Control group

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Control strategy will depend on the country because there are differences between large and small states, countries with large farms or not, status as exporter or not.

Eradication or vaccination

- The issue of vaccination is much debated during the writing of emergency preparedness plans. A lot of things have to be taken into consideration before vaccinating:
  - What are the consequences of vaccination on the economy if we do vaccinate (since we are probably going to lose the ability to export)?
  - Which vaccine to use?
  - Who will pay? The government, the farmers or both will split the cost?
  - Do we have the human resources to vaccinate?
  - Do we vaccinate all animals preventively, or only after an outbreak has been detected? If so do we do ring vaccination or vaccinate all animals once a determined percentage (10%?) of farms have been affected?
- Question about the efficiency and drawbacks of vaccination. Vaccinated animals still excrete the virus so that can constitute a threat. But vaccinated animals excrete the virus in smaller amounts than non vaccinated animals, which contributes to reducing the contamination of the environment. Experience in South-East Asia seems to show that vaccination is efficient (cf Thailand and Vietnam).
- About the difficulty of distinguishing vaccinated animals from infected animals with animals when using serological tests. In Italy, it was possible to distinguish between vaccinated animals and infected animals by vaccinating with a H5N other than 1.

➔ Recommendation
In the English-speaking Caribbean, where production is mostly for the local market and where most countries do not export, eradication would be favoured over vaccination because it would be too costly to vaccinate (farmers would not pay), too difficult logistically. Vaccination might be a secondary solution depending on the situation.

Slaughtering, disposal and disinfection

- A strong and effective surveillance programme is indispensable for control to be efficient. The earlier the outbreak is reported, the more efficient the control measures will be. Compensations are indispensable for compliance.

- There is a need for a national committee including the army, police... which has to be notified immediately in case of suspicion.
- Clear eradication guidelines (standard operation procedures) describing all the steps that must be developed. These protocols must be written with experts and according to recommendations of the OIE/FAO/WHO.
- Training documents and training sessions organised for agents and farmers and technicians/veterinarians are needed. Whenever possible, already available protocols/documents must be used.
- People must be trained for the depopulation method and for biosecurity guidelines, must wear protective gear during depopulation/disposal/disinfection operations, and must know what to do if they develop influenza signs (report to physician)
- A stimulation exercise is useful to identify your weaknesses and strengths (how fast and appropriately the outbreak can be handled).

Slaughtering method

- Stock of plastic tarpaulin to cover pens then insert hoses with holes drilled in them and inject gas such as CO2 which will stay on the ground.
- Another option is to use containers but then there is the problem of aerosolisation of the virus
- For ducks, it maybe problematic to use CO2 because of the pocket of air they have under the wings. So one may need to use poison for large farms (cf Israel) or use burdizzo.

Disposal method

- Bury on site provided it's on an area where there will be no ground water contamination: dig a trench, put the carcasses wrapped up in plastic, add a layer of soil (2 feet), white lime, then another layer of soil.
- When not possible, you can transport the carcasses to an area where burial is possible or to an incinerator but you need to make sure there is no leakage.
- The litter and waste will be disposed of the same way.

Disinfection

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Food supply contingency planning

- There should be a recall system set up for poultry products coming from an infected farm
- There should be stockpiles of canned food, frozen food (with stock rotation)
- Importation of alternate food sources

Legislation

- If not already in place, countries must adopt new animal health and food safety legislation to be up to date
  - Quarantine
  - Poultry registration compulsory
  - Notification of HPAI compulsory
  - Penalties for people who do not comply
  - Animal movement control in case of outbreak
- The legislation must give full powers to the government to be efficient