OIE Global Conference on the Responsible and Prudent Use of Antimicrobial Agents for Animals:
Codex standards and guidelines

Paris, France
13 March 2013

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS 50 1963-2013

World Health Organization

Content

- Background on Codex
- Codex and its interest in the responsible and prudent use of antimicrobial agents
- Relevant standards and guidelines – what they aim to achieve
- Conclusion

Codex Alimentarius Commission

- Intergovernmental food standards-setting body
  - Established by FAO and WHO
  - Will celebrate its 50th anniversary this year

- 185 Member countries + 1 Member Organization (EU)

- 219 International observer organizations (e.g. OIE)

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS 50 1963-2013

World Health Organization

Objective of the Codex Alimentarius Commission

- Dual objective/mandate
  - Protecting health of consumers
  - Ensuring fair practices in food trade

Achieved through its standards, codes of practice, guidelines and other recommendations

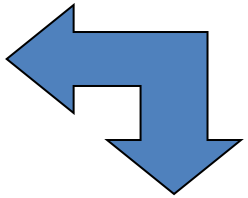
Codex standards

- Non-mandatory
- International benchmarks for harmonization under WTO SPS and TBT Agreements
  - SPS – food safety
- Reference for use by policy-makers and regulators

Codex Alimentarius
its scientific basis

Liaison & Separation

Codex ***(Risk management)***



FAO/WHO Expert Bodies ***(Risk assessment)***

- *or ad hoc* Expert Consultations

Codex interest in antimicrobial resistance

- Relationship between use of antimicrobial agents and the emergence of resistant microorganisms in the food chain – concern
- Extent to which use of antimicrobial agents in food animals/horticulture/humans contributes to antimicrobial resistance varies
- Prudent use of antimicrobials in food-producing animals, including aquatic animals, can assist in reducing potential for development of antimicrobial resistant microorganisms & thereby their transfer through food to humans

Codex interest in antimicrobial resistance

- Recognized need to address this – developed texts with ultimate goal to provide guidance that helps countries to minimize AMR

- Codex recognizes that a holistic approach needed -therefore worked closely with other international organizations, e.g. FAO, WHO, OIE to ensure a consistent approach through the food chain

Standards / guidelines

- Main texts:
  - *Code of Practice to Minimize and Contain Antimicrobial Resistance* (CAC/RCP 61-2005)
  - *Guidelines for Risk Analysis of Foodborne Antimicrobial Resistance* (CAC/GL 77-2011)

Codex guidance

- Recognizes importance of veterinary antimicrobials for controlling infectious diseases
- Stresses that appropriate systems be established to ensure that veterinary antimicrobials are manufactured, marketed, distributed, prescribed and used responsibly

Risk management

- Risk managers responsible for defining responsibilities:
  - National regulatory authorities, Veterinary pharmaceutical industry, veterinarians, distributors & producers of food-producing animals
- decisions should:
  - Reduce, as far as possible, any potential adverse effects on public health caused by using antimicrobials in food-producing animals
  - Minimise the development of antimicrobial resistance and enable safe & effective use of antimicrobials in veterinary medicine

This is mainly addressed through the Code of Practice to Minimize and Contain Antimicrobial Resistance

Codex guidance – how to address an AMR risk

- risk managers need to know how to deal with the risk
- take risk management decisions that are proportionate to the level of risk
- to achieve this: follow science-based risk analysis approach – essential tool in assessing risk to human health from a specific hazard

Activities range from preliminary risk assessment to risk assessment, risk management activities and risk communication

Such guidance mainly addressed through the *Guidelines for Risk Analysis of Foodborne Antimicrobial Resistance*

Preliminary risk management activities

- Initiated by the risk manager
- Determine the scope and size of food safety issue
- Leads to a decision to manage the identified risk

- Important aspect: development of <u>risk profile</u>
  - Describes the current state of knowledge about the food safety issue, the control measures in place and the potential risk management options

Risk assessment activities

- Identify the AMR hazard of concern & food commodity combination
- Assess the frequency & numbers of AMR microorganisms to which humans may be exposed
- Describes the magnitude & severity of the adverse health effect

- results used by risk manager

Risk management/communication

- When identifying risk management options should consider a range of points along food production to consumption continuum (pre-harvest and post-harvest)
- Risk communication important
  - Between risk manager and risk assessor
  - With consumers

challenge

However, risk analysis still new and before this can be done countries would need to identify any problems associated with foodborne antimicrobial resistance by setting up surveillance programmes

Conclusion

- Codex texts go some way to providing guidance to countries and contributing to responsible and prudent use of antimicrobial agents
- Containment of antimicrobial resistance requires collaboration of wide range of stakeholders, working together
- Much work still needed to ensure implementation & carry out risk analysis