

## POULTRY

### **1. Introduction:**

Animal Diseases Act No: 59 of 1992 is the principal enactment of Sri Lanka that deals with the prevention and control of animal diseases in the country and the prevention of entry into and spread from, Sri Lanka of those diseases. Pullorum and Fowl Typhoid diseases are the animal diseases specified in the First Schedule of the Animal Diseases Act No: 59 of 1992. The Director General of Animal Production and Health has been entrusted with the administration of that Act, thus the Director General of Animal Production and Health is the proper and responsible authority for the prevention and control of Pullorum and Fowl Typhoid diseases in poultry in Sri Lanka

Poultry industry in Sri Lanka amidst many obstacles has recorded a phenomenal annual growth of 15% in the year 2013 and currently the production of chicken meat exceeds the self-sufficiency level at the purchasing power of the consumer and oriented towards export of poultry meat to various destinations in the world. The Poultry Sector shares around 0.75% of the Country's GDP. Poultry farming is one of the main livelihood and income generating activities. The Poultry industry includes Parent Poultry Farming, Commercial Poultry Farming, and Poultry Processing. Parent poultry farms which include grandparent and parent farms are currently operated to international standards with comprehensive disease monitoring and surveillance system and are capable of producing quality day old chicks. In addition to that, there is an estimated population of 7.19 million commercial broilers and 6.18 million commercial layers in the country. Poultry processing component is also operating successfully, even though there was no appropriate regulatory system at present.

Pathogenic Salmonellosis is a major economically important disease of Poultry as well as a critical public health issue. Even though several measures are taken to keep Sri Lanka free from Pathogenic Salmonellosis in Poultry by the Department of Animal Production and Health. Still, Salmonella infection is observed in many poultry farms (including commercial

flocks and parent flock). If these diseases become endemic in Sri Lanka it will affect the entire poultry industry in Sri Lanka and the livelihood of those engaged in poultry industry. Therefore it is essential to take all measures to keep Sri Lanka free from Pathogenic Salmonellosis in Poultry. These measures include –

- (a) Monitor the status of Pathogenic Salmonellosis in Poultry to identify and solve animal health issues and human health issues;
- (b) Investigate and diagnose Pathogenic Salmonellosis in Poultry at all levels;
- (c) Inform, educate and empower people about animal health and public health issues of Pathogenic Salmonellosis in Poultry;
- (d) Mobilize public, private and community participation and action to identify and solve animal health as well as public health issues relating to or connected with Pathogenic Salmonellosis in Poultry;
- (e) Ensure effective implementation of policies, plans and programmes that support the Control of Pathogenic Salmonellosis in Poultry;
- (f) Promote established linkage between various national, provincial and district programmes relating to Pathogenic Salmonellosis including the Local Authorities, Health Authorities and other government agencies;
- (g) Enforce regulations relating to the prevention and control of Pathogenic Salmonellosis in Sri Lanka.
- (h) Assure competent animal health work force;
- (i) Evaluate the effectiveness, accessibility and quality of animal health / veterinary services;

## **2. Specific Objective:**

## **Sri Lanka free from Pathogenic Salmonellosis in Poultry by 2025**

### **3. Goals and General Objectives:**

#### **3.1 Goal:**

**To secure the fullest realization of the Specific Objective**

#### **3.2 General Objectives: -**

- (a) To ensure effective management and enforcement of appropriate preventive and bio-security measures at every premises at risk;
- (b) To enhance the capacity to deliver effective and appropriate interventions;
- (c) To strengthen advocacy, partnership and networking;
- (d) To strengthen research, surveillance, monitoring and evaluation;
- (e) To ensure effective implementation and enforcement of the provisions of Animal Diseases Act No: 59 of 1992 relating to Poultry Pathogenic Salmonellosis;

### **4. Policy Statements:**

#### ***4.1 Ensuring effective Management and Enforcement of appropriate preventive and biosecurity measures at every premises at risk:***

- The identification of persons, premises and products relating to or connected with Pathogenic Salmonellosis is essential for the early detection and traceability of Pathogenic Salmonellosis. The National Policy on the Control of Pathogenic Salmonellosis in Poultry aims at –

- (a) Establishing of a System of registration and identification of persons, premises and products that involves or deals with poultry industry in Sri Lanka;
- (b) Establishing, promoting and enforcing Good husbandry and management practices those are necessary for the early detection, prevention and Control of Pathogenic Salmonellosis.

#### ***4.2 Enhancing the Capacity to deliver effective and appropriate interventions:***

- The National Policy on the Control of Pathogenic Salmonellosis in Poultry is aimed at -
  - (a) Promoting positive KAP (Knowledge, Attitude and Practice) changes in all sections of the stakeholders enabling them to make right and correct practices for the Control of pathogenic Salmonellosis in Poultry;
  - (b) Strengthening the capacity building of health and extension staff of the Department of Animal Production and Health and other grass root level officials and the staff of private sector to act as Change agents for positive KAP changes in all sections of stakeholders;
  - (c) Ensuring the dissemination of appropriate technical and scientific information on Pathogenic Salmonellosis amongst the stakeholders.

