



Antimicrobial Resistance NEWSLETTER

Achieving FAO's Antimicrobial Resistance Action Plan



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GLOBAL HIGHLIGHTS

Preventing antimicrobial resistance together

From 18 to 24 November, the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Health Organization (WHO), along with World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) and other engaged actors worldwide celebrated

World Antimicrobial Awareness Week (WAAW)¹ to raise awareness of the threat of antimicrobial resistance (AMR). The theme of WAAW 2022 was "Preventing antimicrobial resistance together." More than 100 events were organized at headquarters, regional and country offices. The week kicked off on 18 November with the official launch of the AMR Multi-Stakeholder Partnership Platform and concluded with the Third Global High-Level Ministerial Conference on Antimicrobial Resistance.²

The Third Global High-Level Ministerial Conference on Antimicrobial Resistance

FAO Director-General QU Dongyu urged government ministers from around the world gathered in Muscat for the Third Global High-Level Ministerial Conference on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) to step up their efforts to reduce the devastating impact of AMR on public health, the environment and agrifood systems ahead of a dedicated UN General Assembly (UNGA) meeting on the subject scheduled in 2024.

"We need to keep up the momentum and expand political commitments on our way to the 2024 UN General Assembly High Level Meeting on AMR," Qusaid in his opening remarks to the conference in Oman.

"FAO recognizes the importance of reducing the need for antimicrobials on farms and will soon launch a global 10-year initiative to provide comprehensive support to Members focusing on transforming agrifood systems to contribute to this reduction," added FAO Director-General QU Dongyu.

The Third Global High-Level Ministerial Conference on Antimicrobial Resistance, held in Muscat, Oman, ratified the Muscat Ministerial Manifesto, which sets out targets, with clear indicators and milestones for antimicrobial use in both the human and animal sectors. Achieving such targets will be key to protecting the efficacy of antimicrobials and curbing the spread of AMR worldwide.

¹ www.fao.org/antimicrobial-resistance/world-antimicrobial-awareness-week/en
² <https://amrconference2022.om/index>



“ACTION TO SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION OF CODEX AMR TEXTS” (ACT) PROJECT

Six countries assessed their implementation of Codex AMR texts

Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Cambodia, Colombia, Mongolia, Nepal, and Pakistan have assessed their level of foodborne AMR control as part of the ACT project.

These activities aim at managing the development and transmission of foodborne AMR through the adoption and implementation of relevant Codex standards/texts. Five countries used the FAO AMR Progressive Management Pathway (PMP) tool while Nepal used the ACT tool to determine a clear set of actions to help the countries move forward in their efforts to address foodborne AMR.

From hero awards to a television series on AMR: ACT in action during World Antimicrobial Awareness Week 2022

The ACT project, being implemented in Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Cambodia, Colombia, Mongolia, Nepal, and Pakistan organized a multitude of activities to attract attention on AMR and increase the stakeholder’s awareness and engagement necessary to make progress in the control of foodborne AMR.

The discussions for modification of the labelling regulations for veterinary products in Bolivia (Plurinational State of) has been initiated. Colombia organized an event with 80 stakeholders to discuss the progress on implementation of the AMR National Action Plan (NAP). Mongolia held its first meeting of the Multisectoral Coordination Committee on the AMR National Action Plan. To inform livestock farmers

and the public about the issue of AMR, Pakistan Radio featured a programme on the ACT project (featured in the photograph), where the project coordinator talked about how everyone could play a part to tackle the threat posed by AMR.

Webinar in the Latin America and the Caribbean Region (RLC).

The third session of the Webinar Series for capacity building on Codex topics of interest for the Latin American and Caribbean region was held on 7 December 2022. Codex Secretariat addressed the meaning, use and development of Codex standards, guidelines and Codes of Practice. All sessions are available on the event webpage (English,³ Spanish).⁴

SECTORS IN ACTION

Apiculture

In collaboration with the FAO Reference Centre for Animal Health and Food Security Discipline Apiculture, Health and biosecurity, Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale del Lazio e della Toscana “M.Aleandri”, FAO co-organized an expert consultation meeting on the development of the Progressive Management Pathway for Antimicrobial Resistance (PMP–AMR) in Apiculture on 28–29 November. The PMP–AMR in apiculture has adopted FAO’s long standing stepwise approach to support the apiculture sector towards sustainable management of AMR and responsible use of antimicrobials.

AMR e-learning

FAO’s global e-learning course on AMR “Understanding antimicrobial resistance in food and agriculture”, is now available in Spanish, and will soon be available in Russian.

³ www.fao.org/americas/eventos/ver/es/c/1603339

⁴ www.fao.org/americas/eventos/ver/es/c/1603339

FAO REGIONS

Asia and the Pacific (RAP)

FAO participated in the Federation of Asian Veterinary Associations (FAVA) Congress held in Fukuoka, Japan on 11 to 13 November 2022. FAO's work on empowering veterinarians to advocate the responsible use of antimicrobials in Asia and the Pacific was shared. FAVA also presented its strategy for 2021–2025 to tackle AMR, which has been a key output of the collaboration between FAO and FAVA and is based on FAO's Action Plan on AMR.

FAO participated in the External Quality Asia (EQAsia) workshop on quality management systems for AMR in Bangkok, Thailand from 7 to 11 November 2022. The FAO Reference Centre for AMR and Chulalongkorn University Faculty of Veterinary Science hosted the workshop, which aims at providing quality and proficient laboratory services in Asia.

