



MonkeyFeverRisk

Interdisciplinary approaches for KFD & zoonotic disease management

Why the need for interdisciplinary approaches?

- Research & action needs coordinated *fieldwork-laboratory-community engagement* (e.g. tick collection, identification and control in the case of KFD)
- Disease surveillance across human, animal and forest sectors -> need for *intersectoral, interdepartmental coordination in addition to interdisciplinary approaches*
- Risk factor identification and action requires collaboration between ecologists, epidemiologists, public health professionals, and health workers across biomedical and social sciences
- MonkeyFeverRisk addresses both intersectoral and interdisciplinary needs of KFD -> lessons for other zoonotic diseases

Interdisciplinary approach for KFD: What do we mean?



Interdisciplinary approaches that we used



Bringing together decision-makers with researchers spanning from different disciplines helped integrate multiple perspectives on KFD control as well as contributing to co-developing a decision-support tool



Data collection involved research methods and techniques across disciplines; zoonotic diseases such as KFD require multiple disciplines to work together in interdisciplinary research teams



Implementation and action at the centre; Integrating high resolution earth observation data with fine-scale maps and on-ground health department and health worker experience to co-produce a decision-support tool; researchers keep on-ground decision support at the centre of the research agenda

What are we learning?

- Experience and wisdom from health workers and other on-ground staff is crucial to translating research into action
- Experience of the Karnataka Health Department in managing multiple KFD outbreaks holds important lessons for the future of zoonotic disease management
- District administrative leadership is able to galvanise intersectoral coordination during outbreaks in the absence of a formal institutional framework
- Multiple policy and practice barriers for coordinated OneHealth approaches at district level, especially for strengthening preparedness, prevention and between outbreak periods

What resources for future interdisciplinary work?

- An interdisciplinary & intersectoral community of professionals with an interest in KFD/zoonotic disease control (Whatsapp group and multiple meetings)
- An international and local institutional framework involving Government health and veterinary services sector, central and state government research organisations and academic organisations from NGO sectors
- Capacity building for all researchers, practitioners and decision-makers on OneHealth approaches that can be applied to other disease systems and contexts



Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment



Department of Health and Family Welfare Services
Government of Karnataka



ICMR
INDIAN COUNCIL OF MEDICAL RESEARCH

NITM
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TRADITIONAL MEDICINE

National Institute of Epidemiology
(INDIAN COUNCIL OF MEDICAL RESEARCH)



National Institute of Veterinary Epidemiology and Disease Informatics
Indian Council of Agricultural Research



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