

27th Session of the Committee on Agriculture

Item 2.4: Progress report on the implementation of FAO Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) 2016-2020, and the proposal of the new FAO Action Plan on AMR 2021-2025

Introduction notes

The FAO Action Plan on AMR 2016-2020 has been the basis of FAO's activities in food and agriculture to combat AMR, in the focus areas of awareness, surveillance, governance and good practices. The progress made has laid a solid foundation for further actions within a robust One Health and multi-sectorial approach.

Key highlights of progress have been to:

- 1) Raise awareness on AMR/ Antimicrobial Use (AMU) through high-level advocacy, timely released digital and cross-media products, communication materials, including circa 60 publications. Stakeholder engagement has been increased through a very active social media presence, the organization of or presentation at key global/regional events, international conferences, of which the World Antimicrobials Awareness Week¹ is now recognised as significant global event.
- 2) Build capacity and expand technical networks for surveillance and monitoring of AMR and AMU. The FAO Assessment Tool for Laboratories and AMR Surveillance System (FAO-ATLASS) has been implemented in 28 countries and more than 100 laboratories. Five FAO Reference Centres for AMR in Denmark, Germany, Thailand, United Kingdom and United States of America have been designated. Technical Advisory Groups (TAGs) for AMR/AMU and antimicrobial residues surveillance have been established in four sub-regions: Southeast Asia, South Asia, East Africa and West Africa. The platform for AMR data related to food and agriculture is being developed and will form part of the Tripartite Integrated Surveillance System on AMR/AMU platform (TISSA).
- 3) Strengthen national actions and governance related to AMU and AMR. The FAO Progressive Management Pathway for AMR (FAO-PMP-AMR) to help members with developing and operationalizing their NAPs has been implemented in 7 countries. Support has been provided to countries on legislation and regulation through the Methodology to analyse AMR-relevant legislation in the food and agriculture sector, AMR-LEX database.
- 4) Promote good practices and the prudent use of antimicrobials through guidelines published in fisheries, apiculture, environment, and other sectors. Case study series to share experience has been launched and two manuals in collaboration with Denmark and Sweden have been published. Various studies of stakeholders² (e.g. KAP) has been carried across 10 countries³ to inform behaviour change efforts.

Globally, the AMR Multi-Partner Trust Fund was launched by the Tripartite (FAO/OIE/WHO) in June 2019 to support the implementation of the activities at global, regional and national levels under the "One Health" approach. To date, USD 13 million⁴ has been received from resource partners. 9 country proposals and a global proposal with 5 areas are being discussed.

¹ 18-24 November, every year

² KAP/KAP+: Knowledge, Attitude, Practices and Intervention

³ Cambodia, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Lao PDR, Sudan, United Republic of Tanzania, Viet Nam, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

⁴ USD 6 million from the United Kingdom Fleming Fund, USD 5 million from the Netherlands and USD 2 million from Sweden

In response to the requests from 127th and 128th Session of Programme Committee, FAO has developed the FAO Action Plan on AMR 2021-2025 and submitted to COAG27 for guidance and approval. It lays out five objectives (as below) to focus efforts and accelerate progress, aligning with the Global Action Plan on AMR, with corresponding outputs and outcomes.

- a) Increasing stakeholder awareness and engagement;
- b) Strengthening surveillance and research;
- c) Enabling good practices;
- d) Promoting responsible use of antimicrobials;
- e) Strengthening governance and allocating resources sustainably.

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