



联合国
粮食及
农业组织

Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Organisation des Nations
Unies pour l'alimentation
et l'agriculture

Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная организация
Объединенных Наций

Organización de las
Naciones Unidas para la
Alimentación y la Agricultura

منظمة
الغذية والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

E

PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

Hundred and Thirty-second Session

8-12 November 2021

**Update on the Workplan for Antimicrobial Resistance of the Tripartite
Memorandum of Understanding**

Queries on the substantive content of this document may be addressed to:

Keith Sumption
Chief Veterinary Officer, Zoonoses Center (CJWZ)
Tel: +39 0657055528
Email: Keith.Sumption@fao.org

Documents can be consulted at www.fao.org

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- This document is presented to support the agenda item of the 132nd Session of the Programme Committee to receive an update on Tripartite collaboration, followed by the Tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR).
- The document provides an overview and an update on the progress of the key areas of collaboration under the Tripartite MoU for AMR, including the development of the Tripartite Strategic Framework on AMR, the establishment of global governance mechanisms, as well as the development of an innovative Tripartite joint fund namely the Antimicrobial Resistance Multi-Partner Trust Fund (AMR MPTF).
- The document also provides an overview of progress made under the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) work on AMR.
- To achieve the objectives of the Tripartite Strategic Framework on AMR and FAO Action Plan on AMR (2021-2025), more dedicated resources on AMR are needed to maintain the momentum and ensure the implementation of the strategy and FAO Action Plan.

GUIDANCE SOUGHT FROM THE PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

The Programme Committee is invited to review the content of the document and provide guidance as deemed appropriate.

Draft Advice

The Committee:

- **noted the progress on the activities implemented under the Tripartite MoU for AMR;**
- **welcomed the progress made on FAO's work on AMR despite the COVID-19 pandemic; and**
- **encouraged strengthened resource mobilization to support implementation of the FAO Action Plan on AMR 2021-2025.**

I. Background

1. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)¹ regarding cooperation to combat health risks at the animal-health-ecosystem interface within the “One Health” approach. Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) was identified as one of the key areas of collaboration. Currently, the Tripartite is working on the revision of the MoU.
2. The first Tripartite Work Plan for AMR (2019-2020) was developed two years ago as an internal document to guide the Tripartite technical collaboration. To further develop the Tripartite collaboration on AMR, a long-term vision is needed. Therefore, the Tripartite formulated the Tripartite Strategic Framework on AMR.
3. FAO has projects in over 40 countries across Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean to boost the technical capabilities of countries and strengthen multi-stakeholder collaboration for developing and implementing National Action Plans on AMR (NAPs). FAO Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) 2021-2025 was approved by the 166th Session of FAO Council to continue guiding FAO’s support to its Members to build capacity, minimize and contain AMR in the food and agriculture sectors.

II. Tripartite AMR Work

A. Development of Tripartite Strategic Framework

4. Following up on the Tripartite MoU for AMR, FAO has demonstrated its commitments to address AMR from a “One Health” approach in collaboration with WHO and OIE and therefore established the Tripartite Joint Secretariat on AMR (TJS) in 2019.
5. To strengthen the Tripartite collaboration at the global, regional, and country levels, the Tripartite organizations coordinated and developed the Tripartite Strategic Framework (“the Framework”) with clear five-year strategic objectives and long-term visions in early 2021. The Framework:
 - a) presents the background and context for the collaboration between FAO, WHO and OIE (“the Tripartite”) on AMR as well as the Tripartite collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP);
 - b) describes the comparative advantage and catalytic role of the Tripartite in the “One Health” response to AMR in support of efforts by its members, civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders; and
 - c) presents a theory of change including the Tripartite goals, objectives, desired impact at country level, intermediate outcomes and related Tripartite functions for 2022 to 2026.

B. Global governance mechanisms following the Inter-Agency Consultation Group on AMR (IACG)

6. The Inter-Agency Consultation Group (IACG) on AMR report “No time to wait: Securing the future from drug-resistant infections”² recommended the urgent establishment of global governance mechanisms. The One Health Global Leadership Group on AMR (GLG) and the Independent Panel on Evidence for Action against AMR (IPEA) aim to strengthen overall governance, accountability and One Health responses to AMR.

