

Antimicrobial resistance and food safety – from global commitment to local actions

Background

The increasing incidence of antimicrobial resistant (AMR) pathogens, and the associated health and economic impact, has become an important challenge for the 21st century. In the absence of interventions, AMR-associated human mortality globally is projected to soar from a current rate of 700,000 to over 10 million annually by 2050—accelerating as readily treatable infections may become life threatening, and routine surgical procedures are rendered unsafe. Much of this increase will be in developing countries. The impact of AMR on morbidity and mortality is matched by a substantial economic burden, with resistance linked to cumulative losses anticipated to exceed USD 100 trillion annually by 2050.

Although a natural phenomena, AMR is exacerbated by the unregulated, unnecessary and /or excessive use of antimicrobials in the human health, animal production and health and other food and agriculture sectors, exerting selection pressure on pathogen populations that encourages the development of resistance and exchange of resistance genes.

Antimicrobial resistance is high priority topic for the tripartite (FAO, OIE and WHO) collaboration. At the Sixty-eighth World Health Assembly in May 2015, the World Health Assembly endorsed the Global Action Plan (GAP) on AMR and this was followed by resolutions at both the FAO Conference and the OIE General Assembly on AMR. Last year the adoption of a declaration on AMR at the United Nations General Assembly further concretized political support to address this issue. Efforts now need to focus on converting that commitment into action on the ground. The Codex Alimentarius is playing its role in this regard having at its last session agreed to establish a new Task force on AMR. The work of the task force will be supported by scientific advice on AMR developed by FAO and WHO in collaboration with OIE. In addition these three organizations are working on a range of global, regional and national initiatives to support their members in addressing this threat. This side event will provide an overview of the Codex and FAO and WHO activities on AMR.

Agenda

- 1. Welcome and Introductions**
- 2. Introduction to the Codex work on AMR – Gracia Brisco**
- 3. Overview of FAO, WHO and tripartite activities on AMR – Sarah Cahill**
- 4. Questions and Discussion**
- 5. Close**