



**Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the United  
Nations**



**World Health Organization**



**World Organisation for Animal  
Health**

---

## **JOINT FAO/WHO/OIE Expert Meeting on Critically Important Antimicrobials**

---

**Rome, Italy. 26 to 30 November 2007**

**Call for Experts and Call for Data**

---

### **Background**

Antimicrobial agents are essential drugs for human and animal health and welfare.

Issues arising from antimicrobial use are of global concern. International interdisciplinary cooperation is crucial and FAO, OIE and WHO have organized a number of consultations to address issues related to antimicrobial use, the emergence of resistant pathogens and potential public health impact.

At its 53<sup>rd</sup> Session in 2004, the Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission recommended that FAO, WHO and OIE convene a multidisciplinary expert consultation in which issues related to the use of antimicrobials in agriculture (including aquaculture) and veterinary medicine could be considered, while taking into account the role played by antimicrobials as essential human and veterinary medicines.

In response to this request, FAO, WHO and OIE organized three meetings of experts. A first workshop on risk assessment was held in Geneva, Switzerland<sup>1</sup>, in December 2003, followed by a workshop on management options held in March 2004 in Oslo, Norway<sup>2</sup>. The third consultation specific to aquaculture was held in Seoul, Republic of Korea<sup>3</sup> in June 2006. The issue of Critically Important Antimicrobials (CIA) was discussed at the first two workshops. The Geneva workshop concluded that antimicrobial classes that provide specific treatment or one of a limited number of treatments for serious human diseases or pathogens that cause food-borne diseases should be classified as 'critically important'.

The Oslo workshop on Management Options recommended that the concept of CIA for human medicine should be developed by WHO with a view to enabling implementation of

---

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.who.int/foodsafety/micro/meetings/nov2003/en/>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.who.int/foodsafety/publications/micro/mar04/en/index.html>

<sup>3</sup> [ftp://ftp.fao.org/ag/agn/food/aquaculture\\_rep\\_13\\_16june2006.pdf](ftp://ftp.fao.org/ag/agn/food/aquaculture_rep_13_16june2006.pdf)

specific management strategies to prevent emergence and dissemination of resistance to these agents.

It was also recommended that a similar list of critically important antimicrobials for animals would be pursued by the OIE.

WHO organized a working group consultation in 2005 in Canberra, Australia and issued a list of Critically Important Antibacterial Agents for Human Medicine. The WHO list of Critically important antimicrobials was reviewed by the WHO Expert Committee on the Selection and Use of Essential Medicine in March 2007. A second WHO Expert meeting on Critically important antimicrobials is planned in May 2007 to update the list as recommended in Canberra, taking into account recent development on antimicrobial resistance and recommendations from WHO Expert Committee on the Selection and Use of Essential Medicine. An updated WHO list will be available before this meeting

The OIE, through its *ad hoc* Group on antimicrobial resistance, organized a world-wide consultation and issued a first list of antimicrobials of Veterinary importance based on this consultation. A resolution was adopted during the General Session in May 2006 asking to refine the list. A refined list was established by the OIE *ad hoc* Group for adoption by the OIE General Session in May 2007.

Taking into consideration the outcome of the work performed, the objectives of this Expert Meeting are as follows:

**Objectives of the expert meeting:**

To consider the two lists of critically important antimicrobials developed by WHO and OIE in order to:

- a) find an appropriate balance between animal health needs and public health considerations taking into account the overlap of the two lists.
- b) identify as far as feasible, the current and potential hazards to public health resulting from this overlap.
- c) identify the combination: human-pathogen-antimicrobial use and animal species- that could be considered by risk managers as the priority combinations in terms of risk-benefit assessment for future consideration.
- d) review current management strategies and options for maintaining the efficacy of critically important antimicrobials for humans and animals
- e) provide recommendations on future FAO, WHO and OIE activities.

