



## India:

### 18 May, 2012: **Avian Influenza H9N2 Seroprevalence among Poultry Workers in Pune, India, 2010**

A seroepidemiological study was undertaken among poultry workers to understand the prevalence of antibodies against AI H9N2 in Pune, Maharashtra, India. A total of 338 poultry workers were sampled. Overall 21 subjects (21/338 = 6.2%) were positive for antibodies against AI H9N2 by either HI or MN assays using  $\geq 40$  cut-off antibody titre. A total of 4.7% and 3.8% poultry workers were positive for antibodies against AI H9N2 by HI and MN assay respectively using 40 as cut-off antibody titre. This is the first report of seroprevalence of antibodies against AI H9N2 among poultry workers in India. [[more](#)]

### 17 May, 2012: **Cabinet clears Agriculture Bio-diversity bill**

The Cabinet today approved a Bill to set up National Agriculture Bio-diversity Authority that aims to keep a check on inflow of external pests while importing agricultural and animal products. The National Agriculture Bio-diversity Bill will replace the Destructive Insects and Pest Act of 1914. The Cabinet approved Bill will have provisions to protect the country's bio-diversity through stricter norms for import of agricultural, animal and fish products. [[more](#)]

### 17 May, 2012: **Hester to launch vaccines for cattle and sheep diseases soon**

Animal vaccine maker Hester Biosciences will launch around seven vaccines for specific cattle and sheep diseases in India, for which technology has been acquired from Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI) [[more](#)]

## Pakistan:

### 17 May, 2012: **Rabies, a dog's bite is far worse than its bark**

Around 40 patients flock to the rabies immunization clinic at Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre (JPMC) every day. The doctors have to deal with everything from dog bite to cat scratches, rat and donkey attacks. In Pakistan, doctors claim that domestic animals, including dogs, cats and horses, are direct carriers of the virus. At a WHO seminar last year, it was estimated that around 5,000 people died of rabies every year in the country. [[more](#)]

## Sri Lanka:

### 17 May, 2012: **Dengue deaths rise to 55**

Dengue has claimed 55 lives. Nearly 1,500 dengue cases had been reported from all parts of the country during the past five months. The most affected area is the Kalutara district is Walalawita where thousands of acres of godapara trees are located. Dengue mosquitoes breed in the leaves once they fall on to the ground. Ratnapura, Kegalle and Kalutara districts are full of rubber estates and coconut shells are used to collect rubber latex. This provides a haven for the dengue mosquito. [[more](#)]

## Others:

### 16 May, 2012: **Evaluation of a genetically modified foot-and-mouth disease virus vaccine candidate generated by reverse genetics**

The vaccine prepared from genetically modified FMDV by reverse genetics significantly improved the protective efficacy to the variant of the CHA topotype, compared with the wild O/HN/CHA/93 virus. Thus, the full-length cDNA clone of FMDV can be a useful tool to develop genetically engineered FMDV vaccine candidates to help control porcineophilic FMD epidemics in China. [[more](#)]