FAO country offices collaborated with international and country partners to hold activities and events to celebrate World Antimicrobial Awareness Week from 18 to 24 November 2022. Key celebrations were noted in Cambodia, Indonesia, Mongolia, Nepal, Philippines (the), and Viet Nam, while RAP colleagues supported a global webinar organized by headquarters and a regional webinar led by the WHO Regional Office for Southeast Asia.

A webinar and regional consultation on clinical breakpoints (CBPs) for priority bug-drug combinations in Asia and the Pacific was held on 29 to 30 November 2022. Participants of the consultation meeting discussed gaps in missing CBPs for bacterial pathogens in major livestock including swine, poultry and cattle.

FAO participated in the first national conference on AMR prevention and control hosted by FHI360 (Fleming Fund) and co-hosted by the Government of Viet Nam in Ha Noi from 14 to 15 December 2022. The event provided a unique opportunity for discussing progress and identifying priorities in the fight against AMR in the agriculture, human and environmental sectors in Viet Nam.

Latin America and the Caribbean Region (RLC)

EU AMR project

On November 14–17, 2022, a technical roundtable for the review of national policies related to AMR in the manufacture of medicated feed took place in Santiago,

Chile. Strengths and gaps in public and private medicated feed policies were identified by using a standardized reference point pattern designed by FAO.

On 22 November 2022, the Fleming Fund and Government of the United Kingdom (the), FAO Development Law Service (LEGN), in collaboration with FAO RLC, the quadripartite organizations (FAO, UNEP, WHO and WOA) in Latin America, and their legal teams in Geneva and Paris, conducted a regional workshop to present the "One Health Legislative Assessment Tool for Antimicrobial Resistance". More than 116 experts from the LAC region participated in the virtual activity that was part of WAAW 2022.

AMR MPTF Peru

On 28 November 2022, laboratory technicians from the National Agricultural Health Service (SENASA) of the Ministry of Agrarian Development and Irrigation, the National Fisheries Health Agency (SANIPES) of the Ministry of Production, and the General Directorate of Environmental Health and Food Safety (DIGESA) of the Ministry of Health, participated in an internship at the AMR Reference Center for FAO, the UISDC-SENASICA in Mexico to strengthen AMR laboratory capacities.

Europe and Central Asia (REU)

During the WAAW,⁵ various activities were conducted to raise awareness and understanding of AMR, and to promote intersectoral cooperation in Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russian Federation (the) and Tajikistan.

In December 2022, two back-to-back events addressing AMR in the food and agriculture sectors of the region took place in Moscow. On 5–6 December, a consultation meeting was held jointly by FAO and the Russian Federal Budget Institution of Science "Central Research Institute of Epidemiology" of Rospotrebnadzor. Countries at the meeting discussed and agreed to set up an AMR laboratory network of the main animal health and food safety laboratories in the region, which will provide scientific and technical advice to national laboratories and promote the harmonization of laboratory methods.

On 7–8 December, a scientific conference on food safety and collaborated efforts to reduce AMR, organized by Rospotrebnadzor with FAO's technical contribution was held.

⁵ www.fao.org/fao-stories/article/en/c/1619425

FAO COLLABORATION

Quadripartite collaboration

Quadripartite organizations launched a new Antimicrobial Resistance Multi-Stakeholder Partnership Platform to help tackle common threats to human and animal health and ecosystems.

FAO, UNEP, WHO and WOAAH joined forces to launch the Antimicrobial Resistance Multi-Stakeholder Partnership Platform⁶ to ensure that the increasing threats and impacts of antimicrobial resistance are addressed globally. More than 500 people from more than 50 countries attended the virtual launch.⁷ It was welcomed and appreciated by a wide range of stakeholders and partners.

The new platform will engage and empower stakeholders across the One Health⁸ spectrum in an inclusive, transparent way to: build consensus among public and private stakeholders on the global AMR vision; gain knowledge to foster a collective understanding of AMR challenges and opportunities; and take multistakeholder actions to tackle AMR in line with the Global Action Plan⁹ and national action plans.

The quadripartite organizations established the Technical Group on Integrated Surveillance on Antimicrobial use and resistance.

The quadripartite organizations established the Technical Group on Integrated Surveillance on antimicrobial use and resistance (QTG-AIS). The technical group will be supported by the Quadripartite Joint Secretariat on AMR (QJS) and is based in WHO with dedicated liaison officers and technical staff from FAO, UNEP and WOAAH. The QTG-AIS will advise the quadripartite organizations and the Global Leaders Group on AMR needs, scope, and form of integrated surveillance to support capacity building of countries on surveillance of AMR and AMU.

⁶ www.fao.org/antimicrobial-resistance/quadripartite/the-platform/en

⁷ www.fao.org/webcast/home/en/item/6055/icode

⁸ www.fao.org/one-health/en

⁹ www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789241509763

FAO Reference centres for AMR

- The Russian Federal Budget Institution of Science “Central Research Institute of Epidemiology” of the Federal Service for Surveillance on Consumer Rights Protection and Human Wellbeing (FBIS CRIE of Rospotrebnadzor) was designated as a FAO Reference Centre for AMR as of 12 December 2022. For more details on the AMR reference centre network, please visit the relevant section on AMR on the FAO web site.
- A five-day training course on salmonella serotyping and isolation, and identification of campylobacter and enterococcus was held on 14–18 November 2022 in Lao People’s Democratic Republic (the).^a
- Representatives from the FAO Reference Centre for AMR in United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (the) visited the University of Zambia in December 2022 for a three-day workshop to plan a program of post graduate studentships researching AMR and AMU in animal health sector in Zambia.

^a www.fao.org/antimicrobial-resistance/resources/reference-centres/en

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