HealthyLivestock

Tackling Antimicrobial Resistance through improved livestock Health and Welfare

Launch of an exciting EU – Chinese research project

Brussels, Beijing, 25 October 2018

Today, October 25th, a new ambitious and ground-breaking project is launched: HealthyLivestock. Internationally renowned experts and scientists from the European Union and China will work together to tackle antimicrobial resistance (AMR). Academia, research institutes, private partners and companies decided to join forces for a better health and welfare of pigs and poultry.

A key pillar of the project is disease prevention. This combined, in case still necessary, with prompt and targeted interventions, will result in a reduced use of antimicrobials and less AMR: a clear win-win for animals and people.

Infectious diseases are the most common diseases in the world. In severe cases such disease can be very serious and life-threatening. Medicines against these diseases, called antimicrobials, are one of the most valuable inventions in the history of human and animal medicine. Since their discovery, antimicrobials saved the lives of millions of people and animals. However, every antimicrobial use inevitably promotes the emergence of defense mechanisms by the disease agent. Bacteria will become resistant to the treatment, making the once so valuable antimicrobial worthless.

In livestock production systems animals are more than often held under sub-optimal conditions. Moreover, efforts to maximize production put further pressure on the animals' immune system, making the animals more susceptible to infections. Finally this may result in situations where-in the animals get sick and have to be treated with antimicrobials, with an enhanced risk for the emergence of AMR.

HealthyLivestock has chosen to tackle antimicrobial resistance at its roots. Through a multidisciplinary approach it will lead to:

- a reduction of the risk for animals to get exposed to disease agents;
- an increased resilience of the animals towards disease challenges;
- an early detection of health problems and specific diseases;
- and if antimicrobials are needed, a more precise use or alternatives.

Special tools to help farmers will be developed. The outcome of HealthyLivestock research will be conveyed to all relevant parties: to farmers and veterinarians on the farm, but also to animal welfare organisations, politicians and decision makers, companies, etc.

HealthyLivestock is coordinated by Wageningen Research. The project will last 4 years. The European part is funded by the European Commission. The Chinese part is funded by the Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology.

Project partners are:

European Union	China
− Wageningen Research	− Institute Of Quality Standards & Testing Technology For Agro-Products of CAAS
− Wageningen University	− China Association for the Promotion of International Agricultural Cooperation
− Centro Ricerche Produzioni Animali - C.R.P.A. SpA	− Chuying Agro-Pastoral Group Co., Ltd
− Friedrich Loeffler Institut - Bundesforschungsinstitut fuer Tiergesundheit	− Beijing Dabeinong Technology Group Co., Ltd.
− Federation of Veterinarians of Europe AISBL	− Institute of Animal Science of CAAS
− Foodplus GMBH	− Lanzhou Institute of Husbandry and Pharmaceutical Sciences of CAAS
− IFIP - Institut du Porc Association	− Nanjing Agricultural University
− Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique	− Research Center for Rural Economy, Ministry of Agriculture
− Panstwowy Instytut Weterynaryjny - Panstwowy Instytut Badawczy	− New Hope Liuhe Limited Liability Company
− University of Newcastle Upon Tyne	
− Vita Trace Nutrition	
− Zoetis Belgium SA	
− Produkt + Markt Gesellschaft für Marktforschung und Marketingberatung GmbH & Co. KG	

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