

A RISK-BASED EVALUATION OF THE SUDANESE STANDARD AND REGULATION FOR IMPORTATION OF CHICKS

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Introduction

This study was aimed to assess the sanitary measures in place and the Sudanese standard for the importation of chicks in Sudan via Khartoum international airport. For this purpose, a qualitative risk assessment was used. Since HPAI is the only poultry disease that is subjected to official control program in Sudan, this evaluation is an attempt to address potential risks of HPAI introduction into the Sudan, and to recommend actions to improve sanitary measures to mitigate HPAI risk created as a result of importation of chicks.

Method

The methodology used in this risk assessment follows the guidelines as described in chapter 2 of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code (2009), in which these steps are followed:

Hazard Identification

Risk Assessment:

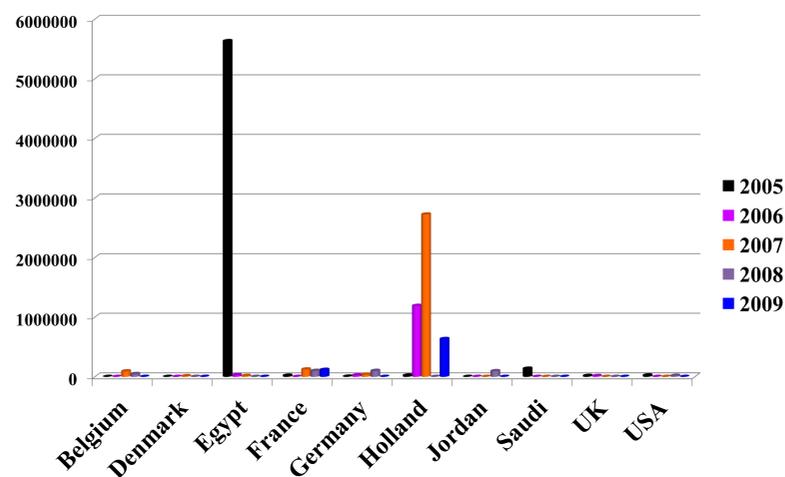
- Release assessment
- Exposure assessment
- Consequence assessment
- Risk estimation

The over all risk estimation was determined by using the risk estimation scheme used by DEFRA (2002).

Results

The quantity of the imported hazard; a total of (11,241,209) chicks were imported from 10 countries in the period 2005–2009, (96%) of them were imported from Egypt in 2005. The disease status in the exporting countries; according to the OIE notification, HPAI is endemic in Egypt. Detection of the HPAI infected chicks by the Sudanese sanitary measures in Khartoum airport; the comparisons of the Sudanese standard of importation of chicks with the OIE recommendations revealed the gap. The likelihood of exposure of the infected consignments of the day-old chicks with the national herd and the spread of the pathogen into the country directly from the imported consignments of chick, or indirectly from the importing layers and broilers rearing farms, depend on many factors. During the 2006 outbreak, about 18.3% (out of 235,626 susceptible populations) were reported to be infected with HPAI, and 34% were destroyed for the same reason.

The overall risk estimation = likelihood × Impact
 = high likelihood for release and exposure × high impact = High* risk.



Conclusion

As seen from the results, The overall risk estimation is High*, which indicates emergent strategies and Immediate veterinary authority reaction for HPAI risk management. the Sudanese standard of importation of chicks had not been set according to risk estimations recommended by the OIE, and the sanitary measures in place were less stringent to achieve the appropriate level of protection ALOP. For safer international trade, and to manage the risks of imported day-old chicks, the following are recommended:

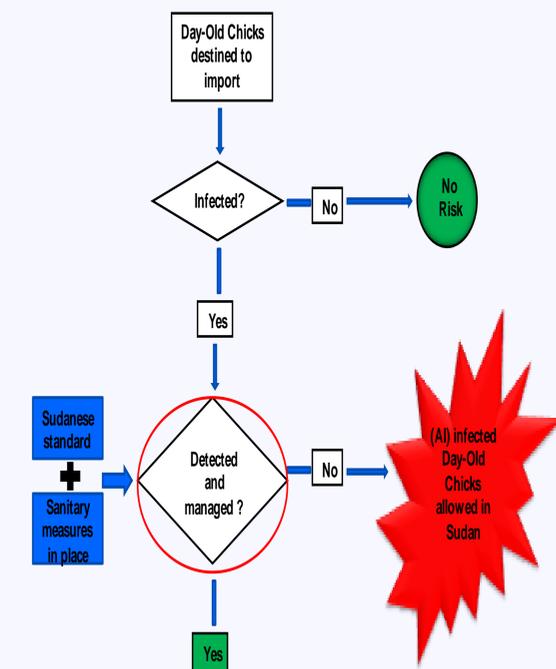
- 1- The Sudanese veterinary authorities should adopt the OIE standards and recommendations, as indicated in articles 10.4.7., 10.4.8.OIE - Terrestrial Animal Health Code 2009.
- 2- All consignments of day-old chicks must be kept in quarantine station approved by FMARF at the Khartoum international airport, and tested using methods described in the OIE Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals for Avian Influenza viruses and completed with negative results prior to clearance.
- 3- Science based-risk analysis following OIE standards should be undertaken, by a multidisciplinary team in setting and updating the:
 - Sudanese standard of day-old chicks, publishing it in both Arabic and English
 - Preparedness contingency plans for controlling poultry diseases.
- 4- Training is essential, and learning from already conducted Import Risk Analysis is highly recommended.

References

- Nick Taylor (2009) Principles of risk analysis and practical application in livestock value chains manual. pp. 19.
- The OIE - Terrestrial Animal Health Code -2009, Chapter 2.
- The OIE Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals – 2009.
- The Sudanese standard of importation of chicks, updated 2007. pp.1-7.
- The WTO agreement on the application of Sanitary and phytosanitary measures text, (www.wto.org).

Acknowledgments

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| HPAI virus | Risk factors | Partial Risk Estimation |
|------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| Release assessment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Exporting countries health status ✓ quantities and frequencies of imported chicks ✓ VS sanitary measures in the airport | high |
| Exposure assessment | Pathway 1: handling , Sales systems, Transportation, Reuse of packaging material Pathway 2: Marketing distribution, Vaccination crews, Wild birds, Labors, Visitors | high |
| Consequence assessment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Direct losses in human and poultry lives. - Indirect surveillance and control cost, cost of eradication, economic and trade disruption | high |