

International Animal Health Epidemic Intelligence

Animal diseases represent a potential threat to the public health, economy and environment of each country.

In a growing world, where international movement of passengers, trade between countries and important climatic changes occur, there is a great need of proactive systems for surveillance not just at national but at international level as well.

In January 2013, a new theme: “International animal health epidemic intelligence” was added to the activities of the French platform for epidemiological surveillance in animal health (ESA Platform).

A multi-institutional group of experts, coordinated by Cirad, contributes to the identification, verification, and follow-up of various signals for new and emerging animal health risks not present in France and provide reports to the national institutions for risk assessment (Anses) and risk management (Ministry of Agriculture).

Detection of the signals

The surveillance is based on the identification and interpretation of unusual events at international level that could have a potential impact on animal health and human health (zoonoses) in France.

Different data and sources are considered. For certain cases, rumors from the media are considered, and information from the international organizations and governmental institutions. A special attention is given to the information from the field experts and the surveillance networks from different countries around the world.

A regular exchange of information with the regional networks of animal health surveillance (such as CaribVET) provides a deeper insight in the animal health situation at local level in the other countries.

Nature of the signals

- New and exotic animal diseases (priority list for the emerging diseases)
- Pathogen Vectors
- Environmental conditions and socio-economic crises (that impact the human or animal movements or the dispersion of vectors)

Analysis of the signals

Experts in epi-informatics contribute to the identification of signals through a semi-automatic system for surveillance of the electronic sources of information.

A network of national and international experts in various domains of animal health, participate in the verification and the analysis of the various signals. Their skills vary from epidemiology, virology, entomology, to skills on specific animal species, or geographical zones.

For the verified events, a report is created in the shortest delays and communicated to the ESA Platform.

Reports and communication

The Working Group for International animal health epidemic intelligence issues three types of reports:

- **ad hoc notes**, a real time information, based on a danger considered as significant and as a threat to France;
- **follow-up notes**, an information on the epidemiologic evolution of an already detected hazard;
- **disease reviews and multi-thematic activity reports**.

The **ad hoc notes** are targeted to the members of the ESA Platform and have a confidential character.

The follow-up notes and the disease reviews and reports are communicated through the Web page of the ESA Platform or published as short communications in the Anses-DGAL Epidemiologic Bulletin.

More information

Bulletin épidémiologique Anses-DGAL :

<http://www.anses.fr/bulletin-epidemiologique>

<http://agriculture.gouv.fr/bulletin-epidemiologique>

Centre de ressources de la Plateforme ESA :

<http://www.plateforme-esa.fr/>

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