



International Alliance for
Biological Standardization



World Organisation
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Vaccination and Surveillance for High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza in poultry: Current Situation and Perspectives

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French experience on HPAI vaccination from an exporting country perspective

France has experienced several large-scale outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza in recent years, resulting in the slaughter of millions of birds to eradicate the disease. Considering the limits of conventional control methods, the need to make the transition to sustainable food systems and the pandemic risks associated with zoonoses, it has become necessary to consider the deployment of vaccination as a complementary control tool with the aim of eradicating this disease. Within this framework, France launched a vaccination program from the 1st of October 2023.

From an exporting country perspective, it was necessary to give reinsurance factors to importing countries in order to ensure that the exported products are not infected by HPAI virus. The vaccination strategy was defined, amongst other, to take into account those factors, and includes a clear objective, clear definition of vaccinated populations, precise traceability, robust surveillance and huge communication and diplomatic activity.

By the end of September 2024, around 60 million ducks were vaccinated. More than 850 000 samples were analysed within the framework of the exhaustive post vaccination surveillance : no positive HPAI virological results were identified. And regarding exports, only a few countries have stopped imports pending an in-depth risk analysis.

These figures underline the success of this plan in terms of its implementation, monitoring and acceptance on the international stage.

