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Q&A from the webinar attendees

“Effect of COVID-19 Pandemic on Livestock Production and Public Health in Asia”

By Dato Dr.Quaza Nizammuddin Hasan Nizam

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1. Indonesia declares that the cases of positive covid 19 were 160,000 but I consider that the number is too small as our population is 250 million and our people less discipline implementing covid protocol. What is your opinion?

Answer: I am sorry, I unable to comment on the testing for COVID-19 in Indonesia

2. Thank you Dr. Quaza for sharing. What are the general policy and effective measurements that the Malaysian government has implemented during the pandemic?

Answer: In my slide I have mentioned about the measures undertaken by Malaysia

3. What is Malaysia government's level of commitment to provide funding to universities and research agencies for R&D on viral discovery and surveillance especially on the wildlife-livestock-human interface? How open is Malaysia government to international collaborations on disease surveillance?

Answer: Malaysia's level of commitment is high. We have been working with different stakeholders to identify and determine movement of pathogens from wild to domestic animals and humans with international collaboration.





4. Why are domestic animals affected by COVID but not ruminants?

Answer: Studies are still ongoing but susceptibility is based on Receptor Binding Domain of spike glycoprotein and the ACE2receptor

5. What is the direction of viral discovery and surveillance in Asia, what are the common challenges and what improvements can we make?

Answer: Many countries are involved in this area including OIE. Funding would be a challenge

6. I will repeat this question more clearly. Why are cats affected by COVID but not cattle or sheep?

Answer: Likelihood of exposure cannot currently be assessed (information is limited to their ACE2 binding affinity or SARS-CoV-2 RBD) for livestock species other than poultry and pigs

7. Do livestock and poultry not susceptible and possess natural resistance to covid-19

Answer: Slide 25 in Dr. Supachai's presentation

Answer: Depending on the receptor of host that determining how susceptible (resistant)

8. Why there is susceptibility in wild animals, dog, cat, mink etc.

Answer: Due to ACE2 receptors





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9. Who the fear of COVID-19 can be reduced?

Answer: Please rephrase the question. TQ

10. Will market system significantly change after Covid-19 pandemic? People used to go to the market to do transaction face to face. Now people reduce that activity and change the lifestyle, people stay at home than most of the product delivered to their home. Can it be called a growth? And will it sustain even after this pandemic? Can you give some advices how producer should do to face this change?

Answer: It is possible. We must try and open traditional markets with proper Standard operating procedures in place which reduce the risk of spread from COVID-19; e.g., physical distancing, wearing mask, washing hands, sanitizing hands and people are tested. Alternative marketing mechanism must be pursued; e.g. online platform



11. Prof Suphachai Nuanualsuwan - Could you explain how these methods for risk assessment compare to those outlined in the Tripartite Zoonosis Guide (https://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/Media_Center/docs/EN_TripartiteZoonosesGuide_webversion.pdf) which was published by FAO/OIE/WHO to address zoonotic (or potentially zoonotic) disease threats using a One Health approach? Which method is most useful at a country level?

Answer: Depending on the objective though.

OIE approach focuses on the animal health

CAC approach focuses on the human health

Both approaches could be done at the National level.

12. It is the receptor ACE2 or genetic makeup of human or animal

Answer: Humans and some animals do have it also

13. Considering the dynamics of COVID-19 virus, how far is the possibility for COVID-19 virus to have a mutation and expand their pathogenicity to infect and cause clinical signs to the susceptible animals? Thank you.

Answer: RNA viruses are usually more likely to mutate than DNA viruses. So in the future this virus could colonize the never-colonized host.





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14. Thank you Dato' Dr. Quaza for the informative sharing.. From your point of view, how long the farmers and producers need to bare the effect and impact from the pandemic? And is it advisable for newcomers to involve and invest in livestock industry during this situation?

Answer: Welcome. We are not sure how long this pandemic will last. We need to make adjustments and prepare mitigating measures. I think investment can continue cautiously

15. Why should pig/poultry meat be more likely to pick up covid compared to sheep or cow meat?

Answer: If the virus came from human perse then the point will be how much people handling pork compare to handling chicken.

