

# Recommendations of the OIE Sub-regional workshop on antimicrobial resistance in aquaculture in the SADC region, 26-28 November 2019, Durban, RSA

Considering that:

AMR is a global One Health challenge in human health, animal (aquatic and terrestrial) health, food safety, plant health and the environment and that it must be addressed through coordinated implementation of the Global Action Plan and, for the animal health sector, the OIE Global Strategy on AMR and Prudent Use of Antimicrobials;

Considering that:

Antimicrobial agents for treatment of diseases in aquatic animals are overused in some aquaculture sectors or countries. Alternative methods for disease prevention are needed to complement and facilitate prudent antibiotic usage and maintain effective antibiotics for treatment in human and veterinary medicine;

## **Recommendations to the Tripartite:**

- Support member countries to develop their AMR surveillance plans in aquaculture, including surveillance on AMR burden of the environment from aquaculture.
- Develop treatment guidelines on AMU in aquaculture as informed by the GAP, OIE strategy on AMR and Prudent Use of Antimicrobials and the FAO Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance 2016-2020
- Support capacity building in AMU data collection in aquaculture
- Support development of laboratory capacity in Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing in the human, veterinary and the environmental fields.
- Promote capacity building for aquatic animal vaccine production in the region.
- Advocate for transparency in communication and information sharing on AMR and AMU within countries, on regional- and global level

## **Recommendations to OIE Members:**

- Integrate awareness of AMR in aquaculture into the AMR NAPs and encourage interdisciplinary collaboration with all relevant stakeholders in its implementation.
- Encourage compliance with international standards on AMR, and where non-existent to use risk analysis, in accordance with OIE guidelines indicated in Aquatic Animal Health Code (Aquatic Code) on Import risk analysis (Section 2.0.) and the Risk analysis for antimicrobial resistance arising from the use of antimicrobial agents in aquatic animals (Chapter 6.5.)
- Specifically, encourage compliance with OIE standards (Aquatic Code, Section 6.) and guidelines for responsible and prudent use of antimicrobial agents in aquatic animals
- Adopt and implement good aquaculture practices in the production of aquatic animals including awareness and education on the significance of the environment
- Implement hygiene and biosecurity measures in aquaculture while promoting advances in disease management to reduce the need for antimicrobials
- Report accurate AMU in aquaculture to the OIE Global database on antimicrobials intended for use

in animals in accordance with their international obligations.

- Encourage effective communication between OIE Delegates, focal points for Aquatic animal health, focal points for veterinary products, and Aquatic animal health professionals to strengthen risk assessment and risk management on AMR in aquaculture.
- Promote the development, availability and use of vaccines (in favour of antibiotics) in aquatic animal disease control
- Lobby for capacity building in aquatic animals' vaccine production
- Initiate laboratory capacity development and education on AMR in aquaculture
- Invest in human capacity to support implementation of AMR NAP in aquaculture
- Explore the use of innovative alternative methods of disease control in aquaculture in addition to vaccines and use of antimicrobial agents
- Establish regulatory frameworks for the control of AMR and AMU in aquaculture
- Leverage on public private partnerships (PPP) in resource mobilisation for implementation of AMR NAPs

- Publish and share country data on AMR and AMU in aquatic animals
- Use AMR and AMU surveillance and monitoring data to inform policy decisions and actions
- Promote research and understanding on AMR (and related topics) under aquaculture settings including environmental health.
- Lobby the veterinary drug and feed manufacturers for formulations specific for aquatic animals.

### **Recommendations to SADC secretariat:**

- Use its convening power to ensure aquaculture is an integral part of the SADC framework on AMR, supporting inclusion of aquaculture in SADC Member Countries' NAPs and including AMR and AMU in aquaculture into their surveillance systems
- Finalise the SADC framework on AMR that will serve as a guide to MS in the SADC region
- Engage in continuous high-level advocacy and capacity building to control AMR in aquaculture with the Tripartite.