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منظمة  
الغذية والزراعة  
للأمم المتحدة

# COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

## SUB-COMMITTEE ON LIVESTOCK

### Second Session

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### Progress towards 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), the FAO Conference at its 39th Session adopted Resolution 4/2015.<sup>1</sup> Two consecutive FAO Action Plans on AMR have been developed to implement this Resolution, covering the periods 2016-2020 and 2021-2025,<sup>2</sup> supporting implementation of activities in more than 60 countries to date.

2. Global coordination on AMR is organized through the Quadripartite Joint Secretariat (QJS) on AMR between FAO, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH).

## II. Progress on the implementation of FAO's action plan on AMR

<sup>1</sup> C 2015/REP, para 45 <https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/mo153e>

<sup>2</sup> FAO. 2021. *The FAO Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance 2021–2025*. Rome. <https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/cb5545en>

*Documents can be consulted at [www.fao.org](http://www.fao.org)*

3. The FAO Action Plan on AMR 2021-2025 has five primary objectives. Progress made within these objectives is as follows:

#### **Increasing stakeholder awareness and engagement (objective 1):**

- World Antimicrobial Awareness Week is held annually in November with global, regional and country events and initiatives for engagement of all stakeholders. The theme was rebranded as World AMR Awareness Week in 2023 to emphasize the challenge of AMR.
- Behavioural science was integrated into Farmer Field Schools (FFS) in Africa to reduce antimicrobial use among livestock producers. A total of 25 poultry FFS were conducted in four countries<sup>3</sup> with 750 farmers trained. Scaling up this initiative has begun in seven countries in Africa and three countries in Asia.<sup>4</sup>

#### **Strengthening surveillance and research (objective 2):**

- FAO piloted the International FAO Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring (InFARM) data platform.<sup>5</sup> Feedback collected from countries is being incorporated into a final version of the platform, in preparation for a global open call for AMR data in 2024. A manual outlining recommendations and requirements for participation in InFARM is being finalized.
- The FAO Assessment Tool for Laboratories and AMR Surveillance Systems (ATLASS)<sup>6</sup> has been deployed in more than 55 countries<sup>7</sup> (16 countries since 2022). FAO has initiated digitalization of ATLASS, which will be essential for assessing the reliability of AMR data in InFARM.
- Two FAO guidelines have been published: one for monitoring and surveillance of AMR in bacterial pathogens from aquaculture,<sup>8</sup> and the other for monitoring of antimicrobial use at the farm level.<sup>9</sup>
- FAO continues to support AMR laboratory capacities with the assistance of FAO AMR Reference Centres by providing protocols, training, access to proficiency testing, reagents and consumables. FAO has created an AMR laboratory community of practice.<sup>10</sup>

#### **Enabling good practices, and promoting responsible use of antimicrobials (objectives 3 and 4):**

- FAO will soon launch the Reduce the need for antimicrobial use in farms for sustainable agrifood system transformation (RENOFARM)<sup>11</sup> initiative, intersecting with all objectives of the FAO

<sup>3</sup> Ghana, Kenya, Zambia and Zimbabwe

<sup>4</sup> Cambodia, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Philippines, Sudan, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.fao.org/antimicrobial-resistance/resources/database/infarm/en/>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.fao.org/antimicrobial-resistance/resources/tools/fao-atlass/es/>

<sup>7</sup> Argentina, Armenia, Bangladesh, Belarus, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Liberia, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Niger, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Togo, Uganda, Ukraine, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Viet Nam, Zambia and Zimbabwe

<sup>8</sup> FAO, NParks & SFA. 2023. *Monitoring and surveillance of antimicrobial resistance in bacterial pathogens from aquaculture – Regional Guidelines for the Monitoring and Surveillance of Antimicrobial Resistance, Use and Residues in Food and Agriculture. Volume 3*. Bangkok. <https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/cc3512en>

<sup>9</sup> FAO & WOA. 2023. *Guidelines on monitoring antimicrobial use at the farm level – Regional Guidelines for the Monitoring and Surveillance of Antimicrobial Resistance, Use and Residues in Food and Agriculture. Volume 5*. Bangkok. <https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/cc8807en>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.fao.org/antimicrobial-resistance/news-and-events/news/news-details/en/c/1647162/>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.fao.org/antimicrobial-resistance/news-and-events/news/news-details/en/c/1629402/>

Action Plan. RENOFARM will provide comprehensive support to countries to implement good production practices and prudent antimicrobial use.

- RENOFARM pilot projects are being implemented in Indonesia, Nigeria and Uganda. FAO developed a toolbox and infographics.
- FAO is developing a manual outlining the successful replacement of antimicrobial-based methods to promote animal growth.