¹ <https://www.who.int/zoonoses/MoU-Tripartite-May-2018.pdf>

² https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/documents/no-time-to-wait-securing-the-future-from-drug-resistant-infections-en.pdf?sfvrsn=5b424d7_6

7. The GLG, as governance mechanism, was established in November 2020. It consists of the Directors-General of FAO, WHO, OIE and UNEP, heads of government, ministers, and influential figures from the private sector and civil society. The group is co-chaired by the Prime Ministers of Bangladesh and Barbados. Meetings are held four times per year.
8. FAO is committed to working with the GLG and support catalyzing political leadership and taking action to address AMR. To monitor the progress made, a GLG action plan has been developed with clear priority areas. In August 2021, with technical support from FAO, the GLG published a Call to Action on Antimicrobial Use in Food Systems.³
9. FAO is now leading the establishment of the AMR Multi-Stakeholders Partnership Platform to bring together different voices across the human–animal–plant–environment interface. It will serve as an inclusive, international platform at the forefront of the efforts to strengthen a shared global vision on AMR, provide a venue for information-sharing and networking, and reduce AMR's impact in support of the Global Action Plan (GAP).
10. The Tripartite conducted a public discussion (August 18- September 18) to collect feedback from a broad range of stakeholders on the main elements of the proposed Platform. The launch of the Platform is scheduled during World Antimicrobial Awareness Week (WAAW) in November 2021.
11. The Tripartite organizations have developed an “Antimicrobial resistance and the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework – guidance document for United Nations Country Teams” to support countries addressing AMR programmatically and include it into UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework.

C. Multi-Partner Trust Fund on AMR (MPTF)

12. The AMR Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) is a key instrument to fund the Tripartite collaborative action and support the "One Health" approach. The fund is governed by a Steering Committee, composed of senior-level principal representatives from the Tripartite, and three to five representatives from resource partners. FAO has been chairing the steering committee in 2021.
13. Since its launch in 2019, AMR MPTF has mobilized over USD 14 million from the Netherlands, Sweden and the United Kingdom. Recently, the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany has confirmed to invest USD 3 million in the fund. With more resources mobilized for AMR MPTF, the Tripartite has planned to strategically scale up the fund, supporting more countries addressing AMR from a “One Health” approach.
14. Regardless of the challenges brought by the COVID-19 pandemic, nine-country programmes (Cambodia, Ethiopia, Ghana, Indonesia, Kenya, Morocco, Peru, Tajikistan and Zimbabwe) have been approved by the Steering Committee and are under the implementation phase. Each country has received around USD 1 million for the programme timeframe of two years. FAO team has been actively engaging with agri-food sectors to ensure effective actions are taken.
15. In addition, a global programme with four technical focus areas has started the implementation. They are addressing AMR risk in the environment, “Monitoring and Evaluation of Global Action Plan”, “Legal and Legislation of AMR/AMU,” and “The establishment of the Tripartite Integrated System for Surveillance of AMR/AMU (TISSA)”. They provided instrumental technical support to country programmes.
 - a) TISSA: It represents an initial step towards an integrated system for surveillance on AMR and Antimicrobial Use (AMU) and represents an opportunity to demonstrate the success of Tripartite collaboration and will likely have a significant impact globally.
 - b) GAP M&E: To measure progress on implementing NAPs, the Tripartite administers an annual country self-assessment survey on AMR (TrACSS) since 2016. Responses from the surveys are published in an open-access database. The Tripartite has developed a

³ [https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/antimicrobial-resistance/alg-statement-on-amu-in-food-systems-\(final-pre-meeting-version-23-aug\).pdf?sfvrsn=f993a93b_5](https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/antimicrobial-resistance/alg-statement-on-amu-in-food-systems-(final-pre-meeting-version-23-aug).pdf?sfvrsn=f993a93b_5)

monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework for the Global Action Plan (GAP) with a harmonized list of indicators for monitoring at the national and global levels. The AMR MPTF will allow the Tripartite to develop guidance to interested countries on developing national monitoring frameworks for NAPs through in-country and country desk assessments.