#### ***4.3 Strengthening advocacy, partnership and networking:***

- Measures will be taken to advocate and incorporate the objective of eradicating Pathogenic Salmonellosis in Poultry and its components into National development and other relevant policies and programmes. The National Policy on the Control of Pathogenic Salmonellosis in Poultry will –

- (a) Promote to establish a mechanism for regular consultation and dialogue between political leadership, policy planners and other stakeholders to ensure the pathogenic salmonella free status in the poultry industry;
- (b) Strengthen partnerships and networking with relevant sectors and stakeholders including private sector for undertaking collaborative programmes for the Control of pathogenic Salmonellosis in Poultry.

#### ***4.4 Strengthening research, surveillance, monitoring and evaluation:***

- Timely information and updated knowledge on Pathogenic Salmonellosis is vital for evidence based Programme planning and management. The National Policy on control of Pathogenic Salmonellosis in Poultry will –
  - (a) Promote the establishment and operation of National Poultry Pathogenic Salmonellosis Surveillance System that provides policy makers, administrators and poultry operators with evidence needed for the better management of programmes for the eliminations of Pathogenic Salmonellosis in Poultry;
  - (b) Prioritize and support research oriented activities and utilize evidences and research findings for regular monitoring and periodic evaluation of Poultry Pathogenic Salmonellosis Control Programme.

#### ***4.5 Ensuring effective implementation and enforcement of the provisions of Animal Diseases Act No: 59 of 1992 and the Animal Feed Act No: 15 of 1986***

- Animal Diseases Act No: 59 of 1992 is the principal enactment that deals with the prevention of animal diseases in the country. Pathogenic Salmonellosis is an animal disease affecting poultry as per the Schedule to that Act, thus the Director General of Animal Production and Health is responsible for the prevention of Pathogenic Salmonellosis in Poultry for the protection of poultry industry in Sri Lanka and the protection of human health. The National Policy on Control of Pathogenic Salmonellosis in Poultry will promote the enactment and enforcement of new regulations for –
  - (a) Registration and supervision of Poultry Farms (including Poultry Breeder Farms), Hatcheries and Poultry Products Handling Establishments (such as Poultry Processing establishments, Poultry Meat Stalls etc.) and promotion and enforcement of Good Management Practices for them;
  - (b) The establishment of Poultry Products Inspection and Certification System.

#### **5. Implementation:**

- The National Policy on Control of Pathogenic Salmonellosis in Poultry, upon adoption, will serve as the base document on which the strategic approaches will be developed leading to the phase of implementation.
- The policy will be implemented through bodies with well-defined responsibilities and appropriate empowerment at different level:

**(a) At National Level:**

**(i) National Poultry Salmonellosis Steering Committee:-**

This Committee will take nationally important policy decisions and monitor activities and will comprise –

- (1) The Secretary to the Ministry of the Minister in charge of the Department of Animal Production and Health who shall be the Chairman;
- (2) The Director General of Animal Production and Health or any senior Veterinary Surgeon of the Department of Animal Production and Health nominated by him;
- (3) The Director General of Health Services or any senior executive Officer of the Ministry of Health nominated by him;
- (4) The Deputy Secretary to the Treasury or any Senior Executive Officer of the General Treasury nominated by him;
- (5) A Representative of the Poultry Industry in the Private Sector nominated by the Minister of the Cabinet of Ministers in charge of the Department of Animal Production and Health;

**(ii) National Poultry Salmonellosis Technical Committee:**

This Committee will make key technical decisions and review the action plan periodically and prioritize activities will comprise of

- (1) The Director General of Animal Production and Health who shall be the Chairman;

- (2) Additional Director General (Animal Health) and Additional Director General (VR)
- (3) The Director (Animal Health), The Director (Veterinary Research), The Principal Scientist in Bacteriology, Chief Epidemiologist of Animal Health Division and Chief Veterinary Investigation Specialist of Veterinary Research Institute of the Department of Animal Production and Health; and
- (4) An Expert in the Field of Poultry Science in the Private Sector nominated by the Minister of the Cabinet of Ministers in charge of the Department of Animal Production and Health;
- (5) An Expert in the Field of Poultry Science from a University in Sri Lanka nominated by the Minister of the Cabinet of Ministers in charge of the Department of Animal Production and Health;

**(b) Provincial Poultry Salmonellosis Coordinating Committee:**

The Provincial Director of Animal Production and Health who shall be the chairman;

Members will be;

- (1) Deputy Provincial Director;
- (2) Related Subject Matter Specialist;
- (3) District Veterinary Surgeon of the Provincial Department of Animal Production and Health;
- (4) Veterinary Investigation Officers of the Province