

From fear to hope

Six reasons to fear a mixed human-avian virus

if

- the hybrid virus becomes regularly mortal for man,
- the hybrid virus is revealed to be highly contagious between people,
- the specific vaccine is not available in time or in sufficient quantities,
- virus prevention is discovered to be less effective than foreseen,
- the world is not ready to fully react in time,
- new diseases add themselves to the effects of the virus which may facilitate the action of other pathogenic agents or engender the economic collapse of sectors.



Smoking of whistling ducks in the bush in Chad, 2006 - Alexandre Caron, © Cirad

Six reasons for hope

because

- other outbreaks of avian influenza ended by themselves,
- scientists are proposing measures to end the crisis,
- the initial outbreaks were controlled,
- new therapies will be proposed,
- natural forms of resistance will appear,
- avian influenza will be controlled before the fatal viral mutation materializes.



Attempt to capture a domestic duck in Niger, 2006 - Alexandre Caron, © Cirad