

Thailand Department of Livestock Development announced a successful development of vaccine against Thai variant Lumpy Skin Disease

Dr. Soravit Thanito, Director-General of the Department of Livestock Development (DLD) stated that a vaccine against Thai variant LSD was successfully developed by a cooperation between the Bureau of Veterinary Biologics and the National Institute of Animal Health, agencies under DLD. The efficacy of the vaccine, which is to be administered for a prevention or control of LSD in emergency cases in May, is equal to an imported vaccine but will be economical at a cost price of 9 baht per dose. Low-priced vaccine is not only lessening farmers' cost to LSD prevention but also marking vaccine security in Thailand.

The vaccine had been initially developed in a laboratory scale since May, 2021 and came with the result of 2 formulas; aqueous vaccine and oil-adjuvant vaccine. Both vaccines were safe and did not cause allergic reactions in animals. However, it was found later that oil-adjuvant vaccine provides higher and continuous immunity up to 7 month. DLD has continued to expand vaccine production capacity at a pilot scale producing 50,000 - 100,000 doses on a monthly basis by using cell culture technology. It is anticipated that DLD will be able to produce vaccine worth of 6 million baht during the first phase (June 2022 - May 2023), saving 21 million baht in comparison to 27-million-baht importing cost.

Presently, DLD is conducting a feasibility study to elevate even more production capacity for oil-adjuvant vaccine against LSD with the aim of 500,000 - 1 million doses by using large scale roller or Microcarrier technique. This will help tumbling 360-million-baht budgeted cost for importing 8 million doses of vaccine per year.

Thus, DLD being able to produce and administer vaccine against LSD domestically means not only cutting down cost but generating revenue from selling to neighboring ASEAN countries. Furthermore a thorough administer of vaccine will subsequently lead to effective and sustainable eradication of LSD from Thailand.

Background

Since the first confirmed LSD outbreak in March, 2021 in Roi Et province, DLD together with relevant sectors; namely, governors, local government organization, farmers and general public have exerted every effort to effectively control LSD In cattle as follow:-

1. Control of cattle movement
2. Close surveillance of LSD
3. Prevention and control of LSD insect vectors
4. Appropriate treatment according to symptoms
5. Use of vaccine for LSD control

For the last activity, DLD has authorized an import of 5.3 million doses of vaccine costing more than 160 million baht, whereas the private sectors including associations and farmer groups also brought in 500,000 doses equal to 22.5 million baht, which is worth more than 180 million baht in total.

Source: *Bangkokbiznews.com*

*Thailand Office of Agricultural Affairs, Los Angeles
March 2022*