

# A report on observation of World Antimicrobial Awareness Week 2020 (WAAW) in Nepal

The Department of Livestock Services (DLS), Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development (MoALD) along with different partners, has been organizing several events to raise awareness on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and rational use of antimicrobials among farmers, veterinarians, veterinary paraprofessionals, public and stakeholders at various level, during the WAAW every year. This year, the WAAW was scheduled on 18-24 November with the theme “Antimicrobials: handle with care”.

This year was particularly challenging due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, activities involving physical presence could not be organized due to difficulty in following the strict health protocols. Nevertheless, the DLS along with other partners organized some activities to make the WAAW week fruitful as outlined below.

## 1. Public message from the Prime Minister and line Ministries

The Right Honorable Prime Minister of Nepal, Mr. Khadga Prasad Sharma Oli, gave his public message on the occasion of the WAAW. Similarly, Honorable Minister for Forest and Environment Mr. Shakti Bahadur Basnet, Honorable Minister for Health and Population Mr. Bhanubhakta Dhakal and Honorable Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Development, Mr. Ghanashyam Bhusal released joint messages in the national newspaper, Gorakhapatra, on the occasion of WAAW 2020 (Figure 1). They urged for prudent use of antimicrobials in human and animals through embracing One Health approach as a tool to tackle against the growing threat of AMR.

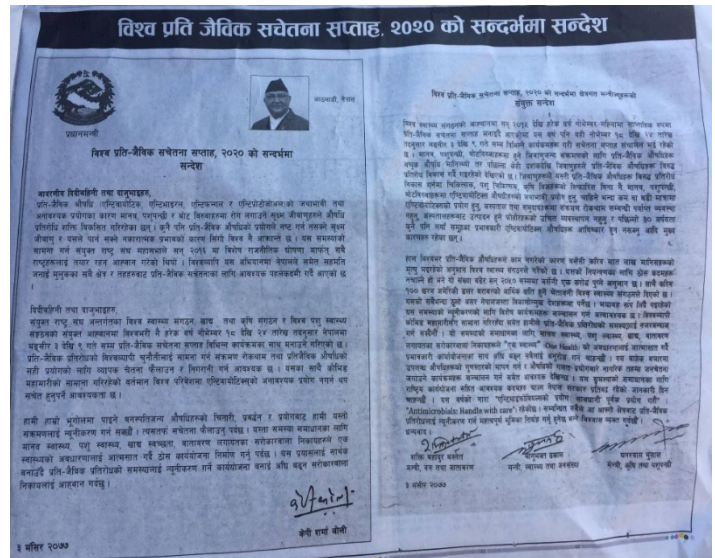


Figure 1: Public message from the Prime Minister and line ministries on WAAW 2020

## 2. Translation, Recording and Broadcasting of AMR Tripartite Video

The video on AMR awareness “Don’t let antimicrobial resistance take control” developed by FAO, OIE, WHO and UNEP was translated into Nepali language, recorded and broadcasted in national television (Nepal Television). This activity was supported through technical and financial support of the OIE Regional Representation for Asia and Pacific (OIE RRAP), Japan. The aim of this activity (Figure 2) was to disseminate the key messages about AMR in Nepali language to all the stakeholders in Nepal for prudent and responsible use of antimicrobials in humans, animals, and the environment.

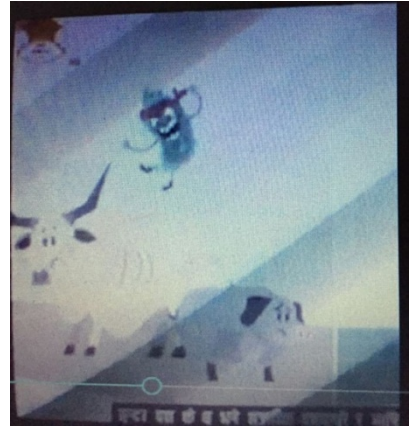


Figure 2: Glimpses of the video broadcasting in national television, Nepal Television (NTV logo at the left upper corner)

The three-minute video was aired on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 just before the evening news (prime time) on Nepal Television (NTV) which is Nepal’s national television channel (Figure 3). Nepal Television is the only government owned and oldest national television channel in Nepal. This channel is one of the most watched channels in Nepal and is viewed throughout the country. This channel has most viewers during the evening news. Therefore, the airing time was chosen to ensure the video gets watched by maximum viewers.

### 3. Future plans to use the AMR video

The DLS has plans to distribute the AMR video to all stakeholders that include Department of Health Services, academia (universities, schools, technical institutes etc), professional associations of farmers, national and international non-governmental organizations and others. The video will also be sent to the local television channels in different parts of the country. The video will be an important asset to create mass awareness on AMR including during various trainings for farmers, students and other stakeholders.

Figure 3: Broadcasting Certificate from Nepal Television

**Nepal Television**  
Business Division  
Singha Durbar, Kathmandu, Nepal

S.No. 4269  
Date: 1/4/2021

**Advertisement Release Certificate**

Start Date: 1/1/2021      End Date: 1/1/2021

Agency/Party Name: Chitran, ad media  
Advertise Name: Notice-AMR  
Duration (Sec): 180

Program Name: News at 8:00pm

Position of Advertise	Start Date	End Date	Duration (Sec)	No. Of Times	Total (Sec)
Before News	01-01-2021	01-01-2021	180	1	180.00
<b>Grand Total:</b>					<b>180.00</b>

Prepared By: [Signature]  
Adv. [Signature]

Checked By: [Signature]  
Review Section

Approved by: [Signature]  
Chief Business Division

#### 4. Virtual interaction among stakeholders on the topic “Situation of AMR in Nepal: Evidence and Policies”

The DLS and FAO-ECTAD Nepal jointly organized a virtual interaction on Monday, 24 November 2020 among various stakeholders with the objectives:

- i. to increase awareness among one health stakeholders on AMR
- ii. to share/update Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) situation in animal and human health
- iii. to share/update Antimicrobial use (AMU) situation in animal health
- iv. to update on the major provisions planned in animal health in the proposed National Action Plan (NAP)

Five presentations from different stakeholders were presented and the major recommendations were:

1. The AMR data sharing mechanism has to be strengthened by developing a platform or mechanism to share the data regularly across the key stakeholders of different sectors apart from the periodic organization of these kinds of workshops that bring together wider circle of stakeholders.
2. The AMR surveillance coverage has to be increased in the public health sector.
3. The AMR active surveillance has to be started in the animal health sector as soon as possible and more veterinary laboratories have to be included in the laboratory network for AMR surveillance in the country.
4. The AMR surveillance has to be initiated in the food and the environment sector, too.
5. Efforts have to be directed also towards establishing the risk factors and the probable sources of AMR in the country context.

#### 4. Various webinars organized by veterinary students’ associations.

The Nepal Veterinary Students’ Associations, and the International Veterinary Students Association in Nepal also organised webinars (Figure 4) on AMR during the WAAW 2020.



Figure 4: Banners of various webinars organized by veterinary students’ associations on the occasion of WAAW 2020.

Experts on AMR were invited to provide talks on latest updates on AMR and such webinars provided opportunity for the veterinary students to update their knowledge on AMR and also understand the current issues and challenges related to AMR.

### **5. Distribution of AMR awareness materials (brochures, posters) to farmers, veterinarians, veterinary students, agrovets and others**

During the WAAW 2019, the DLS with support from OIE-RRAP translated OIE awareness materials in Nepali language and disseminated them to different parts of country. Some of the remaining printed materials were again distributed to the farmers, veterinary students, veterinarians and others during the WAAW 2020.

### **Conclusion**

The Department of Livestock Services, FAO-ECTAD Nepal, and the Veterinary Students' Association conducted several activities to keep the stakeholders updated on the situation of AMR in the country during the WAAW 2020. The translation and broadcasting of the Nepali version of the AMR awareness video in the National Television has definitely helped to create awareness on AMR among the public, professionals and farmers. Further, this video shall be used as a teaching tool to create awareness on AMR to various stakeholders in the future events/training. Despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the DLS could successfully organize some events to keep the agenda of AMR high during the WAAW 2020.

### **Acknowledgements:**

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