



COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

SUB-COMMITTEE ON LIVESTOCK

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Progress report on the implementation of the FAO Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance 2021–2025

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I. Introduction

1. To support the implementation of the Global Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), Resolution 4/2015 was adopted at the 39th Session of the FAO Conference in June 2015, and the FAO Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance 2016–2020 was developed to implement this resolution. The 166th Session of the Council approved the FAO Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance 2021–2025.

2. AMR-related work is coordinated by the FAO AMR Working Group, established in 2015 and under the leadership of the Chief Veterinary Officer. The AMR Working Group is composed of officers from technical units and offices and decentralized offices. Various coordination mechanisms have been created at regional, subregional, and national levels.

3. International coordination on AMR is organized among FAO, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) (hereinafter referred to as the “Tripartite”), in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and other partners.

II. Progress on FAO's Work on AMR

4. The FAO Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance comprises five objectives in support of:
- **Increasing stakeholders' awareness and engagement:** Various activities have been undertaken during the World Antimicrobial Awareness Week (WAAW). The theme of WAAW 2021 was 'Spread Awareness, Stop Resistance'. A cohesive communication toolkit¹ was developed with the Tripartite. The FAO Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance 2021–2025² has been launched and a virtual expert consultation held on the sustainable management of parasites in livestock challenged by the global emergence of resistance.
 - **Strengthening surveillance and research:** FAO has been developing the International FAO Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring (InFARM) data platform. InFARM will provide Members with a mechanism to host and analyse AMR data from food and agriculture sectors and will complement the Tripartite Integrated Surveillance System on AMR/AMU (TISAA). To strengthen the AMR laboratory capacity, six virtual training sessions on the FAO Assessment Tool for Laboratories and Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance Systems (FAO ATLASS) were conducted in Latin America, and Asia and the Pacific.
 - **Enabling good practices:** In collaboration with the FAO Reference Centre in the United Kingdom, FAO has developed an introductory AMR e-learning module and a six-week course titled "Poultry farmer field school refresher course for facilitators and master trainers" with a focus on antimicrobial resistance. It was the first farmer field school online course in Africa. A tool to assess the implementation of infection prevention and control was developed for Asia and the Pacific.
 - **Promoting responsible use of antimicrobials:** FAO has developed several initiatives for antimicrobial use (AMU) in different regions, including: a) a set of surveys on AMU patterns conducted in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Europe and Central Asia; b) a guideline on the monitoring of AMU at farm level in collaboration with OIE that is currently under development; c) surveys assessing the state of adherence of pig farms to recommended practices on prudent use of antimicrobials performed in Cambodia, Indonesia, and Viet Nam; and d) strengthening buy-in from the animal feed industry for AMR control in Latin America and the Caribbean through a project funded by the European Union.
 - **Strengthening governance and allocating resources sustainably:** To support Members in implementing their AMR national action plans for food and agriculture activities, hybrid workshops on the FAO Progressive Management Pathway for Antimicrobial Resistance were conducted in 2021 in Laos, Morocco, Nigeria, Senegal, and Sierra Leone. The FAO methodology to revise and update legislation relevant for AMR or AMU in the food and agriculture sectors was finalized. This methodology has been piloted in more than 25 countries.
5. The One Health Multilateral Funding programme (OH-MUL) was developed to support the FAO Priority Programme Area on One Health (OH PPA). OH-MUL has four major outcomes built on the seven thematic components of the OH PPA, one of which is AMR risk management. The OH-MUL will be implemented at global, regional, and national levels.

III. Tripartite Collaboration on AMR

6. Following up on the Tripartite Memorandum of Understanding for Antimicrobial Resistance, the Tripartite has demonstrated its commitment to address AMR with a One Health approach through

¹ Trello. 2021. *World Antimicrobial Awareness Week Toolkit | FAO OIE WHO* [online]. [Cited 11 January 2022]. <https://trello.com/b/tBoXeVae/world-antimicrobial-awareness-week-toolkit-fao-oie-who>

² FAO. 2021. *The FAO Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance 2021–2025*. Rome.

various measures, including establishing the Tripartite Joint Secretariat on Antimicrobial Resistance (TJS) in 2019.

7. In 2021, the TJS coordinated and developed the Tripartite plus UNEP strategic document with strategic objectives and a long-term vision.

8. The TJS supported the One Health Global Leaders Group (GLG) on AMR. The GLG met four times in 2021 to develop an action plan and three information notes supporting GLG's actions: 'financing to address AMR', 'surveillance of AMR and AMU', and 'AMR and climate crisis'.

9. FAO is leading the establishment of the Tripartite AMR Multi-Stakeholder Partnership Platform, addressing AMR with a One Health approach. The public discussion conducted on the Platform has demonstrated strong support for this initiative (a 93-percent positive response rate from over 670 respondents).

10. The AMR Multi-partner Trust Fund (MPTF), established in 2019, is a key instrument to fund Tripartite collaborative actions. Since its launch, the AMR MPTF has mobilized over USD 17 million from Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden, and the United Kingdom. Eleven³ country programmes have been approved and implemented. In addition, the implementation of a global programme with four technical focus areas has begun. These focus areas are 1) addressing AMR risk in the environment; 2) monitoring and evaluation of the Global Action Plan; 3) legal and legislation of AMR/AMU; and 4) TISSA.

IV. Challenges

11. Activities to combat AMR must be built upon strong evidence. Strengthening the generation and usage of AMR data in livestock sectors still represents a challenge for increasing advocacy and reinforcing the implementation of national action plans. FAO's work on AMR can be accelerated by strengthening mechanisms for data generation and sharing to support Members in their efforts to control AMR.

12. The AMR-related engagement of FAO has been resource-constrained. The work on AMR that FAO carries out would benefit from increased resource allocation.

13. Multisectoral coordination and One Health collaboration need to be further strengthened at global, regional, and national levels.

³ Cambodia, Ethiopia, Ghana, Indonesia, Kenya, Morocco, Peru, Senegal, Sudan, Tajikistan, and Zimbabwe.