Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

FAO elearning ACADEMY

Addressing antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in agrifood systems; a FAO e-learning introductory course on AMR

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Questions and Answers

For more information about the international technical webinars series, please visit the FAO elearning Academy website

DISCLAIMER

This document is a compilation of questions relevant to the topics covered during the International Technical Webinar, raised by the participants, and answers provided by the experts from FAO or partner institutions during the event. The answers provided in the Q&A document only reflect the personal views of the experts and do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever, endorsement, nor recommendation on the part of FAO or the partner institutions involved in the webinars. FAO reserves the right to alter, limit or discontinue any part of this service at its discretion. Under no circumstances shall FAO be liable nor held responsible for any loss, damage, liability or expense suffered that is claimed to result from the use of information posted on this site, including without limitation, any fault, error, omission, interruption or delay.

1) **Could you please advise when will the course be available to complete?**
   The course is available already at this link:
   https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=783

2) **How do we adopt or capture FAO's Action Plan on AMR in climate smart agriculture for climate change resilience and productivity. Do you have this engagement in Africa?**
   We do see the link of climate change and AMR. Now, there is still a big gap in this regard. I didn't engage in the initiative you mentioned in Africa.

3) **Sometimes we provide antibiotic medications for viral infected animals to prevent secondary infections. Could you say something on this issue?**
   In human medicine there is a focus on ensuring antibiotics not given for viral diseases (e.g., cold or flu) but in animals we often have disease complexes (e.g. respiratory disease can often have a viral and bacterial component) so yes it can be more complicated.

4) **I wonder if you can make the digital badge more personalized by adding the participant name?**
   The answer to this question was provided live by Cristina Petracchi. The FAO elearning Academy is now working on a printable version of the digital badge, with name and surname of the learners.

5) **Which classes of pesticides are causing AMR?**
   From a technical perspective, any antimicrobial can contribute to the development of AMR, especially when used inappropriately or excessively. This includes pesticides as an antimicrobial substance. However, now there is a lack of studies researching the use of antimicrobials in plant production and protection and there is a lack of evidence regarding use of pesticides as a driver of AMR. To answer your question more fully, we will provide a written answer as part of the Q&A document after the webinar.

6) **How can someone get funding for AMR assessment?**
   Requests for FAO support can be channelled through FAO country offices and representatives that are in contact with the national ministries. Most of the funds for AMR are currently extra budgetary and include targeted countries under donor projects.

7) **I would like to know more about the role academic research institutions have to play, and how small scale farmers, deep in the rural areas, were considered within the framework of this project.**
   The course is open to everyone and there is no registration fee. Academic institutions can help disseminating it as well as governments to reach through their extension services all stakeholders with a role to play in the fight against AMR.

8) **Is there any FAO projects running in region to start a baseline assessment of resistant microorganisms in Afghanistan?**

I believe that there are no current FAO projects in Afghanistan. However, requests for FAO support can be channelled through FAO country offices and representatives that are in contact with the national ministries. Most of the funds for AMR are currently extra budgetary and include targeted countries under donor projects.

9) **Thanks for the capacity building by FAO. However, what is FAO doing on the issue of pesticides or herbicides used by farmers in the rural or urban communities that does not have access to internet to connect to webinars like this. How does FAO reach these group of people? The misuse or overuse of pesticides/herbicides on the farm in order to prevent pests or due to weevils' infestation on plants especially post-harvest storage. So many issue to look at on AMR.**

The issue of prudent use of antimicrobial pesticides in plant production and health is addressed in the current FAO AMR Action Plan 2021-2025 and it is an area for expansion in the coming years. In terms of this course or other e-learning courses reaching communities with no internet connectivity, governments can also use this course to disseminate knowledge through their extension services to all stakeholders with a role to play in the fight against AMR.

10) **How does FAO see its efforts on AMR translated to real world changes in attitudes and behaviours particularly across not the agricultural sector but across Human and environmental health?**

In recent years FAO efforts are being translated in real life changes at all levels, from the high level engagement reflected in the recent renewed Quadripartite alliance for One Health, passing through the development of global governance structures such as the Partnership Platform for action against AMR, and the increased level of implementation by countries of the National Plans and interventions for controlling AMR.

11) **This also takes us to the issue of sustainability of FAO's efforts. How will FAO ensure that the behavioural change is sustained with all the investments on tacking AMR.**

Increasing awareness and engagement of stakeholders for adoption of good practices and prudent use of antimicrobials to minimize and control AMR is among one of the 5 objectives of the FAO Action plan on AMR 2021-2025. FAO has a number of projects with countries in which behaviour change science is being mainstreamed for achieving sustainability and adoption of practices, an example is the implementation of community based, participatory approaches for bottom up implementation such as the Farmer Field Schools with a focus on One Health and AMR.

12) **What problems are you experiencing with regards to addressing the Antimicrobial Resistance with the application of One Health Approach?**

Some of the issues faced for operationalization of one health include unbalanced distribution of finantial and human resources across sectors, barriers related with lack of awareness and knowledge between sectors for recognizing their role, etc.

13) The AMR situation in developing vs developed countries is very different. Do you think a "one cap fits all" will work?

It will certainly not work. There is not one size fits all solution for AMR. Activities and interventions need to be made according to the national and regional contexts and priorities as reflected in the different National Action Plans on AMR but still in alignment with general guidance and recommendations provided by international agencies and institutions for coordination of global action.

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