



40th session

European Commission on Agriculture

27-28 September 2017 | Budapest, Hungary

Rev 1

SIDE EVENT 2.

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR): the loss of a major defense to the emerging challenge?

(linked to agenda item 4 and ECA document ECA/40/17/4)

Date/time: 27 Sep 2017; 13:45 h – 15:00 h

The side event will look at current implications and impacts of AMR in the REU region and the future scenarios under climate change. Presenters will assess the underlying reasons, current status and challenges faced in the region and how these will influence regional shifts in animal diseases. The One Health approach through the FAO/OIE/WHO tripartite collaboration with public and private sector organizations will be discussed as well as regional prevention and response measures.

Proposed leading questions for the discussion

- What do you know about the usage of antimicrobials in the agriculture sector in your country?
- In what ways can we improve cooperation between the health sectors and agriculture without falling into blame games?
- What can we do to reduce the use of antimicrobials when the demand for agricultural products is growing?

Time	Agenda item	Speaker
13:45 to 13:50 (5 mins)	Introduction to the objectives of the side event (maybe quick round the table).	Hendrik Jan Ormel (FAO HQ)
13:50 to 14:00 (10 mins)	Antimicrobial resistance (AMR): the loss of a major defense to the emerging challenge?	Andrey Aleshkin (Gabrychevsky Moscow Research Institute for Epidemiology and Microbiology)
14:00 to 14:10 (10 mins)	Views on Anti-Microbial Usage (AMU), AMR and One Health cooperation with the human health sector from the agricultural perspective in the Netherlands.	Jaap Wagenaar (Utrecht University)
14:10 to 14:20 (10 mins)	Views on Anti-Microbial Usage (AMU), AMR and One Health cooperation with the agricultural sector from the human health perspective in Kazakhstan.	Lazzat Yesbatyrova (Rational Drug Use Center, The Ministry of Healthcare of The Republic of Kazakhstan)
14:20 – 14:55 (35 mins)	Discussion	Moderator
14:55- 15:00 (5 mins)	Session close	Hendrik Jan Ormel (FAO HQ)

Side event will have English and Russian translation.

Executive Summary

Following the resolution on AMR endorsed by the 39th Session of the FAO Conference in June 2015, FAO discussed progress on AMR activities at the 25th Session of the Committee on Agriculture (www.fao.org/3/a-mr246e.pdf). A FAO Action Plan on AMR was adopted (www.fao.org/3/a-i5996e.pdf). A thematic webpage on AMR gives an oversight of recent publications and activities (www.fao.org/antimicrobial-resistance/en/).

The potential impact of AMR to food security, nutrition and human health in general are threatening the realization of FAO cross cutting strategic objectives and several of the Sustainable Development Goals (for example 2, 3, 14, 15).

The drugs to defend livestock and aquatic animals against infectious diseases are becoming less effective, due to growing antimicrobial resistance (AMR), compromising our ability to treat them. Increasing antibiotic use in agriculture, particularly in intensive systems, is a contributor to AMR. Antimicrobial / antibiotic resistant infections need to be limited through monitoring programs, awareness raising campaigns, altered management practices, optimal biosafety/biosecurity and the search for alternative medicines.

Any AMR action plan must encompass prevention of infectious diseases (e.g. strengthening biosecurity, use of vaccination and improved husbandry), and the responsible usage of effective, safe and quality-assured drugs, avoiding its use as growth promoters or prophylactic treatments. Slowing the progression of AMR is a challenge which will require a One Health approach through cooperation between organizations, stakeholders, industry and governments from public health, animal health and agriculture sectors, resulting in policy changes and improved governance.

Positive statements on tackling AMR have been delivered by FAO in the last two years as well as other international organizations (OIE, WHO), and the FAO action plan on AMR was adopted in 2015. The regional FAO office in Europe (REU) plays an active role in developing an AMR technical programme and National Action Plans for the region and through the Regional Initiatives, in promoting sustainable agriculture and gender-equitable rural development strategies.

FAO brings the multi-disciplinary expertise (from animal health and production, food and feed safety, plant health and production, fisheries and aquaculture, water and land use, legislation and governance, laboratory aspects etc.) that is needed to address this cross-sectoral issue.