Republic of Maldives

Country report on the current situations of the use of antimicrobial agents as growth promoter

Mariyam Ajila
Project Officer at Ministry of Fisheries, Marine Resources & Agriculture
Legislation related to the use of antimicrobial agents in feed as growth promoter

- Maldives does not have a legislation to manage animal feed
- In AMR Action Plan under objective 2.2; Build laboratory capacity under the leadership of a National Referral Laboratory (NRL) to produce high-quality microbiological data for patient and food-safety management and support surveillance activities
  - Identify National Reference Laboratory (NRL) for AMR Surveillance in Maldives with expertise in methods for confirming and characterizing specific pathogens, performing susceptibility testing, organizing quality assurance and participating in external quality assurance schemes (EQAS)
- This was planned for 2017, However this objective is yet not achieved
- The challenges include;
  - Lack of technical expertise
  - Lack of a laboratory to test animal feed
Current Situation & Way forward

- The import of animal feed is not monitored by any authority and No specific standard to check the quality of animal feed
- Under this action plan objectives were made;
  - to test animal feed for presence of antimicrobial resistant organisms and antibiotic residues as part of the overall surveillance of AMR & AMU
  - To develop expertise in methods for confirming and characterizing specific pathogens, performing susceptibility testing, organizing quality assurance and participating in external quality assurance schemes
  - To coordinate a national network of surveillance laboratories to monitor AMR in human clinical, animal, food and environmental samples
- The action plan highlights the need for a laboratory designated to cater animal samples
- Still discussions are ongoing regarding the implementation of these activities to achieve the objectives of this Action Plan
Thank you!