

28th Session of the Committee on Agriculture – Written Correspondence Procedure
Item 2.4 Progress report on the FAO Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)
2021-2025

Secretariat response to written questions from the Committee

The Secretariat appreciates and thanks the wide support and recognition towards the implementation of the FAO Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) 2021-2025 and invites all Members to continue with this proactive approach towards the minimization and containment of AMR in agrifood systems. The Secretariat will continue to be committed to implementing the activities according to its core mandate and through a One Health approach, in line with the One Health Programme Priority Area (PPA-BP3) under its Strategic Framework 2022-31, and in close collaboration and synergy with Quadripartite partners.

The support from Members on strengthening the generation and usage of AMR data through the development of the International FAO AMR Monitoring (InFARM) data platform and its integration with other data under the Tripartite Integrated System for Surveillance on Antimicrobial Resistance and Antimicrobial Use (TISSA) is well noted. During the second half of 2022, countries will be able to support the development of the InFARM data platform by sharing their own data and participating in the pilot testing of the first prototype. This pilot phase will serve as a mechanism to receive further feedback from countries for its refinement before a global rollout. More information can be found at: <https://www.fao.org/antimicrobial-resistance/resources/database/infarm/en/>.

The Secretariat welcomes the support of Australia and the European Union and takes the opportunity to provide more information on the integration of AMR/ antimicrobial use (AMU) data and guidance from different organizations. Quadripartite partners are coordinated so that data collected in each organization contributes to global integrated surveillance. Based on agreement between the partners of the Quadripartite and on FAO's core mandate, the data stream under FAO's remit is AMR data from animals and food, and data on the use of antimicrobial pesticides in crops and other plants. In coordination with the Quadripartite, the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) (founded as OIE) is regularly collecting national data on AMU in terrestrial and aquatic animals, and WHO is collecting data on AMR and AMU in humans. The World Health Organization (WHO), WOAHA and FAO will be sharing aggregated data regularly according to their mandate and remit from their respective platforms, under the Tripartite Integrated System for Surveillance on AMR/AMU platform (TISSA).

The suggestions from Chile and Switzerland on the text of the report and on the suggested actions by the Committee are welcomed.

The Secretariat acknowledges and thanks the United Kingdom for its comments and support. Regarding the evaluation of effectiveness of interventions, the Secretariat conducts surveys on the implementation of specific activities and regularly updates donors on progress in the implementation of projects, including reporting on process and impact indicators in their monitoring and evaluation frameworks. Measuring impacts on awareness, engagement or adoption of practices is complex and the Secretariat recognizes the need for heightened attention in the design of activities. In addition, the Secretariat takes the opportunity to respond to some of the detailed questions regarding:

- a. Point number 8. This is the first time the indicator has been calculated; therefore, it reflects quantitatively the situation at the time TrACSS data was published. When indicators for the next periods of data are calculated, by referencing to each other, a qualitative assessment can be produced. In addition, a report is being prepared to provide a retrospective view and inform on the progress achieved.
- b. Point number 34. The Terms of Reference of the Partnership Platform were developed by the Quadripartite and are currently being finalized. Their endorsement is foreseen to take place in the third quarter of 2022 enabling the Quadripartite to publish and launch them. In parallel, the Quadripartite holds a range of consultations with stakeholders: governments, private sector, and civil society to define the priority areas for the Platform.
- c. Point number 36. An AMR Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) Annual Progress Report 2021 was published in May 2022 aiming to promote the visibility of the AMR MPTF.

The Secretariat acknowledges and welcomes the comments from Japan. The implementation of Codex standards related to the containment and reduction of foodborne AMR is being mainstreamed through the FAO Action Plan on AMR. The Secretariat highlights the AMR Codex Texts project funded by the Republic of Korea specifically focusing on supporting Members in the adoption of Codex standards.

In response to the detailed questions from the European Union, guidance on the prudent use of antimicrobial agents for phytosanitary purposes in plant protection and production is envisioned to be developed by the Secretariat. In relation to the implementation of activities under Objective 4, the report of the first session of the COAG Sub-Committee on Livestock includes recommendations to FAO to strengthen activities related to feeding practices to replace the use of medically important antimicrobials used as growth promoters and to reduce the need for antimicrobials. Progress on the implementation of these activities will be regularly reported to the Sub-Committee and COAG.

The Secretariat recognizes and thanks Australia, Germany, the Republic of Korea, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, the Russian Federation, Sweden, the United States of America and the European Union for their continued financial support for the implementation of the FAO Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance 2021-2025. The Secretariat welcomes further voluntary contributions from Members.