

PRESS RELEASE

The Bird Flu problem, if tackled at the poultry level itself, could eliminate the risk of human beings being affected by it. Immunizing the chickens in India could be one of the safest ways to contain this disease.

Hester to apply for:

- 1. Import of Avian Influenza vaccines for poultry, from Merial, France & USA**
 - 2. Import of Flu detection kit in poultry from Synbiotics, USA**
 - 3. Manufacturing Avian Influenza vaccine for poultry**
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Import of Avian Influenza vaccines for poultry, from Merial, France and USA

In view of the current bird flu situation in India, Hester is applying to the Government of India to allow it to import the following vaccines from Merial:

- 1. "TROVAC-AIV H5"**, Recombinant live vaccine for the prevention of Avian Influenza Type H5 and Fowl Pox in chicken. Fowl Pox vectored vaccine containing an H5 Avian Influenza Virus insert, for the prevention of Avian Influenza Type H5 and Fowl pox in chicken.
- 2. GALLIMUNE FLU H5N9**, inactivated oily adjuvant vaccine against Influenza H5 in Poultry.
- 3. "FLUVAC H7"**, Inactivated vaccine in oil adjuvant against Influenza H7 in Poultry.
- 4. "GALLIMUNE 208 ND + FLU H9 M.E."**, Inactivated vaccine in oil adjuvant against Newcastle Disease and Avian Influenza (H9N2 Serotype) in Poultry

Hester represents Merial in India on an exclusive basis for poultry vaccines.

The above vaccines, if allowed to be imported, will enable providing immunity to the poultry against a few strains of Avian Influenza, including H5.

Import of Flu detection kit in poultry from Synbiotics, USA

Hester will also be applying to import the **"FLU DETECT"** Antigen Capture Test Strip from Synbiotics, USA. Hester represents Synbiotics, USA on an exclusive basis for poultry disease diagnostic kits.

FLU DETECT Antigen Capture Test strip is designed to aid in the qualitative detection of Influenza type A virus from symptomatic birds in a flock. It is designed to detect all 15 subtypes of Influenza type A virus, including H5N1. The results can be read in 15 minutes.

Such a test if done at a farm level, can enable the detection of Avian Influenza in chicken.

Manufacturing Avian Influenza inactivated vaccines for poultry

Hester would be requesting the Government of India to provide the seed virus for the Avian Influenza strain from chicken.

If the strain is made available to Hester, Hester has the technical ability to manufacture inactivated vaccine for Avian Influenza for the poultry.

Hester has embarked on an expansion plan to increase its production capacity from 1.2 billion doses of poultry vaccines to 4.8 billion doses. This expansion has the provision to manufacture Avian Influenza vaccine for the poultry.

For Hester Pharmaceuticals Limited

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