

# codex alimentarius commission E



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE  
ORGANIZATION  
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Agenda Item 3

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JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME  
*AD HOC* CODEX INTERGOVERNMENTAL TASK FORCE  
ON ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE

*Third Session*

*Jeju, Republic of Korea, 12-16 October 2009*

**INFORMATION ON THE WORK BY FAO, WHO AND OIE ON ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE**

(prepared by FAO, WHO and OIE)

**Background**

1. The use of antimicrobials for treatment and prevention of diseases in food production animals contributes to the protection of animal health and welfare. The potential risk of emergence and spread of resistant microorganisms associated with such use has been addressed during the last decade by the international organisations, FAO, WHO and OIE. One of the main outcomes of this collaborative effort has been the development of two lists of critically important antimicrobials (a list of antimicrobial used in human therapy by WHO (available at [http://www.who.int/foodborne\\_disease/resistance/publications/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/foodborne_disease/resistance/publications/en/index.html)) and a list of veterinary medicinal products by OIE (available at <http://www.oie.int>).

**FAO Activities for Containment of Food-borne Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)**

2. FAO has initiated a Technical Cooperation Project (TCP/CPR/3203D) "Improvement of aquaculture food safety in Hubei Province, China", in which good aquaculture practices (GAPs) will be used to overcome the problems of antimicrobial use and residues of veterinary drugs.
3. Advocacy workshops covering aquaculture food safety, GAPs, Codex Code of Practices including *Code of Practice to minimise and contain antimicrobial resistance* (CAC/RCP 61-2005) were held in Ho Chi Min City, Vietnam, Lilongwe, Malawi and Dakar, Senegal.
4. An Expert Workshop on improving farm biosecurity through prudent and responsible use of antimicrobials is scheduled to be held in Bangkok, Thailand during December 2009.
5. The JEMRA publication *Risk Characterization of Microbiological Hazards in Foods: Guidelines. Microbiological Risk Assessment Series 17 - FAO/WHO* is now available at [http://www.fao.org/ag/agn/agns/jemra\\_guidelines\\_risk\\_en.asp](http://www.fao.org/ag/agn/agns/jemra_guidelines_risk_en.asp)

**WHO Activities for Containment of Foodborne Antimicrobial Resistance**

6. A WHO Advisory Group on Integrated Surveillance of Antimicrobial Resistance (WHO-AGISAR) was established in December 2008 to support WHO's effort to minimize the public health impact of antimicrobial resistance associated with the use of antimicrobials in food animals. In particular, the Advisory Group will assist WHO on matters related to the integrated surveillance of antimicrobial resistance and the containment of food-related antimicrobial resistance. The terms of reference of WHO-AGISAR are as follows:

- Develop harmonized schemes for monitoring antimicrobial resistance in zoonotic and enteric bacteria. This should include appropriate sampling;
- Support WHO capacity-building activities in Member Countries for antimicrobial resistance monitoring (AMR training modules for Global Foodborne Infections Network GFN (formerly known as Global Salm Surv) training courses);

- Promote information sharing on AMR;
- Provide expert advice to WHO on containment of antimicrobial resistance with a particular focus on Human Critically Important Antimicrobials;
- Support and advise WHO on the selection of sentinel sites and the design of pilot projects for conducting integrated surveillance of antimicrobial resistance; and
- Support WHO capacity-building activities in Member Countries for antimicrobial usage monitoring.

7. WHO-AGISAR comprises over twenty internationally-renowned experts in a broad range of disciplines relevant to antimicrobial resistance, appointed following a web-published call for advisers, and a transparent selection process. WHO-AGISAR holds quarterly telephone conferences and annual face-to-face meetings. The first AGISAR meeting was convened by WHO in Copenhagen, Denmark, from 15 to 19 June 2009. The report of the meeting will be available at : [http://www.who.int/foodborne\\_disease/resistance/publications/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/foodborne_disease/resistance/publications/en/index.html)

8. Antimicrobial resistance has been chosen as topic of the third Global Patient Safety Challenge by WHO. Work has started in 2009 in different areas including the public health impact of use of antimicrobials in animal husbandry and this third Challenge on AMR will be launched in 2010.

