

# Application of Biosecurity Measures to Reduce Antimicrobial Use in Livestock Production in Sri Lanka

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## Problem statement

- Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is a growing global health threat affecting humans, animals, and the environment.
- In Sri Lanka, the poultry sector is one of the fastest-growing livestock industries and plays a key role in national food security and nutrition.
- However, intensive production systems can increase antimicrobial use when farm biosecurity and disease prevention practices are inadequate.
- Poor biosecurity leads to higher disease incidence and increased reliance on antimicrobials, increasing the risk of AMR development

## The solution/Innovation

- Sri Lanka strengthened the application of biosecurity measures and prudent AMU in Livestock production systems by the Department of Animal Production and Health (DAPH), through a coordinated One Health approach
- The initiative is supported by supported by national policy frameworks such as the National Action Plan for Health Security (NAPHS) and the National Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance (NAP-AMR).
- Key interventions:
  - Promoting and Strengthening farm biosecurity/hygienic/management practices throughout the production chain
  - Improving disease surveillance and reporting
  - Training veterinarians and farmers on Preventive approach such as application of biosecurity measures, vaccination and responsible antimicrobial use

## Key results/impacts

- Strengthened biosecurity measures has contributed to reduced disease incidence in livestock farms and a gradual reduction in AMU.
- Increased awareness of veterinarians and farmers has improved responsible AMU.
- The promotion of antimicrobial-free poultry production has created market incentives for Sustainable Livestock Transformation through Preventive Approach.

## Scalability and regional relevance

- Strengthening biosecurity combined with national AMR policies and private sector engagement can effectively reduce antimicrobial use.
- This approach is suitable for many countries in Asia and the Pacific region because:
  - It focuses mainly on improved management practices
  - It is cost-effective and practical
  - It can be adapted irrespective of the scale and the market orientation  
(ie: to smallholder and commercial farming systems)

## Partners and donors involved

### Partners:

Department of Animal Production and Health , Sri Lanka  
Ministry of Health, Sri Lanka  
University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka  
Private sector poultry industry partners including New Anthony's Group

### Donors:

Fleming Fund  
FAO/Pandemic Fund  
Asian Development Bank

