



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-fifth Session

Rome, 13-17 March 2023

**Follow-up report on the Evaluation of FAO's role and work on
antimicrobial resistance (AMR)**

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

Mr Keith Sumption
Chief Veterinary Officer
Tel: +39 06570 55528
Email: Keith.Sumption@fao.org

Documents can be consulted at www.fao.org

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- This document presents an update on the progress made in the implementation of the four recommendations of the Evaluation of FAO's role and work on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) (cf. PC 130/11).
- Progress has been made in all four recommendations, including the formulation and implementation of the second FAO Action Plan on AMR, the establishment in 2020 of the Joint FAO/WHO Centre on Zoonotic Diseases and AMR (CJW), the development of the International FAO Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring Platform (InFARM), which covers existing data gaps on antimicrobial use and antimicrobial resistance emergence in agrifood systems, and the formulation of a flagship initiative on reducing the need for antimicrobials in the agriculture sectors.

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:

- **appreciated the actions taken to follow-up the evaluation recommendations, and the impact and changes achieved with these activities; and**
- **encouraged FAO to continue implementing the Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance 2021-2025, and to report on progress made to the relevant Technical Committees.**

I. Background

1. Management welcomes the opportunity to provide information on the progress made in implementing the actions agreed in the Management Response to the Evaluation of FAO's role and work on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) (cf. PC 130/11, PC 130/11 Sup.1).
2. In line with FAO's policy on evaluations, this report provides an update on the implementation of the actions set out in the Management Response. The report provides a Management Action Record Scoring (MAR Score) on a six-point scale, in which FAO Management self-assessed the level of adoption and implementation of the recommendations.

II. Overall progress in the implementation of the accepted recommendations

3. Management found that the Evaluation Report (cf. PC 130/11) was well formulated, insightful and constructive, and concurred with the findings and recommendations presented and accepted all four recommendations.
4. In terms of implementation, progress in all four recommendations is rated as "good" or "excellent". In particular, FAO has formulated and is already implementing its Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance 2021–2025, which includes an articulated theory of change and a monitoring framework with clear output indicators. Progress was reported to the Committee on Agriculture (COAG) at its 28th Session in July 2022¹. Under the overall guidance set by the Action Plan, FAO has implemented the remaining three recommendations: improving the internal coordination and cross-disciplinary work (recommendation 1), strengthening FAO's scientific approach to its work on AMR (recommendation 3), innovation, behavioral change and data (recommendation 4).
5. FAO closely collaborates with the Quadripartite to advance a One Health response to AMR and to support countries in the achievement of their own national action plans.
6. FAO's engagement with regard to AMR has not reached its full potential due to financial and human resources constraints; until the present, it has largely been supported by extra-budgetary and voluntary Members' contributions, and by the Antimicrobial Resistance Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF).

¹ COAG/2022/8

Follow-up report on the Evaluation of FAO's role and work on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) - Matrix

Accepted evaluation recommendations (a)	Action agreed in the management response (b)	Description of actions actually taken, or reasons for actions not taken (c)	MAR score (d) ²	Impact of, or changes resulted from taken actions (e)
<p>Recommendation 1: FAO should prioritize its work in a long-term strategy on AMR that recognizes the seriousness of the threat and is fully integrated into the Organization's Strategic Framework. The strategy should articulate FAO's long-term role on AMR and that of its Divisions and Offices, its approach at the country level and be based on analyses of its comparative advantages and AMR risks along the associated value chains, while identifying key partnerships and stakeholders at all levels. It further needs to be underpinned by a theory of change that clarifies linkages between its activities and expected goals. It should consider how FAO intends to engage on issues of One Health and gender based on relevant analyses and be complemented by outcome-based indicators of performance. The strategy should define targets and indicators to measure progress towards achievements.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Developing FAO AMR strategy - Developing AMR outcome indicator in FAO strategical framework. 	<p>The FAO Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) 2021-2025 was developed in accordance with the guidance from the Programme Committee. The FAO Action Plan on AMR 2021-2025 is guiding the strategic programming of FAO activities.</p> <p>The 166th Session of the Council endorsed the FAO AMR Indicator to be included in FAO's results framework 2020-21, following a recommendation from the 130th Session of the Programme Committee.</p> <p>Furthermore, AMR issues are fully integrated under the Programme Priority Area BP3: "One Health". Many tools have been or are currently being developed to support countries in implementing their national action plans (NAPs). The FAO Assessment Tool for Laboratories and AMR Surveillance Systems (FAO-ATLASS) was deployed in 28 countries. The FAO Progressive Management Pathway on AMR (FAO-PMP-AMR) has provided assistance to countries to put their NAPs into action and prioritizing activities depending on their context. The tool is used in more than 25 countries. On the other hand, the FAO methodology that analyses AMR-relevant legislation in the food and agriculture sectors has helped many countries to identify gaps and weaknesses in their sectoral legislation and governance structures, improving their capacity to better address AMR through legislation. This methodology is being expanded into the OneHealth Tool, in collaboration with other Quadripartite Organizations.</p>	5	<p>For the latest progress report on the implementation of the AMR Action Plan see COAG document COAG/2022/8.</p> <p>The indicator for the period 2020-2021 reflects an overall level of implementation of 48.92 percent against the 47.89 percent for the period 2019-2020.</p>

