The effect of COVID 19 on the livestock sector in Asia and responses to the pandemic

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Focus of Governments, policy makers and the international community

- Response to the pandemic primarily protect public health and reduce human-to-human transmission.
- Mitigate the negative impacts (current and potential) on key sectors contributing to food security, nutrition and livelihoods.
- Livestock sector = key contributor to these areas, especially for the world’s most vulnerable populations.
The effects of COVID-19 on the livestock sector

- Largely unquantified, some assessments conducted → Reveal disruptions to livestock value chains with socio-economic consequences
- Affects all livestock production systems in different ways
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- Most affected:
  - Large producers (lack of inputs and outlets eg slaughterhouses)
  - Pastoralists (movement restrictions, lack of access to pastures/markets and conflicts with sedentary population)
  - Disruptions of income from small ruminants or poultry hitting women hardest → reduced purchase of household essentials and nutrition
The effects of COVID-19 on the livestock sector

- Labour shortages (illness and movement restrictions)
- Market closures, informal business restricted
- Reduced supplies (feed, medication, vaccines, day-old-chicks, semen)
- Disruption of public services (e.g. food safety inspection and animal health extension services, animal disease control efforts and clinical services)
- Reduced consumer purchasing power
- **Risk communication** and drop in demand, reducing sales and lowering prices.
Asia hot spot for zoonotic diseases? Prevention of future pandemics?
Asia hot spot for zoonotic diseases?

- Yes
- Rapid increase:
  - Population densities
  - Economic growth
  - Rapid urbanization
  - Demand for animal sources protein
  - Encroachment into forest areas
  - Close contacts humans, animals (livestock or wildlife)
  - Risky eating habits
  - Traditional markets
  - Cross border movements
  - Different levels of disease control

- Yes
  - Early detection, rapid response, sustained control
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- Yes/No → mitigating the impact
  - Early detection, rapid response, sustained control
Thank you