

**TCEO**

**Southern Africa Desk - RIACSO**



**Briefing on Avian Influenza surveillance activities,  
Southern Africa**

**F. L. Musisi, P. Majiwa, Nyasha-Munjeri, S. Munstermann**

**Johannesburg**

# PRESENTATION OVERVIEW



- FAO Partners
- FAO Projects in the region
- Focus of the projects
- Parallel important activities – establishment of RAHC
- ARC-OVI participation in the surveillance efforts

# FAO partnership in the region



FAO working to prevent entry & control HPAI (if it comes) in partnership with:

- Governments in the region & their specialized institutions,
- Regional Economic Communities, SADC, AU, etc.
- Other cooperating partners,  
includes various UN agencies, OIE, USAID, NGOs, etc



# FAO PROJECTS IN THE REGION

In southern Africa FAO has supported AI surveillance in poultry and wild birds through activities of the following projects since 2006:

- TCP/RAF/3017 (E & S Africa)
- OSRO/RAF/603/USA (Regional)
- OSRO/ANG/603/ITA (Angola)
- OSRO/RAF/602/BEL (DRC, Burundi, Rwanda)
- OSRO/GLO/504/MUL (Mozambique)
- OSRO/ZAM/601/EC (Zambia)
- OSRO/ZIM/602/IRE; OSRO/ZIM/701/IRE (Zimbabwe)

# FOCUS OF THE PROJECTS



- In summary, the goal of all these projects is to strengthen capacity for emergency preparedness for the detection, identification & monitoring of HPAI in the region/sub-region.
- This would be achieved through improvement of national expertise in:
  - i) AI disease recognition;
  - ii) AI laboratory diagnosis;
  - iii) epidemiologically-based disease investigation and surveillance in poultry and avian wildlife;
  - iv) data management and analysis; and
  - v) emergency preparedness for AI

# Example of activities in country



MOZAMBIQUE, Project supported the following activities undertaken:

- **Contingency plan** (includes compensation strategy) developed and approved council ministers
- **Surveillance** – forms designed; necessary materials availed; border inspection strengthened; high risk areas defined; focus of virus survey – poultry & wild birds. indigenous & migrant bird id & monitoring
- **Capacity building**
  - **Training** – filed manual produced; vets, lab techs, others; RRT for Zambezia
  - **Strengthen AI testing capacity** – CVL & provincial labs; reagents, equipment supply; rapid field testing
  - **Provincial action plans** – TOT (PA; biosafety procedures; etc
- **Biosecurity in poultry/other birds environments** – low
- **Communication strategy** – developed
- **Management**
  - Formed AI TF
  - Focal point personnel from key ministries (Agric & Hlth)
  - Provincial & district AI focal point personnel

# PARALLEL IMPORTANT ACTIVITIES



**Establishment of RAHC**

**Distribution of diagnostic reagents & PPEs**

# ARC-OVI's participation in this effort



- Active surveillance for avian influenza in wild birds
- At the last stages of gaining designation as an OIE reference laboratory for avian influenza and Newcastle disease viruses
- Twinning arrangements to strengthen its capacity and that of its partners through training, provision of reagents
- ARC-OVI has a fully operational BSL3 facility for virus isolation and characterization. of great benefit to the whole region since it is the only one of its kind
- Increased its capacity for processing test samples by acquiring additional LightCycler 480 and automated extraction system - will significantly shorten sample-turnaround time

# Thank you



# ARC-OVI's participation in this effort



- The institute continues with active surveillance for avian influenza in wild birds (resident and migratory) in collaboration with partners, both local [Avian Demography Unit, Fitzpatrick Institute, University of Cape Town; Gauteng Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Environment (GDACE); Gauteng Nature Conservation] and international (Wetlands International, OFFLU, GRIPAVI);
- The institute is at the last stages of gaining designation as an OIE reference laboratory for avian influenza and Newcastle disease viruses, with responsibilities and obligations attendant on the status;
- ARC-OVI is involved in various twinning arrangements to strengthen its capacity and that of its partners through training, provision of reagents, etc;

# ARC-OVI's participation in this effort



- ARC-OVI has a fully operational BSL3 facility for virus isolation and characterization. It thus has capacity to isolate the virus from positive samples and to conduct more extensive analyses on any such viral isolates. The facility will be operationally self-contained, and could be of great benefit to the whole region since it is the only one of its kind.
- The institute has increased its capacity for processing test samples by acquiring additional LightCycler 480 and automated extraction system. These will significantly shorten sample-turnaround time.