

Avian Influenza Cases Confirmed In Some Parts Of The Country

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Contact: Government of Nigeria

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Nigeria--After the first out break of Avian Influenza (AI) in the country in 2006, the disease spread to 97 Local Government Areas (LGA) located in 25 states and FCT. The last outbreak reported in the country was on October 6th 2008, in Nsugbe in Anambra State. Since 2006, several measures have been employed to contain the disease some of which include, disinfection of Live Bird Markets, intensification of disease surveillance, advocacy, sensitization and behaviour change campaigns.

Unfortunately after nearly 10 months without an outbreak, I have to inform you that new outbreaks have been confirmed in Fagen-Kawo village in Dawakin Tofa LGA in Kano State and Kagarko quarters, GRA in Katsina State on the 24th of July, 2008. As usual, immediate action has already been taken to control the outbreak. The affected farms are being depopulated and disinfected. In addition, detailed epidemiological investigation is ongoing to trace the source of the outbreak.

Earlier, during one of our regular surveillance and disease search in the poultry production system and marketing chains across the country, positive cases were discovered in Pantami Livebird Market in Gombe and Central Market in Birin Kebbi, giving the indication that there is possible re-introduction of the disease in the country.

We shall continue to do everything possible in collaboration with the Health, Information and Communication Ministries as well as development partners to control avian Influenza in the country as a disease of birds and prevent its transmission to humans.

While we urge the general public to be alert and continue to practice hygienic behaviours and ensure strict biosecurity measures on their farms and in the markets, we also wish to inform that the situation is under control and there is absolutely no need for panic.