

Animal Health Security Project

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Context : The central government has launched the '**Animal Health Security Strengthening in India for Pandemic Preparedness and Response**' initiative. This initiative focuses on improving animal health monitoring to prevent future pandemics, recognizing that approximately two-thirds of human infectious diseases originate in animals. Here is an overview of the initiative:

Key Details of the Initiative

- **Launched by:** The Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying.
- **Aim:** To enhance monitoring of animal health, which is crucial to preventing potential pandemics.
- **Objective:** The main goal is to strengthen animal health security to prepare for and respond to possible pandemics, given the high prevalence of zoonotic diseases (diseases originating in animals).
- **Importance:** This project highlights the critical role of animal health in protecting public health from zoonotic diseases, underscoring the need for integrated health security.
- **Approval and Funding:** The project was approved by the **Pandemic Fund**, created by **G20 countries** during Indonesia's presidency in 2022. The fund aims to help **low- and middle-income countries** build their capacity to detect, report, and control future pandemics.
- **Implementing Agencies:** The project will be carried out by the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)**, the **World Bank**, and the **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)**. It is scheduled to be completed by **August 2026**.

Key Expected Outcomes

1. **Laboratory and Vaccine Manufacturing Enhancements:** Upgrading laboratories and vaccine production facilities to support rapid response.

2. **Strengthened Surveillance and Early Warning Systems:** Improved systems for detecting and responding to potential zoonotic threats early.
3. **Human Resource Development:** Building a skilled workforce with enhanced capacity and competencies in animal health.
4. **Data and Risk Management Improvements:** Developing better data systems, analytics, risk analysis, and communication strategies.
5. **Institutional Capacity Building:** Addressing gaps in institutional capabilities at both national and regional levels to ensure comprehensive preparedness.

This initiative represents a significant step in integrating animal health into pandemic preparedness, aiming to protect both human and animal populations from future health crises.



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