

Pre-AREM Workshop: Refining the Regional Directions in Implementing the FAO Action Plan in the Asia-Pacific Region
04 March 2019; Bangkok, Thailand

CONCEPT NOTE

Background and justification:

Considering the significance of AMR across the world, the Global Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance (GAP-AMR) was developed by the World Health Organization (WHO) in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE). It was subsequently launched at the 68th World Health Assembly in May 2015 and further endorsed at the 83rd World Assembly of the OIE Delegates in May 2015 and the 39th FAO Conference in June 2015, and has since spurred and catalyzed progress in addressing AMR globally. It calls on the human and animal sectors of all Member Countries to focus on the following 5 objectives: (1) improvement of awareness and understanding of AMR through effective communication, education and training; (2) strengthening of knowledge and evidence base through surveillance and research; (3) reducing the incidence of infection through effective sanitation, hygiene and infection prevention measures; (4) optimizing the use of antimicrobial medicines in human and animal health; and (5) development of the economic case for sustainable investment that takes account of the needs of all countries, and increase investment in new medicines, diagnostic tools, vaccines, and other interventions.

As the global leader for food and agriculture, the strategies accordingly aligned with the GAP-AMR have also been developed to specifically address AMR in these specific sectors. The FAO Action Plan identifies four focus areas of work: (Focus Area 1) Improve awareness on Antimicrobial Resistance and related threats; (Focus Area 2): develop capacity for surveillance and monitoring of Antimicrobial Resistance and antimicrobial use in food and agriculture; (Focus Area 3): Strengthen governance related to antimicrobial use and Antimicrobial Resistance in food and agriculture; (Focus Area 4): promote good practices in food and agriculture systems and the prudent use of antimicrobials.

In Asia, the implementation of this global FAO Action Plan rests on the different sections of the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific: This involves the teams from the Nutrition and Food Safety, Fisheries, Plant Production and Protection, and most extensively, the Animal Production and Health including the FAO Emergency Center for Transboundary Animal Diseases (ECTAD).

This pre-AREM workshop will gather the FAO AMR team of Asia (FAO RAP AMR Team and all the AMR focal points from FAO country offices) to review and consolidate the various AMR initiatives of FAO across the region and link all activities with the identified outputs of the FAO Action Plan. The opportunity will also be used to identify and foster linking of all related initiatives, as well as determine gaps in the implementation where further work in the region are still needed and future investments will need to be mobilized. Collectively, the working team will identify its cohesive way forward, ensuring that the shared global vision on AMR mitigation is reinforced and accordingly secured in the region.

Objectives/Outcomes This pre-AREM workshop on AMR aims to:

1. Gather for the first time the members of the AMR Working Group of FAO RAP which has been regularly meeting virtually since 2017;
2. Review and consolidate the various AMR initiatives of FAO across the region, and link all activities with the identified outputs of the FAO Action Plan;
3. Identify and foster linking of activities of shared interests;
4. Identify Outputs under FAO Action Plan where further work in the region will still be needed and future investments will need to be mobilized;

Expected Outputs: At the end of the Workshop, it is expected that:

1. A results landscape on AMR initiatives is drafted, with reference to the FAO Action Plan.
2. Areas of AMR collaborations, synergy, and sharing across the region are identified.
3. Areas of AMR needs, further work, and future investments across the region are identified.
4. Key points for the streamlined implementation of the FAO Action Plan in the region is defined and drafted.
5. Organizational and operational communication framework for AMR is set up in the region.

Key inputs/ Main Activities:

1. Review of 2017 Summary of activities
2. Pre-Workshop Survey
3. Results mapping
4. Interactive discussions, exchange, and sharing

Timing/duration and Location:

Date: 04 March 2019

Location: FAO RAP Main Conference Room, Bangkok, Thailand

Expected participants (N= 24-30 pax)

- FAO ECTAD country team leader (or National Project Leader) and the FAO AMR focal points of the following:
 - Bangladesh (2)
 - Cambodia (2)
 - India (2)
 - Indonesia (2)
 - Lao PDR (2)
 - Myanmar (2)
 - Nepal (1)
 - Philippines (2)
 - Viet Nam (2)
 - South Asia (1)
- FAO RAP Technical Officers (6-12)
- FAO-HQ (1)
- Tripartite regional coordination team (1)
- Observers: Maldives, PNG, Sri Lanka

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DRAFT AGENDA

Session	Agenda	Facilitation
08:30 – 9:00	Registration	All participants
<p>Session 1: Welcome and introductions. <i>The FAO AMR WG RAP has been virtually meeting since 2017. For the first time, the virtual working group that has exchanged, discussed and shared over skype will meet face-to-face to discuss the ways forward for the region. Other FAO Officers involved in the implementation of various AMR initiatives in the region will also have the opportunity to contribute to the development and further defining the FAO regional directions for AMR mitigation.</i></p>		
09:00 – 09:30	Introduction of the Members of the AMR Working Group RAP	Agnes Agunos / Domingo Caro
<p>Session 2: AMR initiatives then and now. <i>The work of FAO RAP on AMR has commenced in 2015. Since then, a lot has happened and a lot more are expected to take place in the near future. This session will provide a brief overview of the work from the past to this day, to help us shape the future AMR initiatives in the region. For this session, the responses to the pre-workshop survey of the regional and country offices will be collated and organized, according to the framework of the FAO Action Plan to develop a regional results landscape.</i></p>		
09:30 – 10:45	Evolution of AMR work in the Region	Wantanee Kalpravidh
09:45 – 10:00	Refining the Regional Directions on AMR mitigation: Purpose and objectives of the meeting	Katinka de Balogh
10:00 – 10:30	Coffee Break	
10:30 – 11:30	Stocktaking of current AMR Initiatives in the Region Focus Area 1: Awareness Focus Area 2: Evidence Focus Area 3: Governance Focus Area 4: Good Practices	Facilitator: Domingo Caro Facilitator: Mary Joy Gordoncillo Facilitator: Katinka de Balogh Facilitator: Agnes Agunos
11:30 – 12:30	Brief highlights of each focus area	All participants
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch	
<p>Session 3: Preparing for the future initiatives of AMR in Asia. <i>After the current regional and national AMR initiatives by FAO is mapped (Session 2), the participants will be grouped according to the four focus areas to identify the (1) strengths, (2) weaknesses, (3) opportunities and (4) threats using guide questions. Everyone will be given the opportunity to provide additional inputs for the other groups. The findings from this careful review for each FAO Action Plan objective will be shared by each presenter, and synthesized by the end of the session.</i></p>		
13:30 – 14:30	SWOT analysis of each focus area	All groups
14:30 – 15:00	Presentations and regional synthesis	All groups
15:00 – 15:30	Coffee Break	
<p>Session 4: Moving forward in implementing the FAO Action Plan in the Asia-Pacific Region. <i>Taking off from the previous sessions, an open forum to discuss and identify areas of collaborations, synergy, and sharing across the region will be identified. Likewise, the areas of AMR needs, further work, and future investments across the region will also be outlined. From these discussions the key points for the streamlined implementation of the FAO Action Plan in the region will be defined and drafted. The draft operational communication framework for AMR will also be proposed and deliberated. (Outputs from this discussion will also be presented and further deliberated during the AMR session at AREM)</i></p>		
15:30 – 16:30	Open Forum: What can we do better as a region?	All participants
16:30 – 17:00	Our ways forward	All participants