

**KNOWLEDGE AND HOUSEHOLD PRACTICES PREVENTING TRANSMISSION OF
COMMON ZONOTIC DISEASES AMONG FARMERS IN THARYARWADDY TOWNSHIP**

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ABSTRACT

Zoonoses are naturally transmitted infections between vertebrate animals and humans. WHO stated that South-East Asia Regions are more likely to suffer the emergence and re-emergence of zoonoses and other infectious diseases. The present study aimed to assess the knowledge and household practices preventing transmission of common zoonotic diseases among farmers. A cross-sectional descriptive study was conducted in Tharyarwaddy Township, Bago region from October to November, 2016. A total of 200 study populations from four villages were recruited by multistage random sampling method. Background characteristics of farmers, their knowledge and practices preventing transmission of common zoonoses were assessed by face to face interview method using pretested structured questionnaires. Frequency distributions were used to present descriptive analysis and multivariate logistic regression analysis was done to assess factors influencing for good practices on prevention. Mean age of the study population was 45.37 years and male and female ratio is nearly one. About half of the respondents studied up to primary school level. Only 3% of study populations had high knowledge level. Although rabies and avian influenza were well known, only few respondents knew anthrax, leptospirosis and bovine tuberculosis as common zoonoses. Study found that about 20% of farmers had high risk practices that favour the maintenance and transmission of zoonotic diseases such as living in a household with animals, contact with body fluid of animals, slaughtering of animals, not wearing of PPE when handling animals and waste products. Multivariate logistic regression analysis showed that female gender ($p=0.001$) and high educational status ($p=0.023$) were significant predictors of good practices among respondents. According to above findings, the study concluded that majority of farmers had very low knowledge and every one in five farmers had high risk household practices regarding to transmission of zoonoses. Therefore, awareness raising programs should be enhanced by both veterinary and human health care professionals to reduce the emergence and re-emergence of zoonotic public health threat.