

K-11053/70/2021-LH  
Government of India  
Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying  
Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying

Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi  
Dated: 8<sup>th</sup> August 2022


**Sub: Policy for vaccination against Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza (H9N2)**

H9N2 avian influenza viruses are low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI) which cause sub-clinical to mild disease in domestic poultry unless the viral infection is complicated with other background or secondary infection. Such infection often leads to economic losses. There are concerns that H9N2 viruses may evolve and become highly pathogenic when circulating in poultry populations. Accordingly, based on consultations with experts and requests from stakeholders, the Department has agreed to the policy for vaccination against LPAI (H9N2) in the country, with the following points –

- a) With implementation of this policy, vaccination against LPAI (H9N2) is now allowed in the country
- b) The candidate vaccine strain [A/chicken/India/22213/2006(H9N2)] has been approved for vaccine preparation as an inactivated H9N2 avian influenza virus oil-adjuvant vaccine for poultry. The vaccine strain will be provided by ICAR-NIHSAD on request of the vaccine manufacturers
- c) Licensing of new vaccine will be done by Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) where Department would facilitate such process of grant of licenses with CDSCO
- d) Vaccine against LPAI can be administered to all categories of poultry birds i.e. layers, breeders and broilers. However, in broilers, the vaccine may be used at about one week age to elicit adequate immunity
- e) The quality of this vaccine will be assessed using the protocol recommended by ICAR-NIHSAD, till the monograph is developed by Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC)
- f) ICAR-NIHSAD will assess vaccine virus strain at an interval of 6 months for efficacy against the predominant circulating field viruses in the country and report them to the Department. In case of any change in the virus strain, ICAR-NIHSAD must recommend, if any change in the vaccine is required

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- g) Surveillance for H9N2 will be carried out as per the surveillance plan developed by the Department with active support of the poultry industry. ICAR-NIHSAD, Bhopal would analyze the test results submitted and thereafter submit a consolidated report including the vaccine matching report along with their recommendation, on a quarterly basis, to the Department
- h) Coordination is essential among all stakeholders including the poultry industry (poultry producers/ entrepreneur, associations, private veterinary practitioners, community organizations, NGO participatory groups, etc.) and State/UT Animal Husbandry Departments for public awareness, sample collection, disease surveillance and vaccination

  
(Upamanyu Basu)  
Joint Secretary to Government of India

To,

1. Additional Secretary/ Principal Secretary/ Secretary, Animal Husbandry Department (all States/UTs)
2. Deputy Director General (Animal Sciences), ICAR Hqrs., Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi
3. Director / Commissioner, Animal Husbandry (all States / UTs)
4. President, Indian Federation of Animal Health Companies (INFAH)
5. Heads of Poultry Associations (national/state/regional levels)

Internal

1. PS to Hon'ble Minister for Fisheries Animal Husbandry & Dairying
2. PS to Hon'ble Minister of State for Fisheries Animal Husbandry & Dairying
3. Animal Husbandry Commissioner
4. Joint Secretary (NLM)/ Joint Secretary (Trade)
5. Sr. PPS to Secretary, AHD
6. Sr. Director, NIC/ DS (IT) for uploading in the Department's website