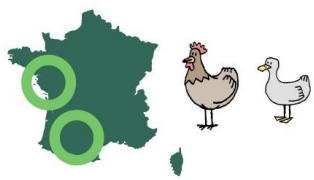
BioSecure
Enhanced and cost-effective biosecurity in livestock production

PRACTICE ABSTRACT #35

Piloting a participatory approach to biosecurity during HPAI crises

- Biosecurity approaches have traditionally been considered at the individual farm level. In addition to individually-framed measures, **biosecurity can also be considered more collectively at the level of a functional or geographic territory defined by shared risks**.
- Participatory approaches have been recognized as a valuable approach for increasing community engagement in animal disease prevention and control, but **there is a lack of information on how to conduct participatory research in times of epidemic crises**.
- **We developed a participatory approach** in the French poultry sector, to help farmers conceptualize biosecurity collectively and to assess the approach's impact on relationship dynamics within **farmers' communities**, in the wake of epidemics of **Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI)**.

Study design:



→ 2 communities of 5 to 10 farmers (+ vet), including diverse poultry production systems (chickens and ducks, conventional and outdoor systems, working with producer organisations or selling directly to consumers)

Participatory research process :

Pre-workshop Individual interviews	Identify shared links which were the basis for the two communities	May – September 2024
Workshop 1	Identify the shared values and needs of the participants, and priority shared risk factors for the local territory	October – December 2024
Workshop 2	Facilitate understanding of shared epidemiological risks for the specific community through expert discussions	March – May 2025
Workshop 3	Discuss possibility of shared biosecurity measures adopted according to risk	July 2025 – February 2026
Post-workshop individual interviews	Receive feedback from participants on what was appreciated, improvements, changes made, and perspectives for the community's future	November 2025 – April 2026

HPAI

HPAI

Key outcomes:

→ Improved communication between participants

→ Increased awareness of epidemiological connections in each community

→ Identification of opportunities and barriers to collective biosecurity actions



Insights from participatory approach during HPAI crises include:

- **The use of mediating tools adapted to local context and farmers' realities**
- **Long-term engagement and commitment with participants**
- **Developing actionable research – making research findings meaningful for participants**

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