



Concept note FAO Regional Office of the Asia and the Pacific

Regional Initiative on One Health
Technical workshop, October 11-13, 2017
Millennium Hotel, Bangkok

1. Introduction

At the 33rd Asia Pacific Regional Conference in Malaysia in 2016, countries of the region prioritized One Health as an important multi-disciplinary approach to resolve complex issues in food and agriculture. The mandate for FAORAP was to develop a regional initiative (RI) that will build on earlier experiences in the region which have mostly focused largely on zoonotic diseases such as avian flu and the growing threat of anti-microbial resistance (AMR). The RI aims to expand the scope of the approach, address interconnected issues in a holistic way and engage stakeholders of different disciplines in the problem solving process.

To this end, a regional technical workshop is being organized in Bangkok at the Hotel Millennium Hilton with representatives from all country offices in the Asian region and of the sub-regional office in Samoa. They will be joined by resources persons and technical staff from RAP and FAO headquarters to brainstorm, strategize and recommend to follow up actions that can be immediately implemented some countries of the region.

2. Background

The complete concept note of the RI on One Health was circulated recently. It provides the overall framework for activities in the next biennium (2018-19). It also includes two detailed examples – the poultry value chain and pesticide use in agriculture – to demonstrate how they influence plant, animal, human and environmental health at many steps of the food chain. These effects make evident the need to develop multi-sectoral solutions rather than depending on sectoral solutions alone. The RI also aims to expand the holistic thinking and systems approaches that underpin OH to include other priority issues that are complex in nature and that will benefit from transdisciplinary collaboration

Within the region, there is already substantial commitment to One Health and many activities contribute to sector specific results. In response to a questionnaire circulated by RAP to all country offices, several thematic areas of interest were listed. These include the technical areas such as food and nutrition security; zoonotic, infectious and non-communicable diseases; ecosystems management, services and integrity; and trade and standards. Capacity development of competencies required for delivery of projects and programmes in the above areas were also identified. Countries expressed that the process should build on what is in place already (CPFs and existing OH platforms), raise awareness, consult and collaborate with stakeholders at all levels, consider gender dimensions, enhance existing mechanisms and work on advocacy and policy.

3. Ongoing OH work in the region

From FPMIS, projects in the Asia Pacific region that referenced One Health and linked issues were classified in the table below. Projects that were oriented towards zoonotic diseases and AMR were categorized as One Health projects. Those that referred to food and nutrition security, food systems, food safety, sustainable production and have a strong potential to integrate OH concepts in specific contexts were classified under One Health plus while those that focused on ecosystem services, land degradation, and other GEF areas were sorted in to the EcoHealth group. The classification clearly shows the potential of widening the approach beyond the traditional areas of animal health as substantial investments are being made in the region.

	Number of projects	Regional/global	Country level	Budget (in million USD)
One Health	21	3	18	61.4
One Health plus	51	6	45	98.9
EcoHealth	35	9	26	130.0
Total	107	18	89	290.3

4. Objectives of the workshop

This regional workshop provides an opportunity for FAO staff in the region to discuss concepts, share ideas and elaborate on issues in their countries that will benefit from transdisciplinary collaboration. The objectives of the workshop are:

- Discuss OH concepts and how they can be expanded in the region
 - Assess the current scope within and across multiple sectors of food and agriculture
 - Map ongoing activities and share experiences from countries
 - Visualize the entry points, domains and the pathways forming a One Health strategy
- Define the vision and expected outcomes of the Regional Initiative
 - Identify opportunities to integrate new thematic areas and links to public health and trade
 - Recognize concepts with ecosystem and environmental perspectives
 - Bring in innovations to achieve convergence
- Develop action plans at country level and regional level
 - Finalize the regional TCP
 - Firm up awareness and communication materials
 - Discuss partnerships and resource mobilization strategies

5. Profiles of participants

The participants will be expected to play a key role and/or act as focal points for delivery of OH activities over the next biennium. They could have OH policy or programme experience or specialization in any relevant technical areas and a good understanding of socio-economic context of agriculture (crops, livestock, fisheries) production and protection; food safety; nutrition, food systems and value chains; animal health; environment and eco-system services; climate change; and DRR and resilience.