

Governance of Veterinary Antimicrobial Supply Chains in Low- and Middle-Income Countries at International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)

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Job Description

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The International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) works to improve food security and reduce poverty in developing countries through research for better and more sustainable use of livestock. ILRI is a CGIAR research centre – part of a global research partnership for a food-secure future.

About the position

Antimicrobials are essential medicines for human and animal health and welfare. Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) threatens global public and animal health, as well as economic and food security with low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) being disproportionately affected. Both the World Health Organization and the World Organisation for Animal Health have developed a prioritized list of critically important antimicrobials for human and veterinary medicine, respectively. This ranking allows for focused management of specific antimicrobial classes to preserve their efficacy and to reduce the use of critically important human antimicrobials in food animals and crops. Colistin is considered one of the last resort drugs to treat infections with multidrug-resistant Gram-negative bacteria, but this antibiotic is commonly used in livestock production for prophylaxis and growth promotion in LMICs.

Recent studies have estimated that more than half of the antimicrobials available on the African market are either sub-standard or counterfeit, raising concerns about ineffective treatment and exposure to sub therapeutic levels of antimicrobials, which has been shown to

promote resistance amongst bacteria. Moreover, antimicrobials are distributed and accessed through informal, difficult to regulate supply chains, affecting traceability of these sub-standard drugs. To fill key knowledge gaps, the PhD graduate fellow will use a combination of field epidemiology and social-network methods to investigate veterinary supply chain governance, that is, identify existing policies and regulations governing importation, registration, labelling and distribution of antimicrobials, and marketing of veterinary antimicrobials in at least two priority countries of the CGIAR Initiative on One Health and assess the knowledge, attitudes, and practices of various stakeholders in the supply chain. The PhD graduate fellowship position will be supported by the CGIAR Initiative on One Health and will be hosted by ILRI.

Responsibilities of the fellow:

Conduct a literature review on antimicrobial drug quality and veterinary supply chains in LMICs.

Map the policy landscape around importation, registration, distribution, labelling, and sale of veterinary antimicrobials in at least two priority LMICs.

Conduct key informant interviews and focus group discussions to assess knowledge, attitudes, and practices of key stakeholders in the antimicrobial supply chain e.g., government officials, agroveterinarians, farmers, etc.

Investigate if changes in antibiotic labelling and marketing influence customer purchasing habits.

Write scientific papers and conference presentations on the results from the PhD studies.

Communicate findings to relevant stakeholders (government, extension officers, farmers, etc.)

Provide supervision and guidance to field support staff and research assistants.

Minimum requirements for the ideal candidate:

Must have a BVM or DVM, with an MSc in Veterinary Science, Veterinary Public Health, Veterinary Epidemiology or Microbiology.

A good understanding of pharmacology, antimicrobial use, antimicrobial resistance, and

veterinary systems in LMICs.

Previous research experience within AMR policy, stakeholder analysis and conducting field epidemiological studies.

Experience in handling diverse datasets, data processing and statistical software such as R, Stata, SPSS, Matlab or NVIVO.

Proven publication track record and excellent communication skills.

Ability to jointly work in a multi-national, multi-disciplinary team.

Ability to supervise and guide research assistants and junior graduate students e.g., Bachelor or Masters level.

Based in Kenya full-time throughout the PhD programme with short research stays in priority research countries and at the University of Copenhagen, Denmark.

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