### **Strengthening governance and allocating resources sustainably (objective 5):**

- FAO launched the Quadripartite One Health Legislative Assessment Tool for AMR in November 2023,<sup>12</sup> designed to help countries identify legal areas related to AMR. This tool is based on the previous FAO methodology to analyse AMR-relevant legislation that was applied in more than 30 countries and three regional organizations.<sup>13</sup>
- FAO's Progressive Management Pathway for AMR has assisted 38 countries<sup>14</sup> (27 since 2022) to integrate food and agriculture elements into their AMR national action plans. A guidance manual is under development.
- The inaugural congress meeting of FAO AMR Reference Centres took place in March 2023.
- Four additional FAO Reference Centres for AMR and Aquaculture Biosecurity were designated in 2022-2023, meaning that there are now five of these centres.<sup>15</sup>

## **III. Collaboration with the Quadripartite and other partners**

4. FAO supported AMR global governance structures, hosting the Global Leaders Group on AMR side event on 24 July 2023 during the UN Food Systems Summit +2 Stocktaking Moment,<sup>16</sup> the development of a roadmap to the 2024 UN General Assembly (UNGA) High-Level Meeting on AMR,<sup>17</sup> the launch of the AMR Multi-Stakeholder Partnership Platform in November 2022 and its first Plenary Assembly in November 2023 at FAO headquarters.<sup>18</sup>

5. FAO supports the Quadripartite Technical Group on AMR and Use Integrated Surveillance to develop practical guidance across human, animal and environmental health sectors.<sup>19</sup> The Quadripartite is also working on developing the economic case on AMR.<sup>20</sup>

6. The Quadripartite One Health Priority Research Agenda for AMR has been published, prioritizing five research areas: transmission, integrated surveillance, interventions, behavioural insights and change, and economics and policy.<sup>21</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> <https://www.fao.org/legal-services/news/news-detail/en/c/1664640/>

<sup>13</sup> FAO. 2020. *Methodology to analyse AMR-relevant legislation in the food and agriculture sector. Guidance document for regulators*. Draft for public review. Rome. <https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/cb1121en>

<sup>14</sup> FAO. 2023. *Progressive Management Pathway for Antimicrobial Resistance (FAO-PMP-AMR)*. Rome. <https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/cc8995en>

<sup>15</sup> FAO. 2023. *FAO Reference Centres for Antimicrobial Resistance and Aquaculture Biosecurity*. Rome. <https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/cc6625en>

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.unfoodsystemshub.org/fs-stocktaking-moment/programme/side-events/en>

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.amrleaders.org/news-and-events/events/2022/09/22/default-calendar/unga-glg-side-event-on-amr>

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.fao.org/antimicrobial-resistance/quadripartite/the-platform/en/>

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.qjsamr.org/technical-work/technical-group-on-integrated-surveillance>

<sup>20</sup> COAG:LI/2024/INF/11, <https://www.fao.org/coag/sub-committee-on-livestock/second-session/information-documents/en/>

<sup>21</sup> WHO, FAO, UNEP & WOH. 2023. *A one health priority research agenda for antimicrobial resistance*. Geneva. <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240075924>

7. Launched in 2019 by FAO, WHO and WOAHA, the AMR Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF)<sup>22</sup> supports countries in the implementation of AMR national actions plans through a One Health approach. UNEP became a co-signatory of the MPTF in 2021. Since its launch, USD 26 million have been mobilized from the European Union, Germany, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Sweden and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, enabling 14 country programmes and a global programme.

8. FAO participated in the Third High-Level Conference on AMR, hosted by the Government of Oman with representatives of 40 countries.

#### **IV. The way forward**

9. Since adopting the Global Action Plan on AMR, 165 countries have developed their national action plans on AMR, with only 62 of them implementing components from all sectors (human, animal, plant and environment). Only 20 countries have a financial provision included in the national budget for their implementation. Increased political commitment, sustainable funding, improved multisectoral governance structures and more evidence generation are needed.

10. The upcoming UNGA High-Level Meeting on AMR in September 2024 will be an opportunity for the world to renew commitment towards addressing AMR.

11. FAO is encouraging Members to develop recommendations to advance the AMR agenda for the UNGA 2024 to catalyse the implementation of the FAO Action Plan on AMR with a strong focus on: i) supporting Members to reduce the need of antimicrobials in the agrifood systems, ii) strengthening generation of evidence through the global roll-out of the InFARM system and platform, and iii) promoting cross-sectoral collaboration through the operationalization of the AMR Multi-Stakeholder Partnership Platform.

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<sup>22</sup> <https://mptf.undp.org/fund/amr00>