

Foot-and-mouth disease has dairy farmers in Tirupur dist worried

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Tirupur: While the animal husbandry department claims to have controlled the spread of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD), livestock farmers in the district are not convinced.

“More than 500 cattle are down with the virus at Dharapuram. Farmers are worried as a major part of their income comes from milk production,” district president of Ulavar Ulaippalar Katchi R Eswaramoorthi said.

As many as 300 cattle are affected by the disease at Palladam taluk, said district president of Katchi Sarbatra Vivasagal Sangam M Eswaran. “The FMD effect is high due to the heavy rainfall this year,” he said.

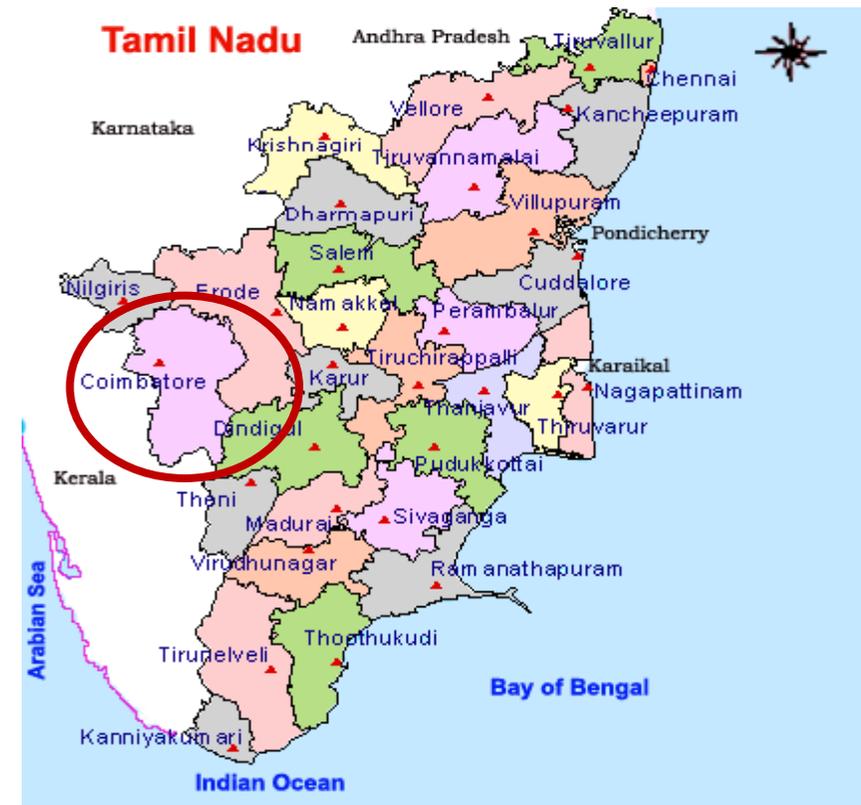
Some veterinary doctors of the animal husbandry department are demanding as much as Rs 1,000 to treat the cattle, Eswaramoorthi said. “It is condemnable that the veterinarians are demanding money from the farmers, who are facing financial loss,” he told TOI.

The veterinarians demand money claiming that they buy the medicines from private shops, said Eswaran. “They say that the farmers should pay for the medicines. Farmers, who are in a desperate situation, are forced to pay whatever the veterinarians demand. But despite providing medication, many cattle have not recovered.”

Meanwhile, a senior animal husbandry department official denied the allegations. “As per Foot and Mouth Disease Control Programme (FMD-CP), the department had administered vaccine. But some calves could not survive. FMD was prevalent in the calves. As the disease is spread through air and water, animals on Noyyal and Amaravathi belts are infected easily.”

The department has formed 36 special teams to curb the disease, the official said. “We have also ensured availability of medicines to control the disease, whose prevalence is only sporadic in the district. The district administration has taken sufficient steps, including temporary ban on cattle markets. The situation will soon become normal.”

Source: **ProMED-SoAs: South Asia**



NIVEDI PREDICITONS

Districts of Tamil Nadu	FMD prediction for December 2018	FMD prediction for November 2018	FMD prediction for October 2018
The Nilgiris	VLR	VLR	VLR
Coimbatore	VLR	VHR	HR
Erode	VLR	HR	HR
Dindigul	VLR	VHR	HR
Theni	VLR	VHR	HR

Note: Spatial and Temporal neighbours