

Workshop on monitoring of antimicrobial usage in animals in Bhutan



The OIE in collaboration with the Department of Livestock (DOL), Ministry of Agriculture and Forests, Royal Government of Bhutan, organised a workshop to monitor the antimicrobial usage (AMU) in livestock sector in Bhutan on 25-26 December 2019 at Thimphu.

A total of 55 participants representing various government sectors such as the DOL, Ministry of Health, the Drug Regulatory Authority, and private sector representatives from drug importers and distributors and livestock industry attended the workshop to understand the current regulations for antimicrobial usage (AMU) in livestock, aquaculture and agriculture. The workshop also discussed on the roles of various stakeholders including the private sector in sharing quality AMU data to the DOL for further submission to the OIE. The DOL is the focal agency mandated to collect, manage and share AMU data with the OIE. During the workshop, the national AMU supply chain map was developed, and detail discussions were held to develop a framework for Bhutan's national AMU monitoring system for the antimicrobials used in animals.

Since the launch of Bhutan's National Action Plan on AMR (2018-2022) in 2017, this is the first workshop on monitoring of AMU in animal sector organised by the DOL through technical and financial support of the OIE Regional Representation for Asia and the Pacific. On the third day (27 December), a seminar on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) was also organised and facilitated by the OIE to create awareness on AMR to the private livestock sector (poultry, piggery, dairy, fishery) in Bhutan.

The outputs of the AMU monitoring workshop will be used by the DOL to develop a holistic national AMU monitoring system for Bhutan and ultimately improve the quality of AMU data being submitted to the OIE.

Dr Tashi Samdup, the OIE Delegate and the Director General of the Department of Livestock, who is also the Vice-President of the OIE Regional Commission for Asia and the Pacific attended the AMU monitoring workshop and chaired various sessions.

More information about this workshop can be found at <http://www.moaf.gov.bt/?s=antimicrobial+usage>

Reported by Dr Kinzang Dukpa, Regional Project Coordinator