3. FAO–OIE–WHO support for multisectoral partnership to combat AMR

The fight against antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is a global development issue that requires multisectoral partnerships. Collaborative action through successful governance at the national level can serve as a model for effective partnership in the era of the SDGs.

Significant progress has been made on the implementation of the *Action Agenda for Antimicrobial Resistance in the Western Pacific Region* and the *Global Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance*. Through collective support from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and WHO, 9 countries have launched multisectoral national action plans, and 11 more are finalizing such plans.

The collaboration among FAO, OIE and WHO supports subregional initiatives to identify common gaps and challenges, as well as the way forward for collective action on AMR. In January 2017 – at the Meeting on Multisectoral Action on AMR in Cambodia, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic and Vietnam – representatives from agriculture, environment, health and trade sectors collectively developed a five-year road map for national and subregional action. In February 2017, 13 Pacific island countries identified collective actions at the Meeting on Quality Assurance and Rational Use of Essential Medicines. A third subregional FAO–OIE–WHO initiative brought together representatives from agriculture and health ministries from 12 countries and areas to identify recommendations for the Region in finalizing and implementing national action plans, in particular on systems strengthening, behaviour change, AMR surveillance and monitoring of antimicrobial consumption across sectors.

At the national level, FAO, OIE and WHO are working together to support multisectoral governance mechanisms that include, but are not restricted to, ministries of agriculture and health. In November 2016, two dozen countries and areas held national campaigns during World Antibiotic Awareness Week employing a collective One Health approach targeting health professionals and students from the human and animal health sectors with the key message “think twice before using antibiotics”. National multisectoral partnerships supported by FAO, OIE and WHO are needed to strengthen the global effort to combat AMR.