² 1 – None: no action was taken to implement the recommendation; 2 – Poor: plan and actions for implementation of the recommendation are at a very preliminary stage; 3 – Inadequate: implementation of the recommendation is uneven and partial; 4 – Adequate: implementation of the recommendation has progressed; there is no evidence yet of its results on the intended target; 5 – Good: the recommendation has been fully implemented and there is some initial evidence of its impact on the intended target; 6 – Excellent: there is solid evidence that the recommendation has had a positive impact on its intended target.

Accepted evaluation recommendations (a)	Action agreed in the management response (b)	Description of actions actually taken, or reasons for actions not taken (c)	MAR score (d) ²	Impact of, or changes resulted from taken actions (e)
<p>Recommendation 2: Reducing the global threat of AMR is a substantial task and FAO has the mandate to cover food and agriculture sectors, which infers strong leadership and advocacy at all levels. In order to achieve this, FAO should consolidate its work on AMR through a strong programmatic approach with a central coordination and management structure that is supported by dedicated core funding in the allocation of the next biennium. The multidisciplinary approach should be further strengthened, fully taking into account all of FAO's core technical areas and their linkages with AMR. This would provide FAO with greater visibility in its role on AMR and indicate its commitment to AMR risk reduction.</p>	<p>-Establishing central coordination of AMR under the One Health approach.</p> <p>-Enhancing the multidisciplinary approach in addressing AMR across FAO.</p>	<p>The Joint FAO/WHO Centre on Zoonotic Diseases and AMR (CJW) established in 2020 provides "One Health" central coordination and managerial role to the work on AMR.</p> <p>The new terms of reference (TORs) for the AMR working group (AMR WG) were developed and will be updated regularly. These TORs have strengthened the multi-disciplinary approach in coordinating AMR work across FAO units and Regional Offices.</p> <p>The FAO Action Plan on AMR 2021-2025 has also provided a framework for the strategic results that should be achieved under One Health approach across all food and agriculture sectors, and in collaboration with other Quadripartite Organizations to achieve the objectives of the Global Action Plan on AMR 2015.</p> <p>The Quadripartite Organizations have established a Technical Group on Integrated Surveillance on Antimicrobial use and resistance to advise the Organizations on needs, scope and form of integrated surveillance in 2023 to support capacity building of countries on effective sector-specific and multisectoral systems surveillance.</p>	6	<p>CJW is ensuring the coordination of FAO's work under the One Health approach, and maintains a seamless communication with other Quadripartite Organizations.</p> <p>The effective implementation of the FAO Action Plan on AMR is being incorporated into the AMR WG members' TORs, as well as into their Performance Evaluation Management System (PEMS).</p>

