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Drift variants of low pathogenic avian influenza virus: Indian scenario

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This paper examines the emergence of drift variants of low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI) viruses with particular focus on their occurrence in India. Influenza viruses are dynamic and continuously evolving and variants emerge from the instability of these viruses due to their constant mutations through antigenic drift. The drift variants emerging from the LPAI viruses gradually acquire higher virulence, inflicting heavy mortality and severe economic losses. Control of avian influenza viruses and the drift variants through vaccination is a great challenge because of the rapid evolution of LPAI viruses due to the pressure of vaccination immunity. Therefore, periodic evaluation and updating of the vaccine strains is required to provide sufficient protection to birds against the drift variants of LPAI.

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Reproductive performance of large white yorkshire sows under indigenous and organized system of rearing in Mizoram

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A systematic study to record and analyze the reproductive performance of pigs under indigenous and organized systems of rearing is very much essential. Large White Yorkshire (LWY) sows maintained under indigenous and organized systems of rearing in Mizoram were studied for different reproductive parameters. Under the indigenous and organized systems of rearing, the mean age at attainment of puberty in gilts was 275.00 ± 9.77 and 286.00 ± 10.50 days, age at first conception was 317.00 ± 9.01 and 346.00 ± 15.10 days, length of gestation period was 114.70 ± 0.11 and 115.00 ± 0.26 days, the farrowing rate was 91.72 and 90.48 percent, percentage of stillbirth was found to be 3.36 and 4.48, mean litter size at birth (live born piglets) was found to be 9.05 ± 0.25 and 8.87 ± 0.23 and mean litter size at weaning was 8.22 ± 0.26 and 7.39 ± 0.23 , percentage of piglets died prior to weaning was 9.16 and 16.68 percent. The sex ratio of male piglets at birth was found to be 50.04 and 50.05 percent. The mean service period was found to be 69.86 ± 1.71 and 86.34 ± 2.37 days. The mean weaning to oestrus interval was found to be 16.87 ± 1.50 and 27.45 ± 2.46 days and the farrowing interval was found to be 188.70 ± 3.99 and 212.90 ± 3.93 days; respectively. It was found that there was no difference in most of the reproductive performance recorded under the two systems of rearing except in the age of 1st conception, litter size at weaning, pre-weaning piglet mortality, service period, weaning to oestrus interval and farrowing rate where it was significantly higher under indigenous system of rearing.

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