



EUVET mission to FRANCE on HPAI (Pays de la Loire Region)

5 - 7 April 2022

ToR

(Commission Decision 2007/142/EC)

1. scientific, technical, managerial and practical assistance on preventive, control and eradication measures for HPAI
2. written report to the Commission services and the French authorities and a report to the Commission and the Member States in the framework of the Standing Committee on Plant, Animal, Food and Feed

Experts

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Agenda

Meetings and field visit in West region

- * Carcass disposal, rendering
- * Killing operation
- * Manure, slurry
- * Vehicles: protocols for disinfection of lorries
- * Farms with high genetic value parent stock
- * Preventive slaughter

HPAI situation

update 08/02/2022

Poultry : 349 cases H5N1

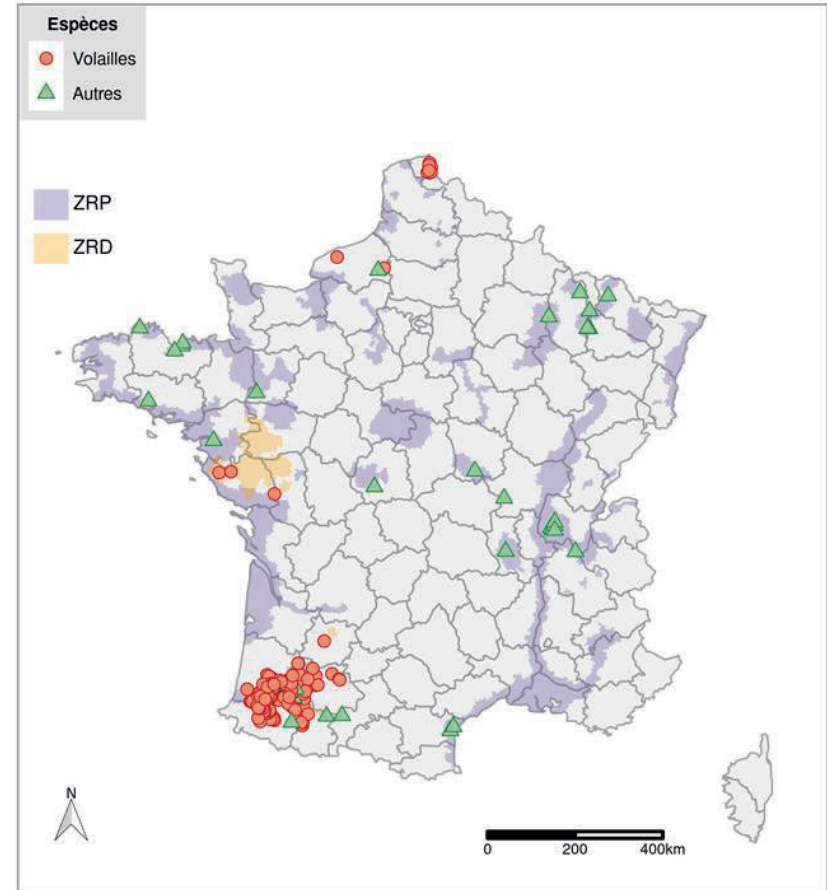
- ✓ South-West region (5 departments): 337 outbreaks
- ✓ Nord department : 8 outbreaks
- ✓ Seine-Maritime department : 1 outbreak
- ✓ Vendée department : 3 outbreaks

Backyards :

3 cases H5N8

11 cases H5N1

Wildlife : 30 cases H5N1



ZRP : Zone à risque particulier (= wetland areas)

ZRD : Zone à risque de diffusion (= areas at high risk of spread)

Epidemiological situation

- * Two previous epidemics in the Southwest of France*
- * Two main HPAI epidemic waves in France this season*
- * Sequence analysis suggest that the epidemic in the Southwest and Midwest started with two separate introductions from wild birds, followed by an explosion of in-between-farm transmission*
- * The number of infected dead wild findings (39) in France is not very high*
- * According to the French epidemiological analysis, duck production is most at risk and affected.*
- * Introduction risk factors have been identified and scored, followed by recommendations*



Control measures

- * Chain of command for HPAI epidemics
- * Implementation of EU regulatory restriction zones
- * Challenge huge number of outbreaks
- * The databases of numbers of poultry not always up to date
- * About 45% of the culled carcasses processed in rendering plants
- * Increased number of samples to be tested
- * Whole-genome analysis

Control measures: biosecurity

- * Excellent examples of biosecurity versus insufficient.
- * Legal basis for obligations on biosecurity for the transport.
- * Former obligation to implement a cleaning and disinfection site at the farm level



Control measures: high value genetic stock

- * large number of parent and grandparent stocks in the restricted zone
- * Several strategies considered to safeguard high value genetic stock

Recommendations

Current situation

- * Prioritize to contain HPAI in the infected area:
- * The optimal depopulation strategy
- * Spatial modelling
- * Effective biosecurity procedures for the whole production chain

Recommendations

Preventing future epidemics

- * limited new strategies to prevent or minimize future epidemics in poultry dense areas*
- * Early detection measures shall be reinforced to promptly detect any affected establishment.*
- * The systematic collection and analysis of epidemiological data are of utmost importance*

Recommendations

Birds of high genetic value

1. Isolate infected farms until the infection has ended:

- * Strict biosafety conditions*
- * Clinical surveillance and laboratory testing (PCR)*

2. Using hatching eggs from possibly infected birds:

- * Sanitizing procedures for the eggs*
- * Hatching should take place in one specifically dedicated hatchery*
- * Intensive surveillance*
- * The hatched birds should be housed in isolated farms in low density areas.*



Thank you for your attention!

The working atmosphere during the mission was very good. The colleagues from France gave all their support and assistance to facilitate a fruitful mission. The EUVET rapporteur wish to thank all colleagues for their support and help given during the whole mission.