Accepted evaluation recommendations (a)	Action agreed in the management response (b)	Description of actions actually taken, or reasons for actions not taken (c)	MAR score (d) ²	Impact of, or changes resulted from taken actions (e)
<p>Recommendation 3: should sustain and strengthen its scientific approach to its work on AMR at all levels through increased engagement of the AMR-WG, enhancing the role of its Reference Centres in support of the work on AMR in particular at the country level, and through widening its scientific collaboration.</p>	<p>-Strengthening scientific collaboration among AMR WG and with FAO reference centers.</p>	<p>The network of FAO Reference Centres for AMR has been established to strengthen the scientific expertise held within FAO's units involved in AMR.</p> <p>To date, two additional Centres have been designated in addition to the existing seven Reference Centres since 2021 and they are actively engaged in FAO's AMR work at global, regional and country level.</p> <p>FAO is linked to the research world through its observer status on the Global AMR R&D Hub.</p>	6	<p>FAO Reference Centres have contributed to develop and validate the first global AMR course "Understanding AMR in food and agriculture". Also, Reference Centres have supported the launch of the Multi-Stakeholder Partnership Platform, with scientific advice. Moreover, the Reference Centres provided inputs to develop and pilot the International FAO Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring (InFARM) platform.</p> <p>Various mechanisms have also been implemented to strengthen this collaboration, such as bi-monthly teleconferences. The first annual congress meeting will be held on 15-17 March 2023.</p>
<p>Recommendation 4: The Organization should consider innovative approaches to advance its focus areas that acknowledge existing resource and socio-economic constraints that hinder behaviour change across value chains and commitment to combat the threat of AMR.</p>	<p>-Developing the FAO platform to collect and analyse AMR data.</p> <p>- Improving countries capacities to combat AMR and reduce antimicrobial use in agrifood systems.</p>	<p>In 2022, FAO developed the first release (beta version) of the International FAO Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring (InFARM IT platform that is currently being piloted before opening a global call for data. InFARM will support countries in collecting, analysing and using their AMR data from animals and food for national purposes, and will further support countries willing to make AMR data publicly available for global surveillance. InFARM will be used as the mechanism to contribute with data from food</p>	5	<p>Countries have nominated focal points for InFARM, and 28 countries have expressed interest to participate in the piloting phase. After validation of the beta version of the InFARM IT platform, there will be a global open call for data to collect the first baseline of AMR levels in agrifood systems. The generation of evidence is</p>

Accepted evaluation recommendations (a)	Action agreed in the management response (b)	Description of actions actually taken, or reasons for actions not taken (c)	MAR score (d) ²	Impact of, or changes resulted from taken actions (e)
		<p>and agriculture to the global AMR integrated surveillance architecture.</p> <p>Activities such as the antimicrobial use (AMU) survey, designed and initiated by the FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia in 2020, proposing a promising methodology for understanding the socio-economic constraints that hinder the change of bad practices, or the Farm Field Schools initiative being piloted in Africa, are examples of how FAO develops innovation while delivering its AMR work.</p> <p>In November 2022, FAO announced a global campaign on the need to reduce AMU in agrifood systems by 30 percent to 50 percent over the next 10 years, known as the Reduce the Need for Antimicrobials on Farms (RENOFARM) initiative.</p> <p>FAO, in the framework of the Quadripartite, is undertaking a comprehensive, thorough and robust economic case study to assess the return on investment on AMR prevention to guide policy makers.</p> <p>In addition, the Quadripartite is planning to hold, in the first half of 2023, the ‘Global Human and Veterinary Medicines Regulatory Authorities Summit and Forum to Preserve Antimicrobials’. The Summit aims to emphasize the importance of regulation for AMR globally, engage regulators on AMR issues to find new solutions and bring together regulators and stakeholders from different sectors, regions and countries to tackle AMR jointly.</p>		<p>essential to advocate for action against AMR.</p> <p>Additional actions taken, such as the inception of RENOFAARM will incorporate innovative approaches and behaviour change approaches to reduce the need of antimicrobials in farms.</p>

Accepted evaluation recommendations (a)	Action agreed in the management response (b)	Description of actions actually taken, or reasons for actions not taken (c)	MAR score (d) ²	Impact of, or changes resulted from taken actions (e)
		FAO is leading, on behalf of the Quadripartite, the AMR Multi-Stakeholder Partnership Platform (launched in November 2022) to promote a shared vision for action to tackle AMR, share information and collaboration and support concrete actions that advance progress in containing, combatting and ultimately reversing AMR		