



WORLD FARMERS' ORGANISATION

WFO POLICY ON ANTIMICROBIAL USE AND RESISTANCE IN LIVESTOCK

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Policy Statement on Antimicrobial Use and Resistance in Livestock

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) threatens the effective prevention and treatment of infections in humans and animals. Resistant bacteria and infectious diseases do not respect borders and are present in all parts of the world. Global action is needed to preserve the long-term availability of effective treatment of infections for future generations.

The common objective for WFO members is to support a responsible use of antimicrobials and prevent the development of AMR on a global, regional and national level. It is important that the farm and food sectors are engaged as partners in both developing and implementing strategies for reducing AMR. Since the use of antimicrobials in animal production is one of the uses, which has an impact on AMR, it is crucial that farmers are involved in proposing and developing farmer driven solutions.

One Health approach needed to combat AMR

AMR is of great importance to human and animal health and a One Health approach at global, regional and national level is crucial for tackling AMR. Close cooperation between stakeholders in human and veterinary medicine is needed and everyone must take part in the fight against AMR. WFO will support and encourage farmers, veterinarians, specialists in livestock production, and food specialists to join forces and combat AMR together to minimize the risk of it spreading, while taking into consideration the human, animal and environmental dimensions. However, any steps taken should be science and risk based and address the constraints of different production systems and the diversity of disease risk in each country/ region. There is a growing number of good examples to learn from in various countries.

WFO will:

- Call upon governments and international governmental organizations working on AMR to include the farmers in the design, formulation and implementation of policy decisions;
- Encourage members to engage in national action plans for AMR;
- Support the OIE work for balancing the AMR approach between concerns for food safety and the need for food security and ensuring animal welfare;
- Engage in international forums with WHO, OIE and FAO to promote a global cooperation in the combat against AMR;
- Improve awareness and understanding of antimicrobial resistance on global, regional and national levels through farmer organizations.

Prudent and responsible use of antimicrobials

Farmers are interested in ensuring sustainable livestock production with healthy and productive animals. Improving animal health and welfare through preventive measures is the most efficient way to reduce the need for antimicrobials. The knowledge of good biosecurity is essential in keeping animals healthy. However, animal disease will continue to occur, and effective treatment of cases of infection is important to preserve the health and welfare of animals. The ability to treat

sick and injured animals and strategically prevent disease must always remain and the fight against infections must be based on accurate diagnosis and adequate treatment. The risk of AMR increases with improper use of antimicrobials. Prudent and responsible use of antimicrobials is essential to preserve the ability to treat infections in the future. The veterinary profession plays an important role in preventing diseases, promoting prudent use of antimicrobials, including implementation of multi-pronged approach to preventing diseases, and determine the need for treatment. Accessibility and availability of proper antimicrobials, especially concerning minor species, should be carefully considered. It becomes appropriate to use the medicine in a targeted manner following clinical diagnosis by properly trained professionals. Moreover, biosecurity, good production practices, good management practices and the implementation of integrated disease control programs should be encouraged.

WFO will:

- Encourage that the use of antimicrobials for livestock should take place under supervision of suitable qualified professionals and work to secure equitable access to veterinary advice and service around the world;
- Encourage members to phase out growth promoters in livestock production, where still in use according to the recommendations from OIE;
- Encourage members to minimize prophylactic treatment of groups of animals and emphasize other preventive measures and accurate diagnosis and adequate treatment;
- Encourage members to minimize metaphylactic treatment and emphasize other preventive measures and accurate diagnosis and adequate treatment;
- Work towards minimizing the use of highest priority critically important antimicrobials, which are critical for the treatment of infections in humans, while considering differences in treatment needs among species;
- Work towards securing that farmers around the world have equitable access to effective antimicrobials and preventive measures to ensure proper use of antimicrobials and combat sales of substandard and falsified veterinary products;
- Ensuring farmers are provided with the knowledge and financial support to adapt their management systems to a more suitable criteria in order to guarantee a reduced need for pharmacological treatments.
- Encourage members to actively participate in activities that can help create awareness, education and training on proper use of antimicrobials.
- Work for antibiotics to be used only after diagnoses from veterinarians, physicians or other relevant professional. And work for a development where these professionals earn their money from advisory services and not from the selling of antibiotics.

Monitoring and surveillance of antimicrobials is needed

Strengthening of monitoring and surveillance systems of antimicrobial use and AMR in disease cause pathogens for both humans and animals is a crucial step to the evolution of control AMR. Overview and base line information is necessary to measure trends and to evaluate actions taken to control the use of antimicrobials. In this process it is important to consider the different starting

points of each country and the different positions sectors can have within a country as well as national or regional priorities.

- WFO supports the initiatives of OIE, WHO, FAO and the Codex Alimentarius for setting up systems for data collection, monitoring and surveillance of antimicrobials use and resistance on a global level;
- WFO will encourage members to develop systems for monitoring and surveillance of antimicrobial usage and AMR in disease causing pathogens.

Investments in research of new medicine and alternatives to medicine must be given high priority

Investments in new medicine, diagnostic tools, preventive measures, vaccines and other interventions are needed to secure the future opportunities to treat animals in an effective way. No major new developments of antimicrobials have taken place since 1987. High priority must be given to research and development in finding new and innovative solutions to improve health and prevent and treat diseases in livestock production. New concepts are needed to provide incentives for innovation, cooperation and public/ private partnerships between different stakeholders.

- WFO will work towards research and development in farmer driven solutions that are practical and applicable on farm level;
- WFO calls for new concepts to provide incentives for research and development in solutions that will improve biosecurity on farms, genetics, feeds, animal health and welfare and prevent the need for treatment;
- WFO calls for maximizing the lifespan of existing products as the development of new alternative active substances needs time and investment.
- WFO will support the surveillance of the production and standards for manufacture of antimicrobial agents. The environments of their production and manufacture must be considered.