Monitoring of antimicrobial resistance in indicator bacteria, pathogens and zoonotic bacteria

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