



Concept Note

Title: *The Regional AMR Technical Advisory Group (TAG) Meeting for the animal health sector*
Responsible Officer: Mary Joy Gordoncillo, Regional Project Coordinator

Background and justifications:

Antimicrobial agents play an essential role in sustaining animal and human health, securing food safety and sufficiency, as well as protecting those whose livelihood dependent on livestock and agricultural production chain. Despite their advantages and necessity in livestock and agriculture, misuse and overuse of antimicrobial agents have contributed to the emergence and spread of antimicrobial resistance (AMR). Antimicrobial-resistant microorganisms have been recognized as one of the global health threats that compromise human and animal health, as well as the environment.

Working to address this global concern, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (RAP), through financial and technical support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), has been working continuously to address and mitigate AMR in agri-food system in the region.

One of the key actions taken to date, is the establishment of the **AMR Technical Advisory Group (TAG)** for Southeast Asia and South Asia in 2017 and 2019, respectively. This has served as a platform that brings together countries, experts, and relevant partners and sectors to discuss **AMR TAG Technical Items**, which are the recognized technical issues on AMR (and AMU) in the animal health sector, identified and listed by countries as shared concerns that could benefit from shared deliberations. To date, a total of twelve (12) AMR TAG Technical Items have been identified by AMR TAG Southeast and South Asia.

One of the recommendations endorsed in the AMR TAG of South Asia in 2019 was to have a joint bi-annual, face-to-face meeting with AMR TAG of Southeast Asia, alternately held with the regular annual meetings. The plan to hold this was interrupted by the limitations presented by COVID-19 pandemic which started in the beginning of 2020. Nevertheless, amidst these limitations, virtual AMR TAG meetings were successfully organized for South Asia (2021) and Southeast Asia (2022).

This 2023, continuing its role as the interim Secretariat for the AMR TAG, FAO RAP is picking up from the previous recommendation and now organizing the first joint biannual meeting of AMR TAG for SEA and SA. ***“The Regional AMR Technical Advisory Group (TAG) Meeting for the animal health sector”*** will bring together the already established AMU/AMR TAG Southeast Asia and AMR TAG South Asia, as well as the national experts from other parts of the region. They will be joined by the FAO Reference Centres for AMR, and other additional international experts and AMR partners working in the region. It will be held on **29-30 November 2023 in Bangkok, Thailand.**

The meeting will largely center on advancing the discussions on the 12 identified AMR TAG Technical Items, and identifying other emerging shared AMR concerns in the region.

Objectives/Outcomes

Building on the previous AMR TAG Meetings as well as the progressing country initiatives on AMR surveillance in food and agriculture over the last few years, the first bi-regional Meeting of the AMR/AMU TAG for Southeast and South Asia aims to:

1. provide the overview of ongoing work on AMR surveillance in countries in the region;
2. provide updates and further deliberate as a region the AMR TAG Technical Items:

With technical and financial support from:



- **AMR TAG Technical Items #1 to #6:** *Regional Guidelines for the Monitoring and Surveillance of Antimicrobial Resistance, Antimicrobial Use, and Antimicrobial Residues in food and agriculture* (Since 2017)
 - **AMR TAG Technical Item #7:** *Regional mechanism for standardized supply pool following the recommended regional antibiotic panel to complement Guideline Vol 1* (Since 2018)
 - **AMR TAG Technical Item #8:** *Addressing the lack of clinical breakpoints for bacterial pathogens from diseased animals* (Since 2018)
 - **AMR TAG Technical Item #9:** *Enhancement of capacities on AMR data management, analysis, and reporting* (Since 2019)
 - **AMR TAG Technical Item #10:** *Development of regionally-customized (and globally aligned) broth microdilution plates for AMR surveillance of Asian aquatic animal pathogens* (Since 2020)
 - **AMR TAG Technical Items #11:** *New and innovative technologies on AMR surveillance (e.g., whole genome sequencing, nanopore technology, etc.)* (Since 2022)
 - **AMR TAG Technical Items #12:** *Developing a systematic approach for detecting and responding unusual AMR events in the region (e.g., early warning)* (Since 2022)
3. develop consolidated, evidence-based technical advice and recommendations to relevant stakeholders addressing these shared concerns in the region;
 4. identify additional cross-cutting issues and AMR TAG Technical Items, and.
 5. plan for ways forward for AMU/AMR TAG for Southeast and South Asia.