**Call for Experts (Deadline for submission: not later than 16 July 2007.)**

FAO, WHO and OIE are seeking candidates to participate in this meeting who are specialized in pharmacology (antimicrobials), risk assessment and management in relation to antimicrobial resistance, risk-benefit assessment of antimicrobials use in humans and animals, veterinary medicinal product regulations, clinical microbiology, epidemiology, public health, animal health, aquaculture and veterinary medicine.

The selected candidates may either be invited to participate physically in the expert meeting and/or to contribute to the preparation or the review of background papers as members of the drafting/review group.

Because of shortage of funds, the expert meeting will be held in English language only. Therefore, all meeting documentation and correspondence will be in English.

Applicants are kindly requested to submit their curriculum vitae including a description of their work experience and if applicable a list of peer-reviewed publications, particularly those related to the subject of the Expert Meeting. Applications should be sent, by email or by regular mail, to the contact persons below, postmarked **not later than 16 July 2007**.

Applicants should clearly mention for which activity(ies) they would like to be considered, i.e. Member of Expert Meeting; Member of the Drafting Group; Member of the Review Team.

The applications should be sent to the contact persons indicated at the end of this document:

### Selection of Experts

FAO, WHO and OIE have developed procedures for selecting and designating experts that assure transparency, excellence, and independence of the opinions expressed by these experts. In selecting experts, FAO, OIE and WHO will consider in addition to scientific and technical excellence, diversity and complementarity of backgrounds and balanced representation from geographic regions including developing and developed countries as well as gender.

### Selection Process

All submitted applications shall be reviewed by a panel composed of one technical officer from each of the sponsoring agencies (FAO, WHO, OIE) and at least one independent, internationally recognized expert agreed by FAO, WHO and OIE. The purpose of the panel's review is to determine whether the applicants meet the following essential criteria:

### Selection Criteria

- Advanced university degree and professional experience in the areas indicated above (see under Call for Experts)
- Scientific publications in peer-reviewed journals in areas related to antimicrobial resistance and / or practical experience in the use of antimicrobials, risk assessment of antimicrobial resistance, and risk management of the same;
- Leadership of or invited presentations in national or international scientific committees pertinent to the subjects described above;
- Working knowledge of the English language;

### Appointment of Experts

FAO, WHO and OIE will appoint experts from the pool of qualified applicants to participate in the expert meeting and/or to be member of the drafting/review group. Applicant experts will be informed by 15 June) of the final selection.

## Call for Data and Information:

To ensure that the expert meeting has at its disposal all available and relevant information, FAO, WHO and OIE invite all interested parties to provide the three organizations with any relevant information/data particularly information that may not be readily available in the public domain.

Data on the following subjects are therefore needed:

- New developments of risk-benefit assessment of antimicrobial use in humans and animals
- Management strategies and options to maintain the efficacy of critically important antimicrobials for humans and animals.

Data/information should be sent to one of the the following contact persons **no later than 16 July 2007**.

### Contact persons:

Dr Maria de Lourdes Costarrica  
Food Quality and Standards Service  
Nutrition and Consumer Protection Division  
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations  
Via delle terme di Caracalla  
00153 Rome  
ITALY  
Tel.: (+39-06) 5705.6060  
Fax: (+39-06) 5705.4593  
Email: [lourdes.costarrica@fao.org](mailto:lourdes.costarrica@fao.org)

Dr Awa Aidara-Kane  
Food Safety, Zoonoses and Foodborne Disease Department  
World Health Organization  
Avenue Appia 1211  
Geneva 27  
SWITZERLAND  
Tel.: (+41-22) 791.2403  
Fax: (+41-22) 791.4893  
Email: [aidarakanea@who.int](mailto:aidarakanea@who.int)

Ms Sara Linnane  
Scientific and Technical Department  
World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)  
12 rue de Prony  
75017 Paris  
FRANCE  
Tel.: (+33-1) 44.15.18.88  
Fax: (+33-1) 42.67.09.87  
Email: [s.linnane@oie.int](mailto:s.linnane@oie.int)