SOUTH CENTRE

IMPLEMENTING THE 2024 AMR POLITICAL DECLARATION: INDUSTRY ACCOUNTABILITY AND EQUITY IN AGRIFOOD SECTOR TRANSFORMATION

Implementing the 2024 AMR Political Declaration:

Industry Accountability and Equity in Agrifood Sector Transformation

By Dr. Viviana Munoz Tellez

There is a dire need to accelerate the implementation of the targets and commitments agreed by United Nations (UN) member States in the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Political Declaration on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) of 2024, including for the agrifood sector.

On 2 July 2025, at the sides of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Conference, a high-level dialogue on AMR was held, co-organized by the Governments of Kenya and the United Kingdom (co-chairs of the Group of Friends of AMR), the South Centre, FAO, and the AMR Multi-Stakeholder Partnership Platform. The event took place at the FAO Headquarters in Rome, with in-person participation and webcast. Ambassadors and senior officials of Kenya, South Africa, India and Brazil, among others, made interventions in the high-level segment. The South Centre was also part of the panel.

The theme of the event "Industry Accountability and Equity in Agrifood Sector Transformation" provided an opportunity for forward-looking dialogue on the urgent need to transform how antimicrobials are used in agrifood systems, and the government's required leadership in developing and implementing national policy frameworks that are adapted to national contexts, priorities and needs to address AMR and in adopting measures to incentivize responsible practices in the agrifood sector.

The event also highlighted the new FAO Resolution on AMR adopted on 2 July by FAO member States.

The event was moderated by H.E Toby Parker, Chargé d'Affaires of the UK. Below follows a summary of the interventions and key take aways.

High-level panel

Mr. Godfrey Magwenzi, Deputy Director-General and Director of Cabinet, FAO

AMR is accelerating within a world already shaken by climate change, biodiversity loss, conflict and growing food insecurity. AMR is a global security threat, a silent pandemic that cannot be ignored. The 2024 United Nations General Assembly political declaration on AMR marks a turning point. For the first time, global consensus has given us clear measurable commitments, including for the agrifood sector. These include significantly reducing antimicrobial use in agrifood systems from current global levels, strengthening animal health systems and investing in prevention.

Today's dialogue is about accountability, about turning words into action and targets into transformation. We must stop treating antimicrobials as the default solution. They must become our last resort. The sustainable path forward includes prevention through vaccination, biosecurity and responsible alternatives, improved animal husbandry and welfare practices, healthier soils, plants, forests and ecosystems, and resilient health systems for both animals and people, guided by the One Health approach. AMR is not a sectoral problem, it is a systems challenge.

We must also address financing. Today, only 7% of AMR funding reaches agrifood systems, yet these systems feed the world, underpin economies and are the backbone for rural livelihoods, especially among the poorest. This is not just a funding gap, it is an equity gap. We must reposition agrifood systems as a strategic investment case for human security, food security and planetary health.

H.E. Fredrick Lusambili Matwang'a, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kenya to FAO

The adoption of the new FAO Conference resolution on AMR is a clear demonstration of our shared commitment to moving from words to action. This resolution stands on the shoulders of sustained effort. In 2015, the FAO adopted its first resolution on AMR, recognizing the threat it posed across human, animal and plant health. In 2019 a second resolution reaffirmed the importance of One Health and emphasized the need to support low and middle income countries, recognizing that AMR is and must remain a core priority of the FAO. Last year, September 2024, the UN General Assembly adopted a landmark political declaration on AMR, setting ambitious targets, including a global commitment to reduce antimicrobial use in agrifood systems by 2030.

Kenya's leadership in this space is grounded in lived experience. Agriculture contributes to over 30% of our gross domestic product (GDP) and millions of Kenyans, smallholder farmers depend on healthy animals and resilient food systems. We know too well that AMR is not an abstract threat, it is a real and rising challenge that undermines health, food security and development. For this reason, Kenya has taken an active role, along with the UK, in convening the FAO group of friends on tackling AMR in Rome, creating a space where dialogue leads to consensus and consensus leads to results.

