

Selling and management process of sick birds: a qualitative investigation

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Introduction

- In Bangladesh, farmers often sell their sick birds to minimize their economic loss and this is a major risk factor for avian influenza transmission.
- This trading of sick birds from farms poses the potential risk of exposing farmers, transporters, traders, slaughterers, and even consumers to potentially deadly pathogens.

Methods

Recruitment: Farmers seeking veterinary assistance whose birds tested positive for avian influenza (M gene)

Method: Semi-structured interviews

Area: Chattogram

Duration: February to May 2023

Participants: 6 (male)



Results

Matured unhealthy birds

Selling to middlemen:

- Sometimes birds are slaughtered on the farm to supply locally
- Middlemen often select the better and apparently healthy birds
- One of the farmers sold dying birds via feed dealer, presumably to nearby tourist restaurants



Own consumption:

Farmers store dressed sick birds in freezer for own consumption

The price is lower than the market value and the average weight was 800 to 1000 grams.

Common symptoms

- Sneezing
- Coughing
- Drowsiness
- ruffled feathers and whitish faeces

Dead bird disposal

Thrown into river

Buried

Selling to neighbours:

One of the farmers sold around 400 birds in his neighbourhood due to high demand for them

Recommendations

- Install a functional monitoring system for poultry farms and trading
- Ensure veterinary services with laboratory tests of sick birds
- Create awareness among farmers about the negative impacts of selling sick birds
- Ensure financial support to the affected farmers (through a poultry insurance scheme)

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