# Selling and management process of sick birds: a qualitative investigation

Nusrat Irin<sup>1</sup>, Abdullah Al Sattar<sup>1</sup>, Ivo Syndicus<sup>2</sup>, Anne Conan<sup>3</sup>, Guillaume Fournie<sup>2</sup>, Md. Ahasanul Hoque<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Chattogram Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (CVASU), Bangladesh

<sup>3</sup>French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD), France

<sup>3</sup>City University, Hong Kong







## 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)



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Royal Veterinary College (RVC), UK

#### Results

#### 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:** 

**Matured** 

unhealth

y birds

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.

••••

- Coughing
- **Drowsiness**

**Tourist** 

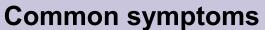
region

Weddings

ruffled feathers and whitish faeces

### Selling to neighbours:

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



- Sneezing

#### **Dead bird** disposal

Thrown into river

Buried

### 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)

#### **Acknowledgements**

#### Dr. Md Masuduzzaman

Professor, Department of Pathology

Dr. A.K.M. Saifuddin

Professor, Department of Physiology, Biochemistry and Pharmacology

**Liton Nath Debnath** 

Research Assistant