



REPORT:

Final Roundtable meeting summary: Scope of Collaboration between Public and Private Veterinary Services in the poultry sector of Bangladesh

5 March 2023

Background

This roundtable was convened by the One Health Poultry Hub, Bangladesh (OHPH,B), in collaboration with the Global Health Programme at Chatham House in London and with the financial support of the UK Research Innovation. The poultry sector is a conspicuous contributor to national protein and micronutrient demand and livelihoods. The Bangladeshi people were involved in traditional poultry rearing before the country gained independence. Over recent decades, the intensive poultry sector has imported commercial breeds, equipment, feed and integrated marketing systems. The government passed the National Poultry Development Policy in 2008. To meet the demand of the increasing population of Bangladesh, more effective and efficient public-private partnership (PPP) in the poultry sector is essential. The objective of this Roundtable meeting was to explore how the scope of collaboration between public and private veterinary services could be strengthened in support of sustainable development.

The Roundtable was moderated by Professor Dr Paritosh Kumar Biswas of Chattogram Veterinary and Animal Sciences University at The Six Seasons Hotel, Dhaka. Participants agreed to conduct the Roundtable under the [Chatham House Rule](#).

Key themes	Participant comments and recommendations
Mechanism of collaboration	Participants suggested developing a collaboration mechanism after identifying the current scope of collaboration between public and private veterinarians. The Government and public sector both have a responsibility to think about how they should connect or collaborate given that the public and private sectors have different mandates. The Government should initiate this by recording private veterinarians working in an area. Through this listing (not veterinary registration) they can develop a record of the private veterinarians working at the field level. Private veterinarians have earned a registration number from the Bangladesh Veterinary Council already. However, the Department of Livestock Services (DLS) can announce or circulate their names within the District where they work. This recognition by DLS will raise the profile of private veterinarians working at the field level. In return, the private

	<p>veterinarians will be connected with the public veterinarians. Under this system, the private veterinarians will be requested to do some tasks in support of the DLS mandate. For example, they can inform DLS personnel about disease outbreaks at the field level.</p> <p>Contracted farms of private companies can play a key role in PPP by sharing relevant poultry health data and training modules. Public-private-farmer partnerships should also be considered. IFAD (International Fund for Agricultural Development) and PKSF (Palli-Karma-Sahayak Foundation) can also be a part of PPP by working with NGOs and DLS through co-funding and knowledge sharing.</p>
Data sharing	<p>Advanced technology can support the development of a flexible and communicable system that facilitates information sharing between the public and private sectors. BAHIS is a data storing software used by public veterinarians. It would be ideal to introduce some modules that support data sharing by the private sector. A mobile app connecting with BAHIS would be helpful for the private veterinarians for sharing data. A common dashboard such as that used by Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research could make relevant data available to the public. Some reward system from government would encourage the private veterinarians to stay connected with government. Maintaining confidentiality of sensitive data needs to be ensured by government. Private sector organizations like BPICC (Bangladesh Poultry Industry Council) or WPSA (World Poultry Science Association) would be open to developing a common data sharing platform. To develop a sustainable data sharing system, farmers can be an important part of this collaboration. Government can encourage farmers' collaboration by giving certificates for well-maintained and low-disease poultry farms. Creating a win-win situation among the stakeholders, gives sustenance to an initiative. For example, in the human health sector, there can also be a stigma about data sharing. The Fleming Fund project worked with private sector human hospitals to negotiate acceptable options for data sharing. Such changes need to come in the animal health sector also.</p>
Reporting disease outbreak	<p>Government needs to create an official compensation facility for farmers so that both private veterinarians working at field level and farmers feel confident to report infectious disease outbreaks. Considering the benefits for every stakeholder of poultry value chain, a policy framework is required to support data sharing and reporting disease outbreaks. Both private and public sectors should bear the liability to compensate poultry farmers and to develop an effective mechanism for this; however, government needs data from field first.</p>
Sustainable training for poultry farmers	<p>When farmers are well-informed, they are more likely to follow poultry farming regulations and also help government by sharing data and reporting disease outbreaks. In the 6th OHPH, B Stakeholder Engagement Meeting in Chattogram with poultry farmers and other relevant stakeholders, representatives of DLS, private companies, feed dealers, pharmaceutical companies, Environment, CVASU, and the human medical sector agreed to sustain an ongoing training program. Developing a yearly training calendar was recommended; for example, commercial companies could nominate how many trainings they could support. To arrange training funds, a mechanism needs to be established through discussion. For organizing such a training</p>

	program, IFAD and PKSF can provide a helping hand. In addition, organizations like BPICC or WPSA can support training of poultry farmers financially.
Laboratory collaboration	Government laboratories lack sample submissions even though they have good laboratory facilities. Samples can be shared by private laboratories with the government laboratories.