

Regional Forum on Antimicrobial Stewardship in Agriculture

11-12 July; Bangkok, Thailand

CONCEPT NOTE

Background and justification:

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) has been recognized as a major threat of public and animal health. It is exacerbated by inappropriate and excessive use of antimicrobials in both the human and agriculture sectors. Although use of antimicrobials may potentially contribute to the emergence and spread of AMR, antimicrobials are still an essential component of veterinary medicine to prevent and treat animal disease, improve animal welfare and subsequently to increase the safety of food. Therefore, prudent use of antimicrobials is of paramount importance in combating and preventing AMR.

Antimicrobial stewardship describes the multidimensional approaches required to sustain the efficacy of antimicrobials and to minimize emergence of resistance. Good antimicrobial stewardship is vital for the production of safe and nutritious foods, and for animal health and welfare. It can significantly contribute to address the issue of AMR and to guide how to use antimicrobial prudently. There is a necessity for agricultural sector to embrace antimicrobial stewardship.

Most countries in Asia have developed their national AMR action plans, regulations, and policies which in part aim to optimize use of antimicrobial medicines in human and animal health. In the agriculture sector, these have triggered early efforts to further improve practices and develop innovative approaches and/or methodologies contributing to antimicrobial stewardship by various stakeholders. While it is recognized that there is still a long way to go and there are still many challenges, it is equally important to acknowledge the successes that has so far been made.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is working in the region to promote the responsible use of antimicrobials from farm to fork, and to help countries address AMR in food and agriculture. With support from the USAID through OSRO/RAS/502/USA (*Addressing Antimicrobial Usage in Asia's Livestock, Aquaculture and Crop Production Systems*), the FAO will convene a two-day Regional Forum on antimicrobial stewardship in agriculture on 11-12 July 2019, in Bangkok, Thailand. This event will bring together public and private sectors to discuss and identify existing challenges, potential options, and recommendations towards prudent use of antimicrobials and antimicrobial stewardship management in agriculture in Asia.

Objectives/Outcomes Serving as a platform for initiating discussions towards creating and reinforcing antimicrobial stewardship in the region, this forum aims to:

1. contextualize the ground challenges and stakeholder needs in the practice of prudent use of antimicrobials in agriculture;
2. facilitate exchange of experiences and innovative approaches taken towards prudent use of antimicrobials in agriculture in Asia;
3. discuss potential solutions to address the challenges and needs, and identify the key roles of public and private sectors, international organizations, civic organizations, and professionals in promoting antimicrobial stewardship in agriculture in Asia;
4. develop recommendations to further promote prudent use of antimicrobials in agriculture in Asia

Expected Outputs: At the end of the forum, it is expected that:

1. The challenges in adapting and promoting antimicrobial stewardship in the field are better understood;
2. Success stories and lessons learned are shared and collated.
3. The roles and needs of different key stakeholders regarding AMU management in agricultural sector are recognized and integrated in defining plans for future actions;

4. Ways forward for promoting prudent use of antimicrobials in agriculture in the Region are defined.

Key inputs/ Main Activities:

1. Information, knowledge, and experience sharing by presentations
2. Materials and methodologies exchange
3. Group and plenary discussions
4. Participatory sessions

Implementation Methods:

1. Discussions and deliberations
2. Sector consultations

Timing/duration and Location:

Date: 11-12 July 2019

Location: Bangkok, Thailand

Expected participants:

The Forum will convene participants from ASEAN Member States, China, Bangladesh, and Nepal, FAO, private sectors, and other partner organizations (n=40).

AGENDA
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11-12 July 2019 * Bangkok, Thailand

11 July 2019 (DAY ONE)

08:30 – 09:00	Registration	
09:00 – 09:30	Welcome and opening Overview of the forum Introduction of participants	Dr Wantanee Kalpravidh (FAO RAP)
Session 1: Introduction		
09:30 – 9:45	The Codex Code of Practice to Minimize and Contain Antimicrobial Resistance	Dr Katinka de Balogh (FAO RAP)
09:45 - 10:00	The OIE global database on the use of antimicrobial medicines in animals	OIE
10:00 – 10:30	Coffee break	
Session 2: Experiences and challenges in optimizing the use of antimicrobials in agriculture in the region		
10:30 – 10:45	Overview on approaches to prudent and responsible use of antimicrobials in agriculture	Dr Mary Joy Gordoncillo (FAO RAP)
10:45 – 12:30	Perspectives of member states, private sector, and other organizations in the region	Countries, FAO country offices, private sector, organizations
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch	
Session 3: Case presentations on innovations and good practices in agriculture in the region		
13:30 – 15:00	Innovations and good practices in livestock and poultry	VIPARC, HFA, CIRAD, and others
15:00 – 15:30	Coffee break	
15:30 – 17:00	Innovations and good practices in aquaculture, crops and the environment	Thailand, IHPP, NACA, and others

12 July (DAY TWO)

09:00 – 9:15	Recap from day one	Dr Han Zifeng (FAO RAP)
Session 4: Identifying potential solutions to challenges and needs in the region		
09:15 – 10:30	Participatory session/Group discussions	All participants
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee break	
11:00 – 12:00	Defining the roles of key stakeholders in promoting antimicrobial stewardship in agriculture in Asia	All participants
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch	
Session 5: Ways forward		
13:00 – 15:00	Presentation of draft recommendations Review and finalization of recommendations	Dr Han Zifeng (FAO RAP) Working groups
15:00 – 15:30	Coffee break	
15:30 – 16:30	Shaping the future of prudent antimicrobial use in the agriculture sector	Dr Mary Joy Gordoncillo (FAO RAP)
16:30 – 17:00	Closing and final remarks	Dr Katinka de Balogh (FAO RAP)