Expected Outputs:

At the end of the meeting, it is expected that the meeting participants (including member countries, experts, and partners):

1. are informed on the ongoing AMR surveillance work and initiatives in the region;
2. are updated on current and future AMR initiatives relevant to the twelve AMR TAG Technical Items;
3. contribute to identifying cross-cutting issues and AMR TAG Technical Items and planning for ways forward for AMU/AMR TAG for Southeast and South Asia, and;
4. contribute to the list of well-deliberated regional recommendations.

Key inputs/ Main Activities:

1. Presentations
2. Posters
3. Brainstorming/consultative sessions

Implementation Methods:

1. Discussions and Deliberations

Timing/duration and Location:

Date: 29-30 November 2023

Location: Bangkok, Thailand

Confirmed participants

- National Technical Experts from:
 - *Southeast Asia*: Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam
 - *South Asia*: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka
 - *East Asia*: Japan, Mongolia, ROK
- FAO Reference Centers for AMR
 - *Denmark* – National Food Institute, Technical University of Denmark
 - *Senegal* – Fondation Institut Pasteur de Dakar
 - *Thailand* – Department of Veterinary Public Health, Faculty of Veterinary Science, Chulalongkorn University
 - *United Kingdom* –APHA
- Virtual:
 - *France* – The French agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health and Safety
 - *Germany* – Department of Veterinary Medicine, Freie Universität Berlin
 - *United Kingdom* –VMD
- Leading laboratories on AMR, AMU, and residues in Asia and the Pacific
 - Singapore Food Agency (Singapore)
 - National Parks Board (Singapore)
 - Department of Veterinary Public Health, Faculty of Veterinary Science, Chulalongkorn University (Thailand)
 - Bureau of Quality Control and Livestock Product (Thailand)
- Additional technical resources, partners, and observers
 - Agnes Agunos (Public Health Agency Canada)
 - Biyun Ching (Nparks)
 - Brian Lubbers (CLSI)
 - John Stelling and Ahmed Aboushady (WHONET)
 - Jaap Wagenaar (Utrecht University)
 - Jamal Uddin Ahmed (SAARC Secretariat)
 - Eric Rafai (SPC Secretariat)
 - Karoon Chanachai (USAID RDMA)
 - Benjamin Isquith (USAID RDMA)
 - Steve G. Olive (USAID RDMA)
 - Tikiri Priyantha and Chantanee Buranathai (WOAH SRR SEA)
 - Robert Rosenthal and Stanley Fenwick (Flemming Fund)
- Virtual:
 - Ron Miller (US FDA)
 - Peter Smith (National University of Ireland)
 - Rodolphe Mader (ICARS)
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
 - Alejandro Dorado-Garcia (FAO HQ)
 - Norma Sofisa Hurif (FAO HQ)
 - Kachen Wongsathapornchai, Scott Newman, Mary Joy Gordoncillo, Jutanat Srisamran, Zifeng Han, Domingo Caro, David Sutherland, Usman Zaheer (FAO RAP)
 - AdyHarja Sukarno and Rallya Telussa (FAO Indonesia)
 - Noutlady Inthavong (FAO Lao PDR)
 - Ralph Cabug (FAO Philippines)
 - Robin Paul (FAO India)
 - Khadak Bisht (FAO Nepal)
 - Javaria Alam (FAO Pakistan)
 - Enkhtuya Jargalsaikhan (FAO Mongolia)
 - Valentina Yamanea (FAO PNG)
 - Le Hue (FAO Viet Nam)

