Codex Alimentarius Efforts on Antimicrobial Resistance

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Codex Antimicrobial Resistance

- Process for Development
- Previous Codex Work
- Current Work
Codex Process

• Lengthy process to develop code
• Standing committees
• Working Groups
  – Physical
  – Electronic
• Task Forces
  – 3 to 4 year life
Codex Process – Steps Take Time

The Codex step procedure

Before a decision is made to undertake the development of a new standard or other text, a project proposal is prepared and discussed at Committee level.

| STEP 1 |
The project proposal is reviewed by the Executive Committee and compared against the criteria and priorities established by the Commission.

| STEPS 2, 3 AND 4 |
A draft text is prepared (Step 2) and circulated to member countries and all interested parties for comment (Step 3). The draft and the comments are reviewed at Committee level (Step 4) and, if necessary, a new draft is prepared.

| STEP 5 |
The Commission reviews the progress made and agrees that the draft should go to finalization. After this stage, the draft is also endorsed by the relevant General Subject Committees so that it is consistent with Codex general standards.*

| STEPS 6 AND 7 |
The approved draft is sent again to governments and interested parties for comment and finalized by the relevant Committee. The draft is submitted to the Commission for adoption.

| STEP 8 |
Following a final round of comments, the Commission adopts the draft as a formal Codex text. The standard, guideline or other text is then published by the Codex Secretariat.

* Sometimes the text is considered to be ready for final adoption at this stage - often called Step 5/8.
Codex Prior AMR Work

- Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Food
- Code of Practice to Minimize and Contain Antimicrobial Resistance
Codex Prior AMR Work

- Code of Practice was completed in 2005
- Laid out responsibilities for regulation, distribution and use of antibiotics in food animals
- Much of it is duplicative of OIE Code of Practice
Codex Prior AMR Work

• First Task Force on AMR

• Guidelines for the Risk Analysis of Foodborne Antimicrobial Resistance

• Completed in 2011
Current Codex AMR Work

- Second Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance (TFAMR) approved July, 2017
- Hosted by South Korea
- Physical Working Group to develop Scope hosted in London, December 2016
- E Working Groups on the documents
  - US*, China, Kenya and UK
  - Netherlands*, Chile, China and New Zealand
London Physical Working Group
Developed Scope Documents

• Revise Code of Practice
• Develop a Surveillance and Monitoring Document
• Ask FAO for Additional Scientific Information
Current Codex AMR Work

• Revision of the Code of Practice
  – Broden scope beyond food animals
  – Risk-based guidance for entire food chain
  – Objective – minimize risk to Public Health from development and spread of foodborne AMR
  – Scientifically supported, take into account new development
  – Consider lists of Critically Important Antimicrobials
Current Codex AMR Work

• Surveillance and Monitoring
  1. Purpose – provide guidance on design and implementation of integrated surveillance of AMR along the food chain
  2. Scope
     – Resistance
     – Use
     – Humans, Animals, Crops and Food
Current Codex AMR Work

• E Working Groups have commented on a first draft of both documents
• Revisions made, out for comments (Due October 25)
• Will be considered at Step 3 at a TFAMR meeting in South Korea end of November
• FAO is also developing scientific information for consideration by the Task Force members
Challenges

• Scope Creep
  – Stray from Codex mandate of “through food”
  – Stray toward pre-harvest

• Cultural Differences on Regulation
  – Precautionary approach

• Different governments have different levels of interactions with their stakeholders

• Some country’s Codex representatives may not have technical background