- c) “One Health” legal assessment tool: FAO originally developed this methodology to assess national legislation in AMR-relevant areas in the agri-food sector. Between 2019 and 2020, FAO supported 20 countries to analyse their legislation against this methodology and contributed to consequent legal reform processes in eight countries. With the support of AMR MPTF, FAO is now working with WHO and OIE in the development of a One Health Legal Assessment tool on AMR-relevant legislation that will take into consideration human health, food and agriculture.
- d) Environment and AMR: Led by FAO, this AMR MPTF project is jointly developed by the Tripartite plus UNEP. It aims to map out the existing efforts in addressing AMR from an environmental perspective and provide support to strengthen the capacity of Members in mitigating AMR risks in the environment.

III. FAO’s work on AMR

16. AMR activities in FAO were carried out under the FAO Action Plan on AMR 2016-2020. The 166th session of the Council has approved the new FAO Action Plan on AMR 2021-2025, which is comprised of five objectives and sets out two main goals for FAO’s work on AMR:

- a) reduce AMR prevalence and slow the emergence and spread of resistance across the food chain and for all food and agriculture sectors; and
- b) preserve the ability to treat infections with effective and safe antimicrobials to sustain food and agriculture production.

The progress on the implementation of AMR activities since September 2020 is summarized under the five objectives of the approved Action Plan:

i. Increasing stakeholders’ awareness and engagement

17. FAO has developed an AMR communications strategy to help increase stakeholder understanding of AMR by investing in targeted, measurable, and coordinated communications efforts. The purpose of the strategy is to maximize the impact and consistency of FAO communications on AMR, align FAO’s units and regions around a shared vision, and provide guidance on how FAO communicates about AMR.

18. The World Antimicrobial Awareness Week (WAAW) is celebrated from 18 to 24 November every year. WAAW 2020 reflected an important decision across the Tripartite to change the campaign's wording from “antibiotics” to “antimicrobials”. The focus of last year’s campaign shifted to focus on the current impacts of AMR as reflected in FAO’s theme “AMR is here and now: United to strengthen food systems and secure livelihoods”. This was informed by FAO’s new integration of a behavioral science approach to awareness and engagement as well as discussions with FAO and partners and recent research on AMR communication effectiveness.

19. Awareness has been widely increasing during WAAW 2020. A community of practice (CoP) focusing on behaviour change was established with subject-matter experts from UN partners, international agencies, academia, civil society and private sector stakeholders. The CoP worked through a strategic innovation process of technical consultations and co-developed behaviour change intervention pilots while also strengthening relationships and networks.

20. The theme of the WAAW 2021 will be “Spread Awareness, Stop Resistance”. The overarching slogan of World Antimicrobial Awareness Week continues to be “Antimicrobials: Handle with Care”. The WAAW 2021 campaign will encourage stakeholders, including policymakers, human and animal health care providers, farmers, and the general public, to recognize that everyone can be an AMR Awareness champion.

21. In February 2021, FAO Regional Office for Africa (RAF), jointly with the African Union (AU-IBAR and Africa CDC), the Tripartite plus UNEP organized a three-day training of the Regional Economic Communities (RECs). The main objective was to improve awareness, knowledge, and skills on AMR from a “One Health” perspective among livestock, fisheries/aquaculture, agriculture, environment, and public health experts in the RECs.

22. FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (RAP) collaborated with the Federation of Asian Veterinary Associations (FAVA) to implement a series of webinars on AMR targeting veterinary and animal health students and professionals in Asia. The series of webinars culminated in a regional webinar during the WAAW 2020. FAVA also launched a farm-designing contest to promote biosecurity in small and medium-size poultry farms with technical support from FAO. The collaboration reached more than 13 000 people online in Indonesia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam. This collaboration was implemented through the FAO-United States Agency for International Development (USAID) AMR Project.⁴

ii. Strengthening surveillance and research

23. FAO completed an exploratory requirements analysis that will inform the development of an IT solution for the International FAO Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring (InFARM) data platform. This data platform will support national and global surveillance efforts providing countries with a mechanism to initially host and analyse AMR data from animals (terrestrial and aquatic) and food, and complementing the integration of data under TISSA.