The Regional AMR Technical Advisory Group (TAG) Meeting for the animal health sector
29-30 November, 2023
Bangkok, Thailand

AGENDA

29 November 2023

Time	Agenda	Resource person
08:00 – 09:00	Participant registration	
Session 1: Towards transforming AMR surveillance capacities in food and agriculture in the Asia-Pacific Region		
09:00 – 10:00	Opening remarks	Dr Kachen Wongsathapornchai Regional Manager, FAO ECTAD RAP Steve G. Olive, PhD Mission Director USAID RDMA
	Background and overview	Dr Mary Joy Gordoncillo FAO RAP
	Global (re)designation of Chulalongkorn University in Thailand as FAO Reference Centre for AMR	CU VET AMR
	Launching of Regional Guideline Volume 3	FAO RAP, NParks, SFA
	Launching of Regional Guideline Volume 5	FAO RAP, WOH SRR SEA
	Posters	FAO and USAID officials All participants
10:00 – 10:30	Coffee break/Group photo/Poster session/Media briefing	
Session 2: Updates on monitoring and surveillance of antimicrobial resistance, use, and residues in the region		
10:30 – 11:00	Country and Partners Poster session	All participants
11:00 – 12:00	Plenary discussion on poster presentations	Dr Zifeng Han FAO RAP
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch	
Session 2: AMR Surveillance in healthy food animals and their products		
13:00 – 15:00	Updates on AMR TAG Technical item No. 1: Regional Guidelines on Monitoring and Surveillance of antimicrobial resistance	Dr Mary Joy Gordoncillo FAO RAP
	Updates on AMR TAG Technical items No. 7: Regional bulk procurement of Commercial AST Plates following the recommended regional antibiotic panel to complement Guideline #1	
	Capacity building initiatives on AMR data generation in the Asia-Pacific Region (Regional trainings, PTAST, EQAsia, and others)	Dr Rungtip Chuanchuen FAO Reference Centre for AMR/ CU VET AMR
	Regional AMR data analysis Part 1: <i>General summary and evaluation of current practices</i>	
	Regional AMR data analysis Part 2: <i>Analysis of quantitative AMR data</i>	
Issues, concerns, and challenges arising from planning and implementation of monitoring and surveillance of AMR in healthy food animals and their products <i>Technical discussions, Q&A, Recommendations</i>	Dr Agnes Agunos FAO RAP/Public Health Canada	
15:00 – 15:30	Coffee break	
Session 3: AMR Surveillance in bacterial pathogens from diseased livestock and poultry		

15:30 – 16:30	Updates on AMR TAG Technical item No. 2: Regional Guidelines on Monitoring and Surveillance of antimicrobial resistance <i>in bacterial pathogens from diseased livestock and poultry</i>	Dr Mary Joy Gordoncillo FAO RAP
	Updates on AMR TAG Technical item No. 8: Lack of clinical breakpoints for bacterial pathogens from diseased animals	Dr Brian Lubbers CLSI VetCAST/Kansas State University
	Issues, concerns, and challenges arising from planning and implementation of monitoring and surveillance of AMR in bacterial pathogens from diseased livestock and poultry: <i>Technical discussions, Q&A, Recommendations</i>	
Session 4: AMR Surveillance in bacterial pathogens from diseased aquatic animals		
16:30 – 17:30	Updates on AMR TAG Technical item No. 3: Regional Guidelines on Monitoring and Surveillance of antimicrobial resistance <i>in bacterial pathogens from diseased aquatic animals</i>	Dr Mary Joy Gordoncillo FAO RAP
	Updates on AMR TAG Technical item No. 10: Update of development of regionally-customized (and globally aligned) broth microdilution plates for AMR surveillance of Asian aquatic animal pathogens	
	(NEW) AMR TAG Technical Item No. 13: Addressing gaps in AMR surveillance in bacteria from aquatic animals in the region, including epidemiological cut-off value (ECVs/ECOFFs) developments for aquatic bacteria	Singapore
	Issues, concerns, and challenges arising from planning and implementation of monitoring and surveillance of AMR in bacterial pathogens from diseased livestock and poultry: <i>Technical discussions, Q&A, Recommendations</i>	

