

**No. 102-74/2014-Trade**  
**Government of India**  
**Ministry of Agriculture**  
**Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries**  
**Krishi Bhawan New Delhi**  
**Dated : 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 2014**

To,

**The Commissioner/ Director,**  
Department of Animal Husbandry,  
All State Governments and Union Territories

**Subject: Use of antibiotics in food producing animals**

Sir/ Madam,

This is in reference to the advisory issued by the department vide letter No.102-74/2014-Trade, dated 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 2014.

The controversy surrounding the use of growth promoters for animals destined for production of food is longstanding, as overuse of any antibiotic over a period of time leads to local bacterial populations becoming resistant to certain antibiotic(s). Recently, it has come to notice that, the residues of antibiotics like: Oxytetracycline, Chlortetracycline, Doxycycline, Enrofloxacin, Ciprofloxacin and Neomycin have been detected in the marketed poultry muscle, liver and kidney. It was however also reported that the levels detected were well below the permissible limits prescribed by other international agencies. Nonetheless, there are gaps in structured and focused approach to combat Anti-Microbial Resistance (AMR) at the livestock production end, which requires looking in-depth at our preparedness in controlling the same and capacity building.

2. The food producing animals are major protein sources in the human food chain. Therefore, if they are regularly fed with antibiotics, possible outcome may be edible tissue clearance, residue avoidance, and environmental safety concerns. The organisms/ pathogens susceptible to antibiotics may develop resistance against commonly used antibiotics.

3. Therefore, the following guidelines may be used for working out a strategy to ensure judicious use of antibiotics in order to prevent AMR:

- a) There is a need to review the Antibiotic/ Antimicrobial Growth Promoters (AGP) usage scenario in food producing animals in your State/UT.
- b) Antibiotics should not be allowed in feed and feed supplement as growth promoter of commercial stocks. However, antibiotics/ antimicrobials used in medicated feed, like some coccidiostats, which are not used in humans, need to be considered carefully, taking into account the endemicity and other factors. Though a stricter biosecurity should be encouraged, antibacterial/ antiprotozoal vaccines may be considered in endemic areas.

