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Voluntary Public

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GAIN Report Number: BG2004

Bangladesh

Post: New Delhi

Bangladesh Temporarily Allows Egg Imports

Report Categories:

Poultry and Products

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

Pest/Disease Occurrences

Livestock and Products

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Report Highlights:

The Government of Bangladesh has temporarily allowed table egg imports through July 20, 2012. Imports will only be permitted from countries which are “free from avian influenza.” This measure is being taken in order to help mitigate rising egg prices in the period directly preceding Ramadan.

General Information:

On June 9, 2012, the Government of Bangladesh (GOB) allowed table egg imports until June 30, 2012. This decision was taken when egg prices jumped to Tk 10 (\$.12) per egg, mostly due to avian influenza-related egg shortages. While no written decision has been made available to the public, GOB sources indicate that imports are permitted from countries which are “free from avian influenza” (as per Bangladesh’s Sanitary Import Certificate) and are subject to the issuance of a no objection certificate (NOC). By limiting the import period to June 30, 2012, the GOB is attempting to control prices and ensure protein availability prior to the fasting month of Ramadan, which starts on July 20, 2012. Typically, protein demand increases prior to the fasting period, after which it drops by as much as 30 percent. Industrial demand for table eggs (approximately 25 percent of the total market) drops by as much as 50 percent during Ramadan.

According to trade sources, Bangladesh consumes approximately 10 billion eggs annually, of which Bangladesh currently produces 80 percent. The remainder of Bangladesh’s table egg requirement is mostly filled by India, which has consistently reported highly pathogenic notifiable avian influenza to the OIE over the past several years (including a report on May 7, 2012). Given the short time period that the market will remain open and the predominance of India in Bangladesh’s egg market, there is some doubt that the policy will result in significant new egg exports to Bangladesh. However, some traders have informally suggested that they will seek suppliers in Thailand.