



# Antimicrobial Resistance NEWSLETTER

Achieving FAO's Antimicrobial Resistance Action Plan



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## GLOBAL HIGHLIGHTS

### FAO Assessment Tool for Laboratories and AMR Surveillance Systems (ATLASS) in Latin America and the Caribbean

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

The sessions were adapted to a virtual format due to the COVID-19 pandemic. A total of 20 delegates from selected National Reference Laboratories from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay participated in the first application of the tool in Latin America. After the training, the countries were invited to individual mentoring sessions to support the preparation of laboratory self-assessments and final reports. The contribution of the FAO-ATLASS tool was widely recognized by the participants, who considered that the evaluations represented a real scenario of the current situation in the selected laboratories. The sessions were facilitated by Alejandro Garcia Dorado, Nicolas Keck, Francesca Latronico, Beatrice Mouille and Michael Treilles from FAO headquarters and by Fernanda Baldrich and Marisa Caipo from FAO RLC.

### AMR risk analysis in Uganda

Under a project funded by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation, FAO and the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries in Uganda conducted a workshop to disseminate the preliminary findings of

an analysis on the risks of AMR in animal production systems. The findings showed that the One Health approach is one of the most feasible strategies for tackling AMR. The analysis also provided information to guide the development of strategies to minimize and contain AMR. The public and private sectors can use these data to prioritize interventions and resources needed to manage AMR in livestock and fisheries in Uganda.

### Regional training on legislation on antimicrobials, antimicrobial use (AMU) and AMR

With a presentation from the World Health Organization (WHO), FAO Regional Office for Africa and FAO's Development Law Service presented legislation as a tool to combat AMR at an African regional training event on AMR legislation on 25 May 2021. More than 300 participants from different countries and regional organizations across Africa, as well as the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and UN Environment Programme (UNEP), attended in the training. The objective was to explain the FAO "Methodology to Analyse AMR – Relevant Legislation in the Food and Agriculture Sector"<sup>1</sup> and discuss options for addressing AMR through national and regional regulatory frameworks in Africa.

### European Union–FAO Strategic Dialogue

The outcomes of the 2021 edition of the European Union–FAO Strategic Dialogue were shared on 27 May 2021 during a wrap-up session chaired by FAO Deputy Director-General Beth Bechdol and the European Commission Directorate-General for International Partnerships Deputy Director-General Marjeta Jager. The European Union–FAO Strategic Dialogue discussions enabled partners to develop an ambitious common agenda towards more efficient, resilient, inclusive

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.fao.org/antimicrobial-resistance/news-and-events/news/news-details/en/c/1312103/>

and sustainable agri-food systems. FAO and the European Union, together with the OIE, WHO and UNEP (the Tripartite and UNEP), are key allies in combating AMR and strengthening a One Health approach. Guided by the FAO Action Plan 2021–2025<sup>2</sup> and the European Union Action on Antimicrobial Resistance | Public Health (europa.eu),<sup>3</sup> both FAO and EU will work to synergize their efforts in tackling AMR. The AMR Global Governance Structures,<sup>4</sup> such as the Global Leaders Group (GLG) and the soon-to-be established AMR Multistakeholder Partnership Platform, are key mechanisms to collectively tackle AMR. Joint programming for common results will also be strengthened, such as through the European Union's regional tripartite AMR programmes and synergies with other bilateral FAO AMR projects and the Tripartite AMR Multi-Partner Trust Fund.<sup>4</sup> Joint advocacy and knowledge products were also highlighted in the work ahead, including sharing tools such as the FAO Progressive Management Pathway for AMR. The next step is to design a joint workplan to concretize the partnership.

## FAO REGIONS

### Antimicrobial use activities

**FAO Regional Office for Africa** is working on an on-line survey on the knowledge, attitudes and practices (KAP) associated with AMU in Africa. The survey targets various stakeholders, including veterinarians, veterinary pharmacists, animal feed vendors, education and research institutions, farmers, social associations, and One Health partners. The findings will help countries to sharpen guidelines for the rational use of antimicrobials in animals and agriculture.

**FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific** is developing a guideline on the monitoring of AMU at farm level in collaboration with the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).

**FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia** has developed a set of KAP surveys and a methodology to assess the AMU pattern (as well as AMR awareness and main health issues for which antimicrobials are used) in the livestock sector, namely among farmers of priority livestock production systems, field veterinarians, veterinary pharmacies and feed mills. Sampling (manure

and milk from clinical mastitis) will be conducted at the surveyed farms and tested for AMR. The finds of the analysis will provide a baseline on AMU findings and AMR and a better understanding of the links between the two. While the initial focus of the work was Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, the AMU survey (without the AMR testing) will also be implemented in the Balkans.

### FAO Regional Office for Latin America and Caribbean

is implementing a Tripartite AMR project funded by the European Union, which is working towards strengthened buy-in from the animal feed industry in the fight against AMR, including improved compliance with international standards in the production and use of medicated feed. The project covers seven countries in South America.

## FAO Reference Centres for AMR

During May–June 2021, the Unidad Integral de Servicios, Diagnóstico y Constatación (UISDC) del Servicio Nacional de Sanidad, Inocuidad y Calidad Agroalimentaria (SENASICA) participated as FAO AMR Reference Centre in the virtual training sessions on the laboratory module of the FAO ATLASS tool conducted by the ATLASS team. Six delegates from three laboratories in UISDC–SENASICA participated. The report of the laboratory assessments prepared by Mexico will complement the activities of the Reference Centre, helping to identify common gaps and challenges in laboratory capacity. Supported by FAO Reference Centre in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (The Veterinary Medicine's Directorate, The Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science, and The Animal and Plant Health Agency), "*E. coli* antimicrobial susceptibility testing (AST) proficiency testing scheme" distribution with laboratories from Europe, Africa and Asia has been completed and reports sent to participants.

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.fao.org/3/nf736en/nf736en.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/health/antimicrobial-resistance/eu-action-on-antimicrobial-resistance\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/health/antimicrobial-resistance/eu-action-on-antimicrobial-resistance_en)

<sup>4</sup> <http://mptf.undp.org/factsheet/fund/AMR00>