### **Recent OIE Activities for Containment of Food-borne Antimicrobial Resistance**

9. OIE's activities to promote the responsible and prudent use of antimicrobials and to favour a harmonised approach to surveillance and monitoring of antimicrobial resistance are based on several complementary approaches such as:

- The development and regular updating of international standards and guidelines within the mandate of the OIE as the standard-setting body for animal health and zoonotic diseases recognised by the World Trade Organization;
- The permanent support to Veterinary Services and Laboratories to enable OIE Members to implement the published standards;
- The development of a coherent communication and training programme; and
- The modernisation or update of national legislation for marketing approval and control of veterinary products. This approach is clearly supported by donors at the global, regional and national level.

10. OIE is currently working on the elaboration of guidelines on antimicrobial resistance related to aquaculture coherent with the existing chapters developed for terrestrial animals and published in the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code.

11. The evaluation of the performance of Veterinary Services, using the OIE-PVS tool has now been completed for 88 countries (September 2009) and OIE is currently implementing another step (PVS Gap analysis) to support the Veterinary Services of its Members. The PVS Gap analysis will enable countries to develop a precise quantitative programme to strengthen their Veterinary Services and to fill in the identified gaps on the basis of the outputs of the initial PVS evaluation and the priorities established by the countries. Today, Gap analysis missions have been accomplished in nine countries.

12. The OIE twinning programme established to enhance laboratory capacity in developing and in-transition countries to have more ready access to scientific expertise and to progress towards compliance with the standards of the OIE, giving them appropriate tools to become OIE Reference Laboratories.

13. To enforce communication and enhance awareness of the need for responsible and prudent use of veterinary drugs, OIE has started to organise a cycle of conferences on Veterinary Medicinal Products. The first one was organised in March 2008 in Dakar (Senegal) and a second one will take place in Damascus (Syria) in December 2009.

14. These events will be followed by training workshops of National OIE Focal Points for Veterinary Products that will be organised in all Continents in the coming 18 months. The OIE has recently reinforced its network of Focal Points to allow experts designated by the OIE Delegates, to participate in training workshops in their respective fields of expertise, for example veterinary products or food safety and to support national Delegates in their tasks.

15. As an associated Member of the VICH (International Co-operation on Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Registration of Veterinary Medicinal Products), OIE is actively promoting the need for harmonisation in the approval and registration process for veterinary medicinal products. The VICH IV Public Conference will take place at the OIE Headquarters in Paris on 24 and 25 June 2010, in conjunction with the second meeting of OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaboration Centres scheduled from 21 to 23 June also in the OIE Headquarters in Paris. To prepare the VICH conference, a questionnaire was developed by OIE/VICH. The aim of this questionnaire is to ascertain the expectations of non-VICH countries as well as needs in terms of assistance and training. Information is also requested on the legislation of OIE Members related to the registration of veterinary drugs and on capacities of OIE Members (including antimicrobial sales monitoring and antimicrobial resistance surveillance capacities).

16. Finally, to assure that all OIE Members agree to enhance the effort of the OIE related to veterinary products, legislation and control and, in particular, veterinary drugs, OIE Members adopted Resolution XXV on veterinary products at the last General Session of OIE Delegates in May 2009. This proposal will also be reflected in the next OIE Strategic Plan.

17. In the light of the outcome of the Codex *Ad Hoc* Intergovernmental Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance, OIE will consider starting a process of updating the existing chapters in the OIE Code and Manual related to antimicrobial resistance dealing with terrestrial and aquatic animals and will continue its effort directed to support Veterinary Services and Laboratories to enable them to implement the standards effectively.

#### **Future joint FAO/OIE/WHO activities on antimicrobial resistance**

18. To discuss future collaborative work on antimicrobial resistance, while avoiding unnecessary duplication of activities, OIE/FAO/WHO has agreed to establish a tripartite *ad hoc* Expert Group composed of experts from each organisation, with the aim of working on future guidance for a coherent approach and collaborative activities on antimicrobial resistance, in order to facilitate the implementation of joint activities on this matter. The first meeting of this consultative *ad hoc* Group will take place the 30 September and 1 October 2009 at the OIE Headquarters in Paris. The Group will be composed of no more than two experts from each organisation. Future meetings will be organised on a rotating basis as necessary.