30 November 2023

Session 5: AMR Surveillance in animal environment		
08:00 – 08:30	Updates on AMR TAG Technical item No. 4: Regional Guidelines on Monitoring and Surveillance of antimicrobial resistance in animal environment	Dr David Sutherland FAO RAP
	Issues, concerns, and challenges arising from planning and implementation of monitoring and surveillance of AMR in bacterial pathogens from diseased livestock and poultry: <i>Technical discussions, Q&A, Recommendations</i>	Dr Mary Joy Gordoncillo FAO RAP Dr Jaap Wagenaar Utrecht University
Session 6: AMU Monitoring at the farm level		
08:30 – 09:00	Updates on AMR TAG Technical item No. 5: Regional Guidelines on Monitoring of antimicrobial use at the farm level	Dr Rodolphe Mader ICARS/FAO RAP
	Issues, concerns, and challenges arising from planning and implementation of monitoring AMU at the farm level: <i>Technical discussions, Q&A, Recommendations</i>	Dr Kinzang Dukpa WOAH RR AP
Session 7: Monitoring and surveillance of antimicrobial residues in food products		
09:00 – 10:00	Updates on AMR TAG Technical item No. 6A: Regional Guidelines on Monitoring of surveillance of antimicrobial residues at the farm level	Dr Jutanat Srisamran FAO RAP
	Updates on AMR TAG Technical item No. 6B: Development of Assessment Tool for Laboratory and Antimicrobial Residues surveillance systems (ATLASS_RVDF)	Dr Rachel Dalton FAO HQ
	Issues, concerns, and challenges arising from planning and implementation of monitoring and surveillance of antimicrobial residues in food: <i>Technical discussions, Q&A, Recommendations</i>	
10:00 – 10:30	Coffee break	
Session 8: Enhancement of capacities on AMR data management, analysis, and reporting		

10:30 – 12:00	Updates on AMR TAG Technical item No. 9: Enhancement of capacities on AMR data management, analysis, and reporting	Dr Jutanat Srisamran FAO RAP Dr Agnes Agunos FAO RAP/Public Health CA
	Global Initiatives: WHONET and InFARM	Dr Mary Joy Gordoncillo FAO RAP
	Issues, concerns, and challenges arising from efforts to improve quality and harmonization of data generated in the region: <i>Technical discussions, Q&A, and Recommendations</i>	Dr Alejandro Dorado-Garcia/ Ms Norma Sofisa Hurif FAO HQ
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch	
Session 10: Ways Forward		
13:00 – 14:00	(NEW) AMR TAG Technical item No. 11: New and innovative technologies on AMR surveillance (e.g., whole genome sequencing, nanopore technology, etc.)	Plenary Session
	(NEW) AMR TAG Technical item No. 12: Developing a systematic approach for detecting and responding unusual AMR events in the region (e.g., early warning)	Plenary Session
	New AMR TAG Technical Items to propose	Plenary Session
14:00 – 15:00	Discussion on AMR TAG mechanism: TORs, operationalization	Plenary session
15:00 – 15:30	Coffee break	
15:30 – 16:30	Review of consolidated recommendations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendations to Countries • Recommendations to AMR TAG • Recommendations to FAO • Recommendations to other partners • Recommendations to ASEAN, SAARC, SPC 	Plenary session
16:30 – 17:00	Statements and discussions on the ways forward	ASEAN, SAARC and SPC Secretariats; FAO Reference Centres; Countries
17:00 – 17:30	Closing remarks	Dr Scott Newman Senior Animal Health and Production Officer, FAO RAP