Bird flu, also called avian influenza, is a viral infection that can infect not only birds, but also humans and other animals. Most forms of the virus are restricted to birds. H5N1 is the most common form of bird flu. Although bird flu is contagious and spreads easily among birds, it is uncommon for it to be transmitted to humans. In the late 1990s, a new strain of bird flu arose which was unusually severe ("highly pathogenic"), resulting in the deaths of hundreds of millions of birds, including poultry. Risk factors for people to contract bird flu include association with birds and poultry farms and bird feces. There have been isolated cases of human-to-human transmission. Definitive diagnosis requires identification of the viral strain by immunological tests. Treatment may include antiviral medication and often requires intensive supportive care. Control efforts, including culling infected flocks and vaccinating healthy birds, have limited the spread of highly pathogenic bird flu strains. In 2011, a mutated strain of highly pathogenic bird flu appeared, H5N1, which is concerning because the existing poultry vaccines are not very effective against the H5N1 strain. In 2013, a new strain, H7N9, appeared in China; other strains are rare. There is no commercially available vaccine for humans against bird flu strains. Human infection with H5N1 bird flu is fatal in approximately 55% of infected humans and 37% infected with H7N9, but only a relatively small number of humans worldwide have become infected since 1997 (H5N1 = 784 people infected and H7N9 = 622). The prognosis of bird flu is fair to poor because of frequent complications and high death rates.

The NSS Unit of Polytechnic in Agricultural Engineering, Anand Agricultural University, Muvaliya Farm, Dahod and Nehru Yuva Kendra, Dahod (Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Govt. of India) had jointly organized 6th webinar on Zoom meet- “Community awareness on Bird Flu and Precautions” on 19th Jan., 2021. In the beginning, Mr. Ajit Jain, Youth Coordinator NYK, Dahod welcomed all the Dignitaries, Faculties, students and NSS volunteers for their participation and briefed about the webinar. The faculty members, students and NSS Volunteers (50 Nos.) were actively participated in this webinar.
Dr. M.M.Trivedi, Principal, PAE, AAU, Dahod in his inaugural speech about the information bird flu is a worldwide public health problem therefore increasing awareness would be a solution to avoid its spread and complications. Public awareness campaign and home visit by environmental and veterinary officers are important strategies that can prevent AI infection transmission among domestic birds and man.

Dr. Keval Pandya, Unicef Consultant, District Health Department, Dahod who was the resource person, gave detailed information on bird flu and precautions, its origin, history, symptoms, through presentation and advised for the awareness campaign and home visit by environmental and veterinary officers are important strategies. Human infection with highly infectious strains of bird flu is uncommon, with most infections occurring after exposure to infected birds or their droppings.

The Chief Guest of the Program was Dr. D.H. Patel, DSW, AAU, Anand explained about Bird flu and most forms of the virus are restricted to birds. H5N1 is the most common form of bird flu. Although bird flu is contagious and spreads easily among birds, it is uncommon for it to be transmitted to humans.

The Vote of Thanks was delivered by Mr. Sachin S. Chinchorkar, NSS Programme Officer extended to the Dignitaries, Faculty, Participants and NSS volunteers remained presence this webinar and prepared the guideline for the successful completion of this Webinar. The webinar was organized with the support and guidance from Dr. M.M. Trivedi, Principal, PAE, AAU, Dahod.

Glimpses of webinar “Community awareness on Bird Flu and Precautions”

Wel-Come Address

Mr. Ajit Jain
Youth Co-ordinator, NYK, Dahod

Dr. Keval Pandya (Speaker)
Unicef Consultant, District Health Department, Dahod
Conclusion: The practice of backyard poultry is very high with little knowledge and awareness of mechanism and risk of infection associated with it. This was also reflected in their attitude towards reporting of outbreaks in birds. Public awareness campaign and home visit by environmental and veterinary officers are important strategies that can prevent AI infection transmission among domestic birds and man.