

Antibiotic Usage Education for Farmers

Pioneers

[ReAct Asia Pacific](#)

Countries



Project Overview

The project aimed to gather information on the barriers of tackling AMR at provincial and local level and broke down India's National Action Plan to state-level, focusing on issues of antibiotic use in food production.

Through its work, the initiative noted that a lot of antibiotic misuse is unintentional. For example, small scale farmers are using poultry waste with antibiotic residue to feed their fish. These farmers do not have the money or the resources to install biosecurity measures.

ReAct also found that economic incentives are crucial to enact behavioural changes. For example, the European Union's rejection of consignments of shrimp due to levels of antibiotics led to the introduction of biosecurity measures.

The programme has found that the use of antibiotics in poultry production is widespread in India. The sector has few big suppliers, who provide hatchlings, technical and veterinary support. This means that local farmers often have little choice in the use of antibiotics for their livestock.

The programme developed several activities, including workshops for farmers and food producers to educate about AMR. ReAct is also seeking to strengthen relationships between local farmers and governmental bodies involved in regulation in veterinary and fishing sectors.

Impact

Chicken and shrimp are inexpensive sources of protein in India, therefore solutions need to be found that meet the needs of a growing population and maintain farming in a sustainable way. Based on the findings of the project, ReAct is proposing solutions such as:

- A fund for compensation for farmers to cover any losses they incur by changing their antibiotic practices
- A global 'carbon credit'-like scheme to help reduce imbalance in antibiotic use in across the world
- Greater mobilisation of consumers to put pressure on large food producers