Producers of bird flu vaccine still waiting for govt approval

The vaccine is not effective than the vaccines widely used now to inject healthy chicken and birds," Kamaludin said.

The vaccine used by the country at present is a subtype of an H5N1 vaccine produced by Mexico. In 1995, Mexico supplied a swine outbreak of H5N1 flu by vaccinating chickens.

"But the vaccine type is not compatible with the H5N1 strain. Now we're dealing with a different strain of the H5 viruses, but completely different," Kamaludin said.

The pharmaceutical firm plans to produce 18 million doses of the vaccine per month, which would be distributed to parties in need at an underset cost price.

"We hope the vaccine is registered soon as it would be useful in curbing the spread of bird flu," he said.

The impetus to produce the vaccine was a seminar on vaccine production held at the IPB campus in 2004 and attended by Shigeta.

"We are just waiting for it to be registered in the (Directorate General of Animal Health) and livestock's register of animal vaccines," he said, adding that the PTPN lab was equipped to handle the first stage of the vaccine's production.