

PRESS CLIPPING SHEET

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Boehringer Ingelheim launches B.E.S.T. in Egypt

BOEHRINGER Ingelheim Animal Health has launched a new vaccine against highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 strains of the virus in chicken. B.E.S.T. AI + ND (Baculovirus Expression System Technology) was developed specifically as a tool to improve control of Avian Influenza and Newcastle Disease.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has called for appropriate animal vaccination programmes in Egypt as part of the efforts to reduce the negative impact of the H5N1 and the associated health and security consequences.

In response to this call to action, Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health tasked its research and development team with finding an effective vaccine that would work against the range of highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 viruses found in Egypt, which could also be produced in large quantities.

The response was the development of B.E.S.T. AI+ND which marks a breakthrough in the control of HPAI in Egypt.

"It's the first specifically engineered vaccine that can be injected into ten days chicken to provide this level of protection against the highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 virus", said Mohammed Hussein, Head of Poultry Business, Middle East Turkey and Africa Region, Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health.

"We are proud of our research and development team at Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health who engineered this innovative vaccine, especially considering the current situation in Egypt."

Commenting on the performance of B.E.S.T. AI+ND, Dr Hussein Ali Hussein, Chairman of Virology Department, Veterinary Medicine, Cairo University said: "We have found great results when conducting efficacy trials with B.E.S.T. AI+ND. The published results from the main investigative trial showed 100 per cent protection against strains of H5N1 influenza isolated here in Egypt."

"Furthermore, the way the vaccine has been engineered results in a protection against a broad spectrum of different highly pathogenic influenza viruses of the H5N1 and H5N2 subtype. This is very important because we know the viruses continuously mutate," he said.

B.E.S.T. AI+ND is the latest innovation from Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health, who is committed to the continued investment in research and development in order to find and develop new and better solutions for our customers. The company has a strong presence in the Middle East and Africa, serving the needs of its customers in the region with tailored solutions through its livestock, equine and poultry product lines.