24. In May 2021, within the framework of the Tripartite collaborative project “Working Together to Fight Antimicrobial Resistance”, six virtual training sessions on the laboratory module of FAO Assessment Tool for Laboratories and AMR Surveillance Systems (FAO-ATLASS) were conducted by the ATLASS team in coordination with FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (RLC). The training aimed to assist country laboratory delegates in detecting challenges and gaps, as well as addressing solutions within each participating National Reference Laboratory.

25. To support countries in their efforts to improve AMR surveillance progressively, RAP has conducted the following activities:

- a) To facilitate regional harmonization of AMR surveillance in aquaculture, RAP has completed the Regional AMR monitoring and surveillance guideline for bacterial pathogens from aquaculture. Furthermore, a regionally customized broth microdilution plate for Gram-negative aquaculture pathogens has also been developed.
- b) RAP is also working with WHONET developers to bridge AMR data management needs in food and agriculture through integrating the three FAO Regional AMR data management templates (for healthy animals, livestock pathogens, and aquaculture pathogens) into the current WHONET software.
- c) RAP has also developed the concept of AMR Surveillance Capacity Enhancement Drive (ASCEnD). This facilitates access to resources earmarked for initiatives addressing recommendations arising from ATLASS missions and proficiency testing initiatives.

26. Efforts continued to facilitate the development of the Codex Guidelines on integrated monitoring and surveillance of foodborne AMR through convening a global webinar⁵ on FAO, WHO and OIE surveillance activities. Additionally, the Codex Secretariat⁶ hosted two informal discussions in January 2021 and five days of working group discussions in June 2021, open to all Members and observers to facilitate discussion and further progression of the Codex guidelines.⁶

⁴ <http://www.fao.org/antimicrobial-resistance/projects/ongoing/project-3/en/>

⁵ <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/news-and-events/news-details/en/c/1381093/>

⁶ <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=TFAMR&session=8>

iii. Enabling good practices

27. In collaboration with FAO Reference Centre in the United Kingdom, the Organization is developing an introductory module of AMR e-learning courses with five lessons, aiming to launch during WAAW 2021.

28. In August 2021, FAO Sub-Regional Office for Southern Africa (SFS) deployed a six-week course titled “Poultry farmer field school refresher course for facilitators and master trainers with a focus on antimicrobial resistance”.⁷ It was the first online course on Farmer Field School, and two countries (Zambia and Zimbabwe) participated.

29. A tool to assess the implementation of Infection Prevention and Control (Agri-IPC), including Water, Hygiene, Sanitation, and Wastewater management (Agri-WASH), was developed. The current state of adherence of poultry farms to good animal husbandry practices was assessed in Indonesia. Through the 2020 poultry housing design competition, the FAO-FAVA collaboration also generated a number of small-scale poultry housing designs that highlight the importance of farm biosecurity and reinforced good animal husbandry practices.

30. The revision of the Codex Code of Practice to Minimize and Contain Antimicrobial Resistance was supported through the Codex Secretariat hosting of an informal webinar (April 2021) and working group discussions (June 2021) to provide Members with a platform to consider outstanding issues and move closer to completion of the update of the Code of Practice.⁸

31. The process of co-creating behaviour change pilots via the AMR CoP generated numerous opportunities for behavioural science interventions with the potential to enable good practices. In particular, several pilots in the form of randomized controlled trials (RCTs) as well as quasi-experiments were prepared for testing on poultry farms across Africa and/or within the FFS approach. Collaboration between the Behavioural Science Specialist, the Regional Social Science Coordinator, and relevant stakeholders is ongoing to refine the pilots and test them in the field.

iv. Promoting responsible use of antimicrobials

32. FAO has developed several initiatives for antimicrobial use in different regions, including the following activities:

- a) A set of surveys on the knowledge, attitude, and practices (KAP) associated with AMU patterns were conducted in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Europe and Central Asia. The outputs of a KAP survey in the Lao People's Democratic Republic, supported by the UK Fleming Fund and USAID AMR Project, was published, resulting in a better understanding of drivers and motivations of using antibiotics in the country's livestock industry. Results also contributed to shaping the country's AMR communication and advocacy campaign.
- b) A guideline on the monitoring of AMU at farm level in collaboration with OIE in Asia and the Pacific. A major event consisted of the organization of a second regional consultation to review the guideline with the participation of countries and regional and international AMU experts.
- c) Surveys assessing the state of adherence of pig farms to recommended practices on prudent use of antimicrobials were performed in Cambodia, Indonesia and Viet Nam.
- d) FAO, in collaboration with WHO and OIE, is working towards strengthened buy-in from the animal feed industry in the fight against AMR in Latin America and the Caribbean in an AMR project funded by the European Union (EU).

v. Strengthening governance and allocating resources sustainably

⁷ <http://www.fao.org/africa/news/detail-news/en/c/1430093/>

⁸ <http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/meetings/detail/en/?meeting=TFAMR&session=8>

33. Following an online public consultation in December 2020, and with substantive inputs from OIE, FAO has finalized the FAO Methodology to revise and update legislation relevant for AMR/AMU in the food and agriculture sectors. This methodology has been piloted in more than 25 countries and has served as a basis for regional workshops in Africa, Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean.

34. The FAO Methodology will be upgraded to a Tripartite “One Health” Legal Assessment Tool, developed by the Tripartite Organizations in the framework of a project funded by the AMR MPTF. The “One Health” Legal Assessment Tool will include chapters on human health and strengthened chapters on animal health, food safety and the environment. At the regional level, RAP has organized the First Meeting of the AMR Technical Advisory Group (TAG) of the South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) (July 2021). They have also started to integrate gender into their AMR work plan and implementation.

35. A virtual regional workshop on legislation to address AMR and AMU in Africa was conducted with RAF on 25 May 2021. The meeting brought together more than 300 participants, including AMR/AMU experts; legal experts from different sectors pertaining to human and animal health, animal production, agriculture, aquaculture and the environment; government representatives; regional institutions and their legislation experts and technical and legal experts from FAO and other partner organizations (African Union, WHO, OIE and UNEP). The overall objective of this workshop was to identify the legal areas and instruments relevant for AMR/AMU, as well as to discuss potential options for addressing AMR through national and regional regulatory frameworks.

36. The Progressive Management Pathway for AMR (FAO-PMP-AMR) supports countries in developing and implementing NAPs, focusing on building management capacity through a bottom-up approach with strong public and private stakeholder involvement through the in-country workshop. The tool has been designed with pilots in five countries (Belgium, Ghana, Kenya, Saint Kitts and Nevis, and Tajikistan) and used in Kyrgyzstan and Tunisia since the official launch in November 2019.

37. From July 2020 to July 2021, the tool was significantly revised to ensure better accessibility from the users and participants in the workshop. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, virtual workshops with the revised tool have been organized in Lao PDR, Morocco, Senegal and Sierra Leone.

IV. Addressing AMR in Agri-Food sectors after 2021

38. FAO is committed to working with WHO and OIE as a Tripartite, in collaboration with UNEP, and other relevant international organizations, providing leadership in “One Health” responses to AMR. To support the implementation of the Tripartite Strategic Framework, a Tripartite Work Plan will be developed with detailed activities through a consultative process.

39. FAO will further support One Health Global Leaders Group on AMR and ensure the voice of agri-food sectors are heard, and effective actions in this area are taken.

40. FAO and the other Tripartite organizations plus UNEP will continue the efforts for the establishment of the AMR Multi-Stakeholder Partnership Platform to bring multi-stakeholders together and address AMR at the human-animal-plant-environment interface. The launch is tentatively scheduled during WAAW 2021, and the first plenary session will take place in early 2022.

41. The implementation of the FAO Action Plan on AMR 2021-2025 will follow a collaborative “One Health” approach by creating synergies across all food and agriculture stakeholders and with partner organizations (such as WHO, OIE and UNEP). With guidance from the latest developments in science, as well as international guidelines and standards on AMR, the implementation of the AMR Action Plan will provide flexibility to respond to Members’ needs and requests.

42. To achieve the objectives of the Tripartite Strategic Framework on AMR and FAO Action Plan on AMR (2021-2025), more dedicated resources on AMR are needed to maintain the momentum and ensure the implementation of Action Plan and Tripartite AMR work.