The FAO resolution that we are celebrating today reflects our core principles of: shared accountability - where governments must lead, but industries, farmers and communities all have critical roles to play; context-specific actions - while AMR is a global threat, solutions must be tailored to national priorities, needs and capacities; equity - the burden of AMR falls disproportionately on low and middle income countries and they must be supported with financing, capacity building and fair access to innovation; and multisectoral engagement - from the field to finance, from producers to policymakers, AMR action must break silos and connect sectors.

H.E. Nosipho Nausca-Jean Jezile, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Republic of South Africa to FAO

We must acknowledge the centrality of the FAO in combating AMR within the agrifood systems, or agriculture and food sectors. South Africa is a member of the global AMR hub, the South Centre, and we have the One Health coordinated framework that involves the Departments of Health, Agriculture and Environment. In addition to this One Health framework in South Africa, we do have another institutional mechanism at the highest political level, which is referred to as the Ministerial Advisory Committee on AMR (Mac AMR). This reports to the Minister of Health, who is responsible to coordinate the work on AMR in the country. The national Department of Health has far advanced. The human health AMR surveillance is quite advanced. Similarly, for the agricultural sector, the country has initiated the national AMR surveillance on zoonotic diseases, working with the environmental sector ministry.

There is a joint One Health action plan in the country which includes the interplay between the livestock, wildlife and as well as the human elements in our research institutions. Research on zoonotic diseases is undertaken by the South African national institutions, namely the Agricultural Research Council, the South African National Parks, the National Zoological Institute, under the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), and the SANBI manages what we refer to as the wildlife biobank in South Africa, together with a consortium of other public entities and private facilities, which serves as a network of biobanks supported by the Department of Science and Innovation. The role of the private sector is central to advance the catalytic efforts to implement AMR in this regard.

Within the Group of Twenty (G20), there is a One Health dedicated session under the Working Group on Health in South Africa. We seek to consolidate the vast AMR research and surveillance work in the country being carried out at national institutions, including the private sector, particularly the livestock industry, the wildlife sector and the pharmaceutical industry. All of these parties that are involved serve to update their work in the context of this new declaration, with a goal of creating a national platform for reporting on AMR in agriculture and other related sectors, with specific emphasis on animals.

Mr. Guilherme Antonio da Costa Junior, Chief of Staff, Secretariat for Trade and International Relations, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock of Brazil (joining virtually)

Moderator: How does Brazil integrate scientific evidence and the One Health approach to guide its national and international efforts in combating antimicrobial resistance?

Brazil has taken significant strides to integrate scientific evidence and the One Health approach into its national and international strategies to combat antimicrobial

resistance. Recognizing AMR as a complex, multi-sectoral challenge, Brazil's actions are firmly aligned with the World Health Organization's global action plan and grounded in science, coordination and political will.

In 2018, Brazil launched its national action plan on AMR in agriculture, which is called PAN-BR Agro, led by the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock. The plan follows the five strategic objectives of the global action plan and brings together stakeholders across the animal health, human health and environment sectors. A key milestone was the creation of an inter-institutional Technical Committee, which is progressively ensuring the operationalization of the One Health approach, bridging gaps between disciplines and institutions.

Scientific evidence plays a central role. Brazil's objectives, restrictions and surveillance protocols are all informed by data and expert guidance. Since 2019, the country has implemented a comprehensive surveillance and monitoring system for AMR and antimicrobial use in poultry, swine and cattle. These systems follow World Health Organisation (WHO) recommendations and allow early detection of resistance trends, guiding targeted interventions.

Brazil has also taken decisive regulatory steps. Several medically important antimicrobials once used as growth promoters have been progressively banned. National legislation governs the authorization, manufacturing, and marketing of veterinary antimicrobials, with updates made to improve feed inspection and ensure safer use of drugs. In addition, Brazil has developed new guidelines for the rational use of antimicrobials and is reviewing laws to strengthen veterinary oversight.

Engagement with stakeholders is another cornerstone of Brazil's strategy. The RAM Agro Forum, recently created for the poultry and swine sectors, fosters dialogue between government agencies, academia and the private sector. A national communication campaign has been launched to raise awareness, promote responsible use, and encourage best practices in veterinary care and animal production. Public-private partnerships are being promoted to increase compliance and innovation.

Brazil is also deeply engaged in plurilateral and multilateral forums to tackle AMR on the global stage. During Brazil's presidency of the G20, we achieved in the ministerial declaration one specific point dealing with AMR, committing the G20 countries to fight AMR. The country participates in various regional and international initiatives to harmonize laboratory standards, improve diagnostics, promote the use of vaccines and explore alternatives to antimicrobials. Brazil also supports joint financing mechanisms to help implement biosecurity measures and sustainable husbandry, especially in low and middle income countries that face unique economic and environmental challenges.

Recognizing the interconnectedness of AMR drivers, Brazil supports and expands a research agenda focused on transforming animal production systems, reducing

dependence on antimicrobials and advancing innovation. The government is also advocating for greater investment in prevention, particularly for countries in tropical regions where both sanitary and economic conditions can amplify risks.

H.E. Jujjavarapu Balaji, Minister (Agriculture) and Alternate Permanent Representative of India to the UN in Rome

Moderator: What strategies are being employed to improve the oversight of sales, use and stewardship of antimicrobials in animals on farm level in India, and how does India plan to support the workforce development on prevention and stewardship to reduce the need for antimicrobials?

India is a large country. We have to feed 1.4 billion population. We have the largest livestock numbers - 500 plus million livestock, 800 plus million poultry. And we are the second largest producer of aquaculture - 150 million tons. So we are really committed to address the issue of antibiotics in the livestock and fishery sectors.

We are addressing this issue through multiple strategies, through action plans and the regulatory framework. We started in 2010, when the national task force on AMR containment was anchored in the health ministry, and later on we had the National Program on AMR containment. Subsequently, we aligned with the global action plan. We launched in 2017 the National Action Plan on AMR. It provided a framework for addressing AMR through coordinated actions, embracing the One Health approach across human, animal and environmental sectors. The plan focused on awareness, surveillance, stewardship, infection control, research and governance. Based on the lessons learned from this plan, now we are on the verge of launching the National Action Plan on AMR 2.

Coming to oversight, we have a regulatory national framework for addressing AMR issues, especially the antibiotic use. But I found in my experience, when working in the field, that regulation alone is not always enough. People should see value in it. The farmers should see value in it. There should be some economics in it. For example, we are one of the largest exporters of shrimp in the world. We do 6 billion shrimp exports, and we earn 34% in the United States market, around 14% in the UK market. So we made prevention of antibiotic residuals to meet US and UK standards. But when we try to implement in the field, we face serious problems. How can we reach out to 200,000 small farmers, one acre, half acre?

So then what we found, we said that all the processes should be checked, because the process, always, when it goes out, 100% should do testing of all these samples for antibiotics. They should have a missionary with them where they can have arrangements. And that really helped, because the farmer found that if something goes wrong, his product will not be purchased by the processor. Processors found that they cannot export

their container to the UK market or outside world if there are antibiotic residues and failures. The challenge is to find solutions.

We have established an Indian national network for fisheries and animals' antimicrobial resistance with collaboration with FAO and other research organizations. We also provide annual reports and contribute data to the global AMR surveillance system (GLASS), showing our strong commitment to AMR containment. We are also working on surveillance programs, and we also have some of the best vaccination programs in our country. Prevention is better than cure. We also give a lot of federal grants to the state governments so that together in the journey, we can participate. Traceability is important. We have a digital mission called Pashu Aadhaar, where we can find out every animal that is documented, and whether it is vaccinated or not. We have mobile veterinary units, around 4,000, so that they can reach every nook and corner of the country.

In 2024, we launched the Standard Veterinary Treatment Guidelines, in collaboration with FAO, the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and our research institution, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), with 80 veterinary experts covering 276 diseases. This is a very ambitious program, standardizing and ensuring responsible veterinary care across the country. Research for alternatives is another area. Indigenous or ethno-medicine is also an area we are working at.

Ms. Ariane Vander Stappen, Head of Unit, Antimicrobial Resistance, Directorate-General for Health & Food Safety (DG SANTE), European Commission (joining virtually)

Moderator: Given the European Union (EU)'s global leadership in regulating antimicrobial use in food producing animals, such as its prohibition of use for growth promotion, stringent surveillance and restrictions on prophylaxis and metaphylaxis, how does the European Commission envisage supporting the broader international implementation of Codex standards, particularly in low and middle income countries?

AMR is a serious and growing global threat and it can only be addressed through a strong One Health approach, and also globally. AMR is a top political priority. It's clearly mentioned in the mission letter for the new commissioner for health and animal welfare, and we support this priority with legislation, funding and exchange of best practices.

We have strong laws, clear targets and systems to monitor progress. We have banned antibiotics for growth promotion, limited preventive use and put in place strict surveillance. For example, we have the EU Council recommendation, which was adopted in 2023 and which sets ambitious, but hopefully realistic, targets to reach by 2030 - a 20% reduction in human use of antibiotics and a 50% reduction in antimicrobial sales for farm animals and aquaculture. We monitor this regularly and we are already seeing progress. Between 2018 and 2022 antimicrobial sales in the EU decreased by 28%, which is already halfway toward the 2030 target.

Implementation is complex. We have ambitious goals, and we know they are not easy to reach. In the EU as well, member states are in very different situations. Being a member state from the north or the south, the level of resources is different, the farming systems are different. And also, not the least, we have different national cultures. So implementing change is complex. This is why we really understand the challenges that low- and middle-income countries are facing in meeting Codex standards. We know that progress takes time, commitment and needs absolutely tailored support.

As we are convinced that addressing AMR needs a global approach, we are not only acting at EU level, but we are also supporting other countries. We contribute to the AMR Multi-Partner Trust Fund, the Multi-Stakeholder Partnership (MSP) platform, the Team Europe Initiative (TEI) with Africa. In Latin America, we supported seven countries to build AMR national action plans. The project is now completed, but there is another one ongoing in Asia, where we are funding with 8 million a regional action running up to 2025. We also have an EU training project, open to other countries, and certainly to low- and middle-income countries, which is called Better Training for Safer Food. It supports skills development across sectors and provides really targeted training according to the needs.

We believe governments must lead, absolutely, but industry, especially large agribusinesses, must also play their part by sharing information about antimicrobial use, investing in prevention and committing to alternatives.

Second panel on driving industry leadership in addressing AMR

Dr. Viviana Muñoz-Tellez, Coordinator, Health, Intellectual Property and Biodiversity Programme, South Centre

Moderator: How important is it for countries to collect and publicly share information on regulations and data on antimicrobial sales and use? How can industry support these efforts?

It is critical to move on the commitments made in the UNGA Political Declaration on AMR of September 2024 and the new FAO resolution of July 2025 for a collective effort to stop overuse and inappropriate use of antimicrobials, including preventing routine administration of antibiotics to healthy animals as a means of promoting growth and preventing infections.

A comprehensive accountability framework remains absent. We must collectively establish mechanisms to measure progress from assessing the impact of government regulations on antibiotic use in agriculture to evaluating improvements in veterinary prescribing practices and food industry stewardship across the entire farm-to-fork continuum. Establishing baselines is essential for setting meaningful targets.

Industry must demonstrate proactive antimicrobial stewardship through transparent action. This requires robust data collection as the foundation for monitoring AMR and

antimicrobial use (AMU) trends and understanding patterns. Countries are at different stages in developing surveillance systems. Most countries still have limited data on AMR and AMU in animals and food. This is particularly true for more resource constrained countries that are in need of financial and technical support to strengthen surveillance systems including laboratory infrastructure and data interpretation capacities.

Industry can and should support national surveillance programs, and the submission of data to global platforms that aggregate country and regional level data, such as the International FAO Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring (InFARM) Systemand FAO Assessment Tool for Laboratories and AMR Surveillance Systems (ATLASS). While global estimates suggest antimicrobial use in animal food production is excessive, the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) estimates 74,035 tons in 2022 with estimates of this doubling to 143,481 tons by 2040, we lack the granular data needed for targeted interventions. Current reporting focuses primarily on imports and sales data, while critical prescription and usage data remains limited. Industry stakeholders are uniquely placed to fill these data gaps.

Industry can also support providing data from private laboratory networks and provide funding support for surveillance efforts. We acknowledge legitimate concerns about data sharing, including potential trade implications, reputational risks, and data misinterpretation. Most country level data is still not disclosed publicly, although transparency is improving. These challenges must not prevent progress.

Equity must remain a framing principle for prioritizing actions. We must collectively develop positive incentives for data collection and reporting, such as linking surveillance participation to funding and capacity-building support. We therefore call on the private sector, especially large agro-food businesses, to embrace active partnership in compliance and surveillance efforts.

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Mr. Carel du Marchie Sarvaas, Executive Director, HealthforAnimals

Moderator: What can be done collaboratively by the public and private sector to promote use of vaccines, alternatives for antimicrobials and appropriate nutrition for infection prevention, control and treatment in terrestrial and aquatic animals?

We represent about 80-90% of the producers of vaccines, antibiotics, parasiticides, everything else in animal health globally. There have been dramatic reductions in antibiotic use over the last decade and a half, 50%. China, US, EU, UK, Thailand, anywhere between 49 to 65% over the last decade and a half. So we've seen that this is a starting point. The question for us is, how did they do that? There has been some success, how was that achieved?

It's basically doing four things. One, better biosecurity. What's the role of the private sector? It is to make sure their farms and operations have better biosecurity. But there's a role for the public sector to help them do that, financially and/or otherwise. Two, access to veterinary care. Every large declaration anybody has ever written on this subject says access to veterinary care is a major issue. So what can governments do there? They can help to increase access to veterinary care. That's investment, that's money, and it doesn't have to be public veterinary care. It can be private veterinary care as well; both work. Three, better nutrition. There are dramatic steps and dramatically great new products which increase the resistance of animals to disease. That's an area that, it’s not just the quantity of food, but also the quality of what they get and that they get the right mix of things. There's a lot to be done there, and from the government side, it's also helping the private sector to access those products.

But the one I'm going to dwell on, obviously, is vaccination. Big opportunities for disease prevention. Everything is about disease prevention. If we're not going to treat, then we have to prevent. I represent the pharmaceutical industry. What do we do? We make these products. We research them. We spend hundreds of millions, up to billions, developing vaccines, which we then hope to sell, sometimes for more money, sometimes at a loss. High-quality vaccines are what needs to be done.

But we have great problems, and this is where the role of government comes in. We think it is to make sure that the conditions for their use are increased. How do we get into markets? Are the approval systems working there? Let me remind everybody from the government in this room and online today, you all committed in September 2024, all of your ministers signed a document which said that you would have, by 2030, fully funded and planned strategies for vaccination for the major diseases. That's where the action lies. Every government in the world, bar one, signed on the dotted line for that. So that's what we should be doing. We should be working together, private and public, to put in place proper vaccination strategies.

There are barriers. We've got tolerance, much too high, of counterfeits. We've got some dysfunctional approval systems. We've got high cost to farmers. These are things that we need to address collectively to increase vaccination.

Ms. Thainá Landim de Barros, Animal Welfare Scientist, Science Unit, Four Paws International

Moderator: Preventative measures are key to reducing Antimicrobial Use in agri food systems. From your experience, how can improved animal welfare practices contribute to AMR prevention?

When we talk about animal welfare, what is important to remember is that it's not disconnected from good nutrition, from vaccination, from good husbandry, everything goes together. It will influence animal welfare. And when we talk also about animal welfare, which is the mental and physical state of an animal, we are not talking about only preventing cruelty or suffering of these animals, but allowing them to experience a good life.

What is the connection of having good animal welfare and prevention? We need to understand, when you talk about prevention, why are we using antimicrobials? In animal farming, it's related to prevention of diseases, treatment of diseases, and still, in some countries, growth promotion. For diseases, we need to understand what are the root causes? What are these diseases happening? And that's where animal welfare enters, because we are minimizing the predisposing factors, the drivers of diseases. If you have a barn packed with animals in stressful conditions, if you have stressful handling, if transport is not done in an adequate way, if you don't have good nutrition, if you have animals pushed to their physiological limits, you will have diseases. So that's where animal welfare enters.

Two other important points that we need to remember is that when we talk about vaccinations and alternatives, they are not magical. We still need to have good animal welfare to make these tools effective, because if not, you can have the best vaccine available, but if the animals are under stressful conditions, the vaccine will not be effective. Then we are wasting resources, both financial and workforce. So we still need to have good animal welfare for vaccinations and other alternatives. And also, I always like to point out that we are not talking about not using antimicrobials. For animals, we still need this tool. Veterinarians, farmers, we need to have this tool available to be used.

And if we restrict antimicrobials, but we do not improve animal welfare, then we also have an animal welfare issue. So it's not only about restricting; we need this tool in animal farming. Coming back to the Action Group on animal welfare and antimicrobial resistance nexus, which is part of the multi-stakeholder partnership platform, we produced a policy brief highlighting why we need to include animal welfare expertise in the formation of the Independent Panel on Evidence for Action against Antimicrobial

Resistance (IPEA). We need to have that, because we are talking now about implementation, but we need to know what we need to implement. What are the actions?

And when you talk about animal farming, it's not about one solution fits all. We need to understand the context and what will work depending on the socio-economic, cultural, and climatic context, because one thing that works for one country might not work for another country, or even within the country. For sure, we have a huge diversity of animal farming. We need all this evidence, and having animal welfare in IPEA will improve the scientific evidence that's going to be collected, and also make the policy recommendations even stronger. We need to collect all this knowledge and then bring it to action.

We need to have this in a multi-sectoral way. It's not the responsibility of only one sector. It's not just farmers. They need support from communities. They need to understand how to implement, because if we just say, "do this" without providing support, we are signing failure. So we also need to provide this support, from training to financial resources.

Mr. Nicolò Cinotti, Secretary, International Poultry Council (IPC)

Moderator: From the perspective of the poultry sector, what practical steps can industry associations take to strengthen workforce skills and their implementation, particularly in lower and middle income countries?

AMR is a challenging topic, and it's at the top of agendas for everyone, and it is for the poultry sector as well. IPC is the global poultry meat producer association. We represent both national and regional producer associations and companies. We operate across 33 countries in the world, including some of the largest producers like Thailand, Brazil, United States, and some countries that, although are in a growing trajectory, the sector has not reached its full potential yet, like Honduras, Vietnam, Kenya, Nigeria, and Morocco.

It's important to recognize each other's roles. Who is doing what in this big game? You have international organizations and governments providing the regulatory framework. You have academia providing the scientific knowledge behind the framework. You have civil society pushing and asking for improvement. And then, at the end, you have the private sector implementing and putting food on the ground, implementing everything coming from all the other constituencies of this game. It's important to recognize that, and it's important to understand how we can leverage each other and better play our respective roles. We need to carefully assess the situation. Fighting AMR is a journey. It's not something simple. And when you start the journey, you have to recognize that on that path, people might start sooner or later. People might start from different points of view. People have different opportunities in terms of resources, staff, and other capacities.

It is really difficult to provide a single regulation, a single piece of paper, that impacts all players across livestock production in the same way, not only poultry. So what a global association like IPC can do is to transfer knowledge. This is something we did back in 2017, when IPC was the first global organization to approve an antimicrobial stewardship program. In 2019, together with WOAH, we also produced good practices to reduce the use of antimicrobials. The purpose of these two documents was to put together all the knowledge we had across all our members, from the most developed to those still developing, consolidated into a single document that can be implemented independently from where you are in the world, ensuring a degree of flexibility internally.

When it comes to implementation, it's crucial to focus on biosecurity and vaccination. Another key point is how you train your staff, particularly those who deal with animals on a daily basis. Animal management and flock management are key. If you can condense all the knowledge you have across the value chain into a single document, then each country can adapt it to their own peculiarities. That is a major step forward.

But what can an association do also? It's advocacy. As the International Poultry Council, what we advocate is: let's all speak the same language. Too often, we see forums where countries and entities refer to topics with different words. Sometimes we are not speaking the same language. I think it's really important, if we want to progress on this topic, to find a common language. We were running a project in IPC together with other entities on AMR, focusing on individual countries. We realized that sometimes basic issues are not taken into consideration. There are certain languages in the world where the word "AMR" does not exist, where the word "antimicrobials" does not exist.

On one hand, I appreciate the sophistication that the debate has reached in certain forums. On the other hand, there are several basic steps we still need to undertake. IPC is here to collaborate with everyone who might need this know-how.

Ms. Sofia Condes, Director of Investor Outreach, FAIRR Initiative (joining virtually)

Moderator: How is FAIRR engaging with the investor community and the food industry to change where money is invested and what kind of incentives of reporting tools could help accelerate the shift across the agri food system?

FAIRR is a global investor network. We count over 450 members in our network, representing a combined 80 trillion in assets under management. Investors are increasingly aware of the global threat of AMR and the need to address it with urgency. Investors approach AMR from a systemic, economic, and financial risk perspective. FAIRR is taking a holistic approach to trying to support investors in minimizing such risks in their exposure to the food and agriculture sector. AMR is one of five topics where we support investors.

Almost 10% of global equity markets, or in terms of dollars, 14.6 trillion of capital, is estimated to be exposed to AMR-related risks. This is particularly relevant in high-income markets. This statistic was calculated by the MSCI Sustainability Institute. Also, investors are aware that, as estimated by the World Bank, AMR could cause annual GDP losses that would represent a reduction of 3.8% of global GDP by 2050. As an investor, this is alarming, especially if you have a long-term investment horizon, which, for example, will be the case for a pension fund. You see high risk coming from AMR in the coming decades and will prioritize minimizing such risks to ensure long-term stability in your global portfolio. The vast majority of antimicrobial sales are still for feed and food-producing animals, and investors are increasingly aware that this trend threatens future antibiotic efficacy, potentially affecting the productivity and profitability of the food industry.

Investors have a unique opportunity to engage with investee companies, the companies they hold in their portfolio, to drive individual and value chain changes in combating AMR. Any company in the world needs capital for its journey and growth. As investors who hold shares or bonds, they can make capital allocation decisions with those companies, so they have a unique influence. For example, investors can ask for increased disclosure of antibiotic use from companies. They can also support and encourage companies to take more responsible antibiotic use practices, such as avoiding antibiotics for growth promotion. They can also support with capital and incentivize research and development. By working collaboratively, investors can address some of those existing gaps and promote sustainable practices.

Investors can also encourage improved regulation and engage in multi-stakeholder initiatives like Investor Action on AMR, which was co-founded by FAIRR and aims to build an AMR investor community and galvanize action to counter the development of AMR. This initiative now counts with the support of 23 institutional investors, representing 13 trillion in assets under management.

FAIRR is supporting investors by giving them the data, tools, and research they need to understand more about their exposure to AMR in the food value chain. This enables them to identify what best practice looks like for companies regarding antibiotic usage, and encourage companies to adopt those best practices. We focus on giving investors data on the 100 largest companies in the protein value chain, which have influence across markets and impact billions of consumers.

Comments from the floor

Mr. Soula Jean-Jacques, Special Advisor to the Director-General of the World Organisation on Animal Health (WOAH)

According to the Eco AMR study recently published by WOAH and the World Bank, AMR is forecasted to be the cause of death for more than 39 million people by 2050 and to shrink our economies by close to a trillion US dollars due to animal production losses.

Strengthening AMR regulatory frameworks is essential, and for that, the implementation of WOAH standards on the responsible use of antimicrobials is key. Responsible use of antimicrobials does not include utilization for growth promotion purposes. The impact of such utilization must be acknowledged and phased out. Because healthy animals do not need antimicrobials, the prioritization of prevention is essential. Animal welfare is an integral part of animal health; the use of antimicrobials must never replace the presence of proper conditions in which animals are maintained or raised. Biosecurity measures must be present all along the way, preventing the arrival and the spread of infectious diseases. Animal vaccination is a powerful tool to reduce the need to use antimicrobials.

Concluding remarks

Mr. Thanawat Tiensin, FAO Assistant Director-General, Director of the Animal Production and Health Division, FAO

After this afternoon's dialogue, FAO can propose five actions: We need to launch a high-impact public-private partnership under the Reduce the Need for Antimicrobials on Farms for Sustainable Agrifood Systems Transformation (RENOFARM) Initiative , with co-design and co-investment for AMR solutions; we will continue to create economic incentives for farmers through the RENOFARM 5G - good health services, good production practices, good alternatives, good connections and good incentives, which will lead the whole process of change; we need to mobilize country-led flagship programs to translate the global plan to national actions; we need to strengthen the organizational collaboration; and we need to empower low and middle income countries. This year we will also launch the One Health and AMR in Agrifood Systems Knowledge and Intelligence Hub. We will also launch the first report on AMR in action, the first report on the economic impact of AMR in livestock production, and the first global report on international AMR surveillance in agrifood systems.

Summary of the panel suggestions for increased industry action on AMR

Data and Transparency: Industry should voluntarily support national surveillance programs and submit data to global platforms like InFARM and ATLASS. Companies can move beyond sales data to include prescription and actual usage information, provide surveillance data from private laboratory networks, and support funding of surveillance efforts on AMR and AMU in resource-constrained countries.

Invest in Prevention: The private sector must implement farm-level biosecurity measures, invest in research and development of quality vaccines, develop advanced nutritional products that enhance disease resistance, and create antimicrobial alternatives and innovative prevention technologies. This should be supported by government financial and technical assistance for accessing these solutions.

Stewardship and Compliance: Complete elimination of antimicrobials for growth promotion purposes globally, implementation of rational antimicrobial use practices, ensuring veterinary supervision of antimicrobial use, combating counterfeit products and maintaining quality standards throughout supply chains.

Capacity Building and Knowledge Transfer: Training personnel in responsible antimicrobial use, particularly those with daily animal contact, supporting developing countries with technology transfer and best practice sharing, participating in multi-sector forums and public-private partnerships, and developing culturally and linguistically appropriate educational materials. The dialogue revealed that basic AMR terminology does not exist in certain languages, requiring fundamental education before sophisticated policy implementation.

Financial and Policy Support: Directing capital toward AMR-compliant operations and responsible producers, providing transparent reporting on antimicrobial use and resistance patterns, supporting enabling regulatory frameworks while maintaining high standards, and creating economic incentives that reward responsible practices throughout value chains.

Innovation and Research: Increasing funding for alternatives to antimicrobials including vaccines, probiotics, and other interventions, partnering with academic institutions and research organizations, sharing innovations with developing country producers, and supporting research on prevention effectiveness and economic benefits.

Takeaway

The dialogue also emphasized that industry action must be coupled with government policy support, and recognition of different starting points and capacities across countries and production systems. Collaborative approaches combining better biosecurity, veterinary care access, improved nutrition, vaccination programs, and compliance with government regulations, can achieve significant progress towards the UNGA High Level Declaration on AMR targets and commitments.

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