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TAILOR-MADE COACHING FOR ANTIMICROBIAL REDUCTION IN PIG FARMS WITHIN THE BELGIUM – DUTCH CROSS BORDER PROJECT; I-4-1-HEALTH

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Introduction

Antimicrobial use in pigs (AMU) has led to an increase in antimicrobial resistance (AMR). This has prompted measures to reduce AMU, which has been associated with AMR reduction on national level. However, it remains unclear how on-farm dynamics of AMU and its effects on AMR are exactly related. Moreover, it is challenging to influence farmers' behavior towards increased infection prevention and AMU reduction. In this project we use specific coaching skills to reduce AMU and evaluate the effects on AMR.

Material and Methods

The i-4-1-health project started in 2017. In Flanders as well as in The Netherlands, 15 pig farms with an above average AMU are visited four times in 1.5 year. During the first visit, an assessment is made of e.g. biosecurity, technical performance, AMU and AMR. AMR is determined in faecal samples phenotypically in *Enterobacteriaceae.* The results of the assessment are evaluated using a designated new tool (V-iris) to start coaching four weeks later. In the coaching process, farmers and veterinarians reflect upon their own perceived behavior. A tailor-made action plan will be developed together with the farmer and veterinarian. After 6 and 12 months the farm is revisited to evaluate implementation and reinforce compliance to the action plan. At the 2nd and 3rd visit faecal samples are obtained for analysis of AMR development.

Results

Preliminary results indicate presence of AMR for ciprofloxacin as well as ESBL-producing *Enterobacteriaceae*. In addition a difference in prevalence between Belgium and Dutch farms is observed.

Discussion and conclusion

In both countries veterinarians and farmers face the challenge to reduce AMR. Preliminary experiences indicate that there is not a one-size-fits-all approach within, nor between countries. To increase knowledge and awareness during the project, knowledge sharing sessions are organized for people working in public health, human medicine and veterinary medicine.