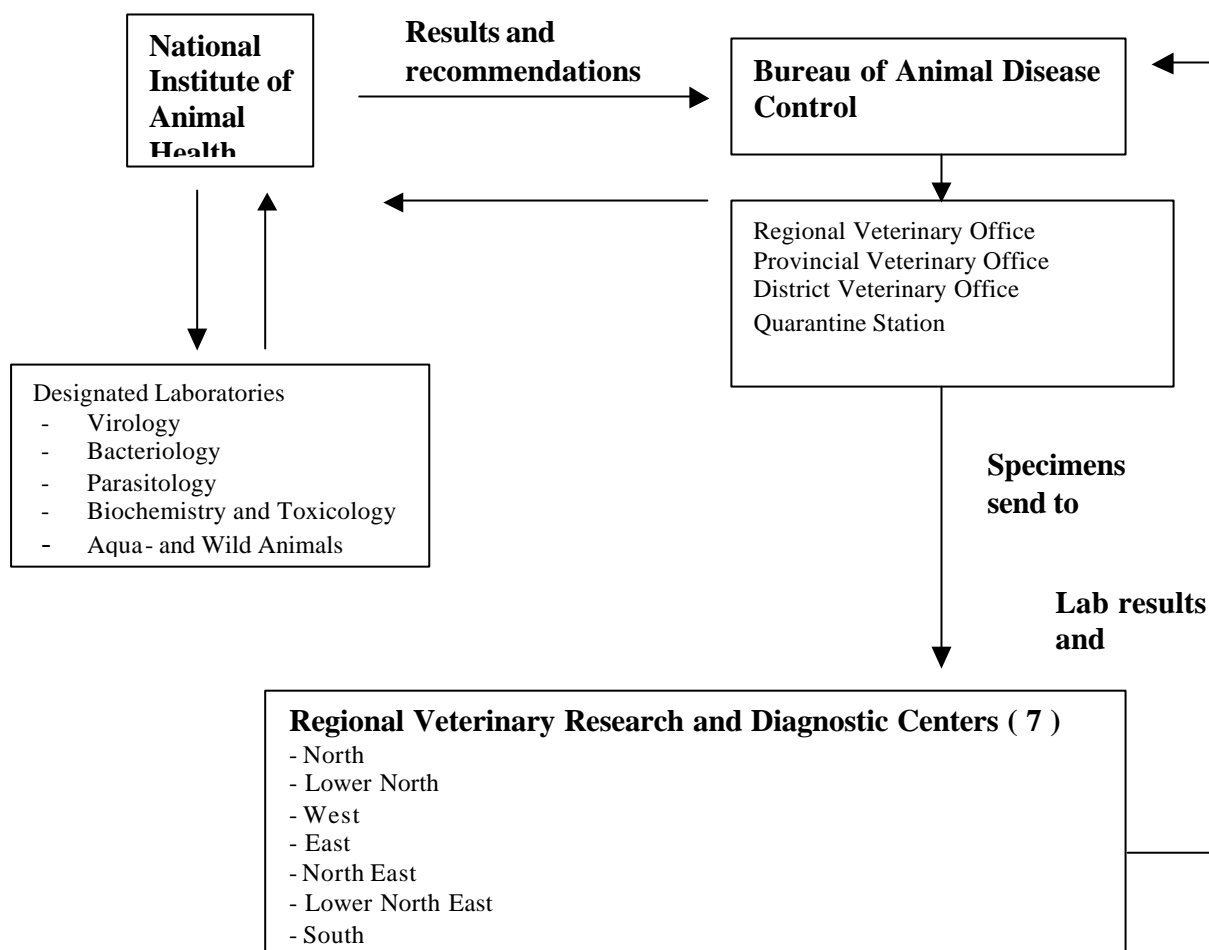
- (i) Immunization (vaccination) is still controversial on the advantages and disadvantages for some specific areas such vaccines efficacy and also concern on the economic aspect.
- (ii) Control of movement of poultry need a lot of effort, legal enforcement and support by other involvement organization such as police, military.
- (iii) Destroying of infected or exposed animal might cause enormous loss in the short term.
- (iv) Application of epidemiological principle is still facing some limitation e.g. sources of pathogens cannot be identified. Moreover, the number, places and incidence cannot be determined.
- (v) Different levels of public participation make it difficult to meet the needs of disease control measures.

Surveillance and response

7. Surveillance in Thailand for certain animal diseases is conducted under the cooperation under two divisions of the Department of Livestock Development. Those two divisions are National Institute of Animal Health (NIAH) and Division of Disease Control. NIAH is responsible for the diagnosis and confirmation of diseases and is the regional reference laboratory of FMD.

8. Division of animal disease control is responsible for setting up and assignment of sampling plans as well as the subsequent implementation of necessary action to control the diseases.

Surveillance and Reporting System of Animal Diseases
Department of Livestock Development / Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives (MoAC)



9. Situation contributes to enhance surveillance activities in Thailand:

- (i) Much more realized and understanding by the people and politicians of the effects of animal diseases to human health, and economic and social impacts
- (ii) Experience gained from the outbreaks of avian influenza
- (iii) Close cooperation among countries ie., Australia (Asian regional reference laboratory for FMD, proficiency tests of Leptospirosis, Brucellosis) and USA (training and strengthening programs)
- (iv) Support offered by International Organizations ie., FAO, OIE and JICA.