The occurrence of antibiotic-resistant bacteria in food animals is a major public health threat. Information on the prevalence of resistance to specific drugs in both bacterial and animal species together with changes occurring over time, are necessary to understand the magnitude of the problem and to establish baselines for taking action.

Surveillance should involve different bacterial species, veterinary pathogens, zoonotic bacteria and commensal bacteria used as indicators. The collected data should be periodically updated and the reports distributed among all relevant stakeholders such as practising veterinarians and regulatory authorities.

Collecting data on antimicrobial drugs used in food-producing animals will assist in tracking antimicrobial use trends and examining how such trends may relate to antimicrobial resistance. Antimicrobials used in Botswana are currently registered in neighbouring countries and allowed into the country by import permits issued by relevant authorities. A system is in place in Botswana for controlling the use of antimicrobials, and collection of data will need to be harmonised with best practises based on OIE standards.