

# HANDLE ANTIMICROBIALS WITH CARE. WE CAN ALL HELP!



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

**oie**  
WORLD ORGANISATION  
FOR ANIMAL HEALTH



World Health  
Organization

# ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE CAN AFFECT US ALL!

## TAKE ACTION NOW

### TO PROTECT HUMAN, ANIMAL, PLANT & ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

PREVENTION



EXPERT ADVICE



SOURCE



USE



AWARENESS & EDUCATION



#### FOOD SAFETY

- ! Adopt good hygiene practices throughout the food chain.
- ★ Implement legislation that is based on the standards of the Codex Alimentarius.
- ✓ Source food only from suppliers complying with regulations and using Good Hygiene Practices and HACCP\*\*.
- 🔑 Keep clean, separate raw and cooked, cook thoroughly, keep food at safe temperatures, start with clean water and safe raw ingredients.
- 🏠 Consumers have the power: support distributors and producers that follow good food safety guidelines and responsible use of antimicrobials.

#### HUMAN HEALTH

- ! Adopt good hygiene habits.
- ★ Ensure antibiotics are only used when necessary and under medical supervision.
- ✓ Avoid buying antibiotics from unregulated sources - they may be of poor quality and ineffective.
- 🔑 When using antibiotics: follow professional advice and never share medicines or use leftover drugs to treat a different illness.
- 🏠 Tell your friends, family and colleagues about the appropriate use of antibiotics.

#### FOOD PRODUCTION

- ! Adopt sound husbandry practices (biosecurity, hygiene and vaccination protocols). Don't use antimicrobials for growth promotion purposes.
- ★ Ensure antimicrobials are only used with prescription diagnosis and under supervision of an authorised professional.
- ✓ Use quality antimicrobials manufactured in accordance with international standards.
- 🔑 Use antimicrobials prudently, in accordance with professional instructions and respect label instructions, especially dosage and withdrawal periods.
- 🏠 Food producers should keep their knowledge up to date from reliable and trusted sources.

## NATIONAL AUTHORITIES

### LEGISLATION



Regulation is mandatory to promote appropriate use of antimicrobials: make sure legislation is implemented.



### RESEARCH

Support and finance the development of methods for the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of disease, to reduce dependence on antimicrobials.

### AWARENESS & EDUCATION



Raise public awareness and educate all stakeholders.



### SURVEILLANCE & MONITORING

Strengthen national AMR and antimicrobial use surveillance systems based on global standards.

#### ANIMAL HEALTH\*

- ! Adopt sound husbandry practices (biosecurity, hygiene and vaccination protocols).
- ★ Ensure antimicrobials are used on prescription after diagnostic and under supervision by a veterinarian.
- ✓ Use only high quality antimicrobials manufactured according to OIE international standards and sold only by authorised distributors.
- 🔑 Handle antimicrobials prudently and responsibly by respecting the dosage directions and professional advice.
- 🏠 Veterinarians should keep their knowledge up to date and raise awareness about antimicrobial resistance.

#### PLANT HEALTH

- ! Adopt good agricultural practices and integrated pest management (IPM) to reduce the risk of disease and need for antimicrobials.
- ★ Professionals are trained to recognize plant diseases and prescribe the best treatments.
- ✓ Always source Plant Protection Products (PPP) through authorised producers and distributors.
- 🔑 Use PPP appropriately: Fungal diseases do not respond to antibiotics.
- 🏠 Inform yourself about appropriate use of antimicrobials: you could reduce crop losses and save money and lives.

#### ENVIRONMENT

- ! Adopt good waste management practices to prevent run-off of antimicrobial residues from pharmaceutical companies, hospitals, crop production, animal and human waste.
- ★ Don't cut corners on waste disposal. Respect regulations and follow guidelines on waste management.
- ✓ Use only approved sources of antibiotics and avoid unregulated sources.
- 🔑 Treat waste water before release into the environment, follow guidelines for disposal, treatment and spreading of manure, and dispose of antibiotics according to guidelines.
- 🏠 Learn ways on how you can protect the environment from waste your operations produce.

\*terrestrial and aquatic

\*\*Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points

# TAKE ACTION NOW

## TO PROTECT HUMAN, ANIMAL, PLANT & ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH



- Antimicrobial agents, including antibiotics, have **saved millions of lives**, substantially reduced the burden of diseases in people and animals, **improved quality of life**, contributed to **improved food production and safety**, and helped **increase life expectancy**.
- **The emergence and spread of antimicrobial resistance (AMR)** in several microorganisms **is complicating the management of many infectious diseases**.
- **AMR is a major threat to human development and the fight against infectious diseases**. It endangers animal health and welfare, as well as food production. AMR also adversely affects the functioning of human, animal and plant health systems and economies.
- **Developing countries**, with a greater burden of infectious disease and limited resources, **will be the most adversely affected by AMR**.
- **AMR requires a collective and practical response**. Global Action Plan to guide countries in developing and implementing national action plans was endorsed by WHO, FAO and OIE in 2015.
- **For more information on the implementation of the Global Action Plan:**  
FAO website: [www.fao.org/antimicrobial-resistance](http://www.fao.org/antimicrobial-resistance)  
OIE website: [www.oie.int/antimicrobial-resistance](http://www.oie.int/antimicrobial-resistance)  
WHO website: [www.who.int/antimicrobial-resistance](http://www.who.int/antimicrobial-resistance)



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