



Food and Farming Group

International Animal Health Division

International Animal Disease Monitoring Preliminary Outbreak Assessment



Ref: VITT 1200/HPAI-Togo

Date: 26 June 2007

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (H5N1) in Togo

Note: Defra's International Animal Health Cote Team (IAHCT) monitors outbreaks of high impact diseases around the world. Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) is among those diseases of major concern.

Disease report

An outbreak of HPAI H5N1 has been reported in hens on an intensive farm at Sigbehoue, Lacs, Maritime Region, Togo (see map). This is the first report of HPAI from Togo (OIE, 2007). Control measures include stamping out. Vaccination is permitted.

Situation assessment

This outbreak in an intensive commercial flock follows recent HPAI H5N1 outbreaks in neighbouring Ghana, the most recent being in Greater Accra and in Volta province, adjacent to the Togo border (see map). The import of live birds and poultry and poultry meat products from Togo into the European Union (and UK) is not allowed. At this time of the year there are no long distance migratory wild bird movements that could possibly introduce the virus to the UK from Togo.



Conclusion

Based on the disease report and situation assessment, the overall likelihood of the introduction of the virus from Togo to the UK is considered negligible at this stage. Nevertheless, it is important to continue to maintain and implement appropriate biosecurity measures.

We will continue to monitor and review the situation.

References

OIE. (2007). Highly pathogenic avian influenza, Togo. OIE Alert Message TGO 25-06-07. Received by e-mail 25/06/2007.