

Job Description for Professional Posts

Reference: NA2024/09

Position and Grade:	Associate One Health-Antimicrobial Resistance Officer, P2
Organizational Unit:	Animal Production and Health Section Joint FAO/IAEA Centre of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture
Duty Station:	Seibersdorf
Type/Duration of Appointment:	FT-JPO, 1 year with possibility of extension

Organizational Setting

The Animal Production and Health Section (APH) of the Joint FAO/IAEA Division of Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture is part of the Department of Nuclear Sciences and Applications of the IAEA. The APH supported by the Animal Production and Health Laboratory (APHL) in Seibersdorf conducts the Animal production and Health Sub-programme to supports Member States (MS) in their efforts to improve livestock production as a means to improve food security, reduce hunger, alleviate poverty and enhance national development. The focus is on adapting and transferring appropriate technologies in the fields of animal nutrition and husbandry, reproduction, breeding and disease prevention and control by providing training, equipment, expert services, and technical backstopping. The main modalities are Coordinated Research Projects (CRP) and Technical Cooperation (TC) projects.

The Section also maintains a broad network of contacts with FAO's technical divisions, International Organisations such as OIE, WHO and ILRI, and institutions in MS.

Main Purpose

Under the supervision and guidance of the Laboratory Head and the technical officer(s), the Associate One Health-Antimicrobial Resistance Officer will support the team in the activities and projects on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) at Animal Production and Health Laboratory. He/she will assist in designing and implementing R&D activities on active surveillance of AMR in farm animal environment. The Associate One Health-Antimicrobial Resistance Officer will also be involved in capacity building and technology transfer to support member states for effective implementation of National Action Plans on AMR. He/she will liaise with FAO-AMR working group to strengthen the partnership and promote synergy in Laboratory Research/Capacities on AMR in livestock.

Role

As a member of the Animal Production and Health group s/he will be based at the Agriculture and Biotechnology Laboratory in Seibersdorf and will maintain regular contact with the technical staff at the Headquarters. S/he will be based on an established work plan, conduct research work on antimicrobial resistance in animal production environment.

Partnerships

The Associate One Health-Antimicrobial Resistance Officer will work under the partnerships already established within the UN system as well as with other international organisations and the scientific and commercial communities.

Functions / Key Results Expected

The Associate One Health-Antimicrobial Resistance Officer will participate in a research, development, technology transfer and capacity building activities related to antimicrobial resistance in animal production environment. S/he will undertake the following activities:

- Design and implement R&D on farm-level sampling approaches for detection of AMR in animal production environments. Optimize and establish different methods of antimicrobial susceptibility/sensitivity testing (AST) at Animal Production and Health Laboratory, Seibersdorf.
- Provide technical and scientific support for the implementation of coordinated research project (CRP) on “Innovative nuclear and related molecular approaches for detection and characterization of antimicrobial resistance in animal production environment”.
- Assist in strengthening member state (MS) laboratory capacities for implementing routine AMR surveillance (e.g., identifying MS’ needs for various inputs such as laboratory equipment, reagents and supplies, coordinating the delivery of inputs, etc.).
- Assist in planning and implementing fellowship/national/regional training modules on molecular techniques related to AMR.
- Prepare periodical reports on activities of Animal Production and Health section related to implementation of FAO Action Plan on AMR; Assist with other activities of the Section in relation to CRP and TC projects on antimicrobial resistance in livestock systems.

Competencies and Expertise (do not revise or edit)

Core Competencies		
Competence	Occupational Role	Behavioural Indicator
Communication	Individual Contributor	Communicates orally and in writing in a clear, concise and impartial manner. Takes time to listen and understand the perspective of others and proposes solutions.
Achieving Results	Individual Contributor	Takes initiative in defining realistic outputs and clarifying roles, responsibilities and expected results in the context of the Department/Division’s programme. Evaluates his/her results realistically, drawing conclusions from lessons learned.
Teamwork	Individual Contributor	Actively contributes to achieving team results. Supports team decisions.
Planning and Organizing	Individual Contributor	Plans and organizes his/her own work in support of achieving the team or Section’s priorities. Takes into account potential changes and proposes contingency plans.

Functional Competencies		
Competence	Occupational Role	Behavioural Indicator
Analytical thinking	Associate	Gathers and analyses information, identifying critical relationships and patterns among data and proposes workable solutions.
Knowledge sharing and learning	Associate	Actively seeks opportunities to learn by formal and informal means; learns from others, adopting and sharing best practice.
Technical/scientific credibility	Associate	Acquires and applies new skills to remain up to date in his/her area of expertise. Reliably applies knowledge of basic technical/ scientific methods and concepts
Judgement/ decision making	Associate	Consults with supervisor/manager and makes decisions in full compliance with the Agency's regulations and rules

Expertise	
Expertise	Description
Animal Health/Animal diseases	Good understanding of veterinary microbiology, biotechnology, veterinary bacteriology, antimicrobial resistance

Education, Experience and Language Skills

- University degree in biological, agricultural or animal sciences with post-graduate training up to PhD level or equivalent in a subject related to microbiology, Veterinary Microbiology, Biotechnology and related scientific fields.
- Minimum two years of post-qualifying experience in antimicrobial resistance related to livestock.
- Experience and training in working with microbial cultures; Experience with development and application of laboratory molecular assays (e.g., PCR, sequencing, etc.).
- Competence in computer applications including word processing, spreadsheets, databases, presentation graphics and statistical packages.
- Fluency in both written and spoken English is essential. Knowledge of other official IAEA languages (i.e., Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian or Spanish) an advantage.