

## **Advisory to States for taking preparatory action for Flood/Monsoon season**

### **Introduction:**

In India, monsoon or rainy season last from June to September and by the first week of July the entire country experiences monsoon rain, on average south India receives more rainfall than north India along with most precipitation in northeast India. Monsoon rains begin to recede from North India at the beginning of October. Monsoon rains have big impact on animal health affecting the economy of the farmers and animal owners therefore, it is necessary to have the guidelines so that the necessary preventive measures can be taken in advance.

### **Animals at High Risk:**

1. Young animals
2. Sick animals/animals with history of disease
3. Pregnant animals
4. Lactating animals
5. Heavy animals

### **Awareness and Veterinary Care:**

State shall ensure that the animal owners/farmers should be made aware of adverse effects of monsoon and wide publicity should be given regarding the preventive measures, Do's and Dont's during this period. The farmers and animal owners should be made aware well in advance in respect of deworming and vaccination of animals before the monsoon.

### **Veterinary infrastructure and expertise need to be arranged / upgraded which may also include:**

- Deployment of veterinarians and paravets in proper strength in monsoon/flood prone areas
- Arrangement of mineral mixtures, life saving drugs, fluids and other medicines and equipments in veterinary hospitals at all times
- Activation of mobile veterinary units
- Conducting awareness programmes in respect of animal and flood/monsoon management
- Identifying the disposal sites for dead animals
- Regular measures need to be taken in the animal area to control flies, ticks
- Liaison with other stakeholders/agencies wherever required
- The state level, district level and block level nodal officer shall be designated to ensure preparedness and veterinary care during the monsoon season.

### **Preparedness:**

- 1. State level control room:** The state animal Husbandry authorities shall establish the state control room at state headquarters along with nodal officer. The control room shall operate 24x7 and monitor the preparedness and address the grievances and issues in respect of veterinary care and infrastructure. The control room will supervise the working of all district control rooms operating in the state.
- 2. District level control room:** The control room shall be established along with nodal officer at district level in line of state control room with 24x7 working and report to state control room regarding the preparedness and veterinary care operations during the monsoon and ensure timely supply of manpower, equipment, medicine, vaccine etc. in the district.
- 3. Block level control room:** Block level control room shall be established at block headquarter with 24x7 operation and cover all the villages under the jurisdiction. The control room shall ensure timely support to village level veterinary hospital and dispensaries in respect of supply of equipment, medicines, vaccines and deployment of manpower at local level.
- 4.** The veterinary hospitals and dispensaries should have proper stock of life saving drugs, medicines, vaccines, consumables, mineral mixtures, anti-parasitic drugs, tick/fly repellents, etc. at all times.
- 5.** Regular veterinary camps should be arranged in the villages for necessary treatment, vaccination, deworming and to make farmers aware of health issues and cures related to animals during the monsoon.
- 6.** The mobile veterinary clinics and other department vehicle should be serviced and repaired before the monsoon and kept in operational mode at all times.
- 7.** The list of veterinarians, paraveterinarians and supporting staff with contact details shall be made and displayed at hospital/dispensary level so that farmers and animal owners can contact the authorities in advance.
- 8.** The safe areas for animal shelter should be marked with the help of NGOs/ municipalities/panchayat in advance and animal shelters may be created well in advance depending on the animal population and geographical condition of the area.
- 9.** The availability and supply of feed and water shall be ensured at all times with the help of district administration and other stake holders. The feed depot may be created at safe places to ensure feed supply in emergency.
- 10.** Mobile veterinary clinics should be made available at district/block level with staff and veterinary care facilities to deal with emergency situation at all times.

- 11. Care of Goushalas/animal farm/camps:** The local veterinary hospital/dispensary shall ensure proper veterinary care including treatment, vaccination, deworming etc. in gaushalas, animal camps and farms and undertake regular visits.
- 12.** Animal movement should be minimized and check post should be established to check the health of animals before allowing the movements.
- 13. Vaccination and deworming:** Vaccination and deworming schedules should be made in advance to undertake deworming and vaccination of major diseases of animals before the monsoon season. (state/UT may develop their vaccination calendar as per the local disease condition, availability of vaccine and local animal population). The adequate stock of vaccine as per the requirement based on local disease condition should be maintained at all times at all veterinary hospitals and dispensaries.
- 14. Disposal of dead animals:** The disposal of dead animals should be done in scientific way by deep burial and the disposal sites should be identified well in advance. The disposal sites should be marked and checked regularly for safety, management and disinfection.
- 15.** The system of daily/weekly/monthly progress report should be established from village to state level through control rooms.
- 16.** The Animal Husbandry Department should maintain proper liaison with State Disaster Management Department for necessary information and operational preparedness.
- 17.** The District Disease Diagnostic labs should also be kept on alert for timely testing of samples and reporting. The latest technology in veterinary diagnosis may be explored.
- 18.** Encourage awareness and leadership in of women in risk management and animal care during disaster.
- 19.** Liasion with local universities in respect to whether forecast and preparedness accordingly.
- 20.** Local capacity buildong is necessary to address the disaster risks as and when required.
- 21.** The data regarding previous experience may be studied and stored to develop the future control and risk strategies.

## **Do's and Dont's:**

To minimize the impact of monsoon and to prevent serious ailment or death, the following measures are useful:

### **Do's**

- Keep update on local weather forecast.
- Adequate availability of feed and fodder and establishment of fodder banks.
- Ensure mixing of salt mixture / electrolytes with feed and water and provide balance feed especially to dairy animals.
- The drinking troughs should be kept clean and animals should be provided clean and fresh water.
- Pregnant animal (more than 6 months) should be given additional feed.
- Materials like corrugated iron or timber, aluminum or galvanized steel should be used for animal's shelters and roofs.
- The dead animal burials areas should be away from water bodies, public area and must be well protected with display board.
- Use of social media and mobile technologies for feed back and preparedness

### **Dont's**

- Avoid large number / overcrowding of animals in animal shade
  - Animal movement should be avoided during rains.
  - Animals should not have to walk too far for the water and feed.
  - The carcasses of dead animals should not be discarded on the regular grazing routes of the animals and water bodies.
  - Entry of animal in ponds and water bodies should be avoided.
  - Animals should not be tied with electric poles and should be kept away from electrical instruments and area.
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