



A multi-stakeholder initiative for a more prudent use of antibiotics in the Poultry Sector in Mozambique



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The Poultry sector

Broilers

This multi-stakeholder initiative gathered a dozen participants from 4 types of organisations: the Mozambican Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MADER), Association of poultry farmers (ADAM), University Eduardo Mondlane (Faculties of Veterinary Sciences, and of arts and social sciences) and Cirad (French research institute). From October 2019, 5 meetings have been organised and also larger events have taken place, involving various other stakeholders (students, farmers, veterinarians, veterinary drugs sellers, policy makers...). This process is still ongoing.

The strategy tested in the Living Lab

The global objective of the Mozambican multistakeholder initiative was to influence the national policies on AMR in the livestock sector. Different strategies were implemented: research (surveys with farmers, vets, drugs sellers; drugs market analysis, 2020-2023), events for the AMR awareness week (2022), international field trip to La Reunion (2022), training (quantifying AB use, 2021), and regular meetings with the national committee on AMR. Some actions are still in progress, such as sharing our research results (on AMU by poultry farmers, and on drugs market) with the national committee on AMR; promoting exchanges of experiences with French farmers involved in AMU reduction in La Reunion; and promoting debate between authorities, farmers, vets and drugs sellers on the vet drugs legislation and other issues (during the awareness week). The aim is to promote, through the definition of a set of Best Practices Guidelines, alternatives to the on-going and rapid process of industrialisation of the poultry sector: this process relies on a growing use of AB and is supported by part of the national agricultural policies and the agricultural inputs sectors (chicks, drugs and feed sellers).

The roadmap to implementation

The multi-stakeholder initiative focused on the necessity of changes in the systems and structures beyond the farms, instead of focusing only on farmers levels. The first meeting was the kick-off meeting of the Roadmap project in Mozambique (November 2019). The following meeting and actions mainly focused on codesigning research activities and sharing and discussing the results. Our process was slowed down by the Covid-19 context and the low mobilisation of the vet drugs sector. The next step is to build alliances to support the development of less AB-dependant poultry production systems. The second step is to support a regulation of access to AB without compromising the access to vet drugs which is limited for the majority of farmers in rural areas.



The impact created by the Living Lab

AMU: The ROADMAP Mozambican collective action created a community of stakeholders (practitioners -farmers, vets-, policy makers, researchers). This proximity made easier access to data, and share of information and research results. This multistakeholder initiative contributed to build a shared diagnosis of the situation in the Mozambican poultry and vet drugs sectors. This diagnosis can influence the decision makers: for example, data produced on AB markets contributed to support decisions taken by the Ministry of Agriculture on drugs imports.

Animal Health and agroecological transition: This multistakeholder community was strengthened during the field trip organized in La Reunion. Moreover, during this field trip, the group was able to set the basis for potential collaboration with the directorate of Agriculture in La Reunion (DAAF) to support a 5 years training program for agroecological production systems in Mozambican poultry sector.

A One Health approach of AMR has been strengthened by our multistakeholder initiative since our group is active in raising the issue in relation to the animal sector in the mostly human health sector National AMR committee.



Challenges

- Systemic changes are needed to shift towards agroecological production systems, but require long lasting intervention, and the mobilization of a more diverse and larger number of stakeholders
- Technicians and veterinarians are not in enough numbers to support farmers towards this shift
- The actors of the poultry sectors are influential but have no interest in reducing AB use

Successes

- This initiative created a unique community of stakeholders involved in managing AMR in the Mozambican livestock sector
- Members of this initiative have been invited as permanent members of the National AMR Committee, based on their expertise built in the ROADMAP project.
- Graduate and postgraduate students completed their training at Eduardo Mondlane University

It is a huge challenge to manage AMR in a country where there is an ongoing unregulated process of modernization of the agricultural sector, relying on an increasing use of industrial inputs such as antibiotics. The issue of AMR needs to be addressed not only as a One Health issue but as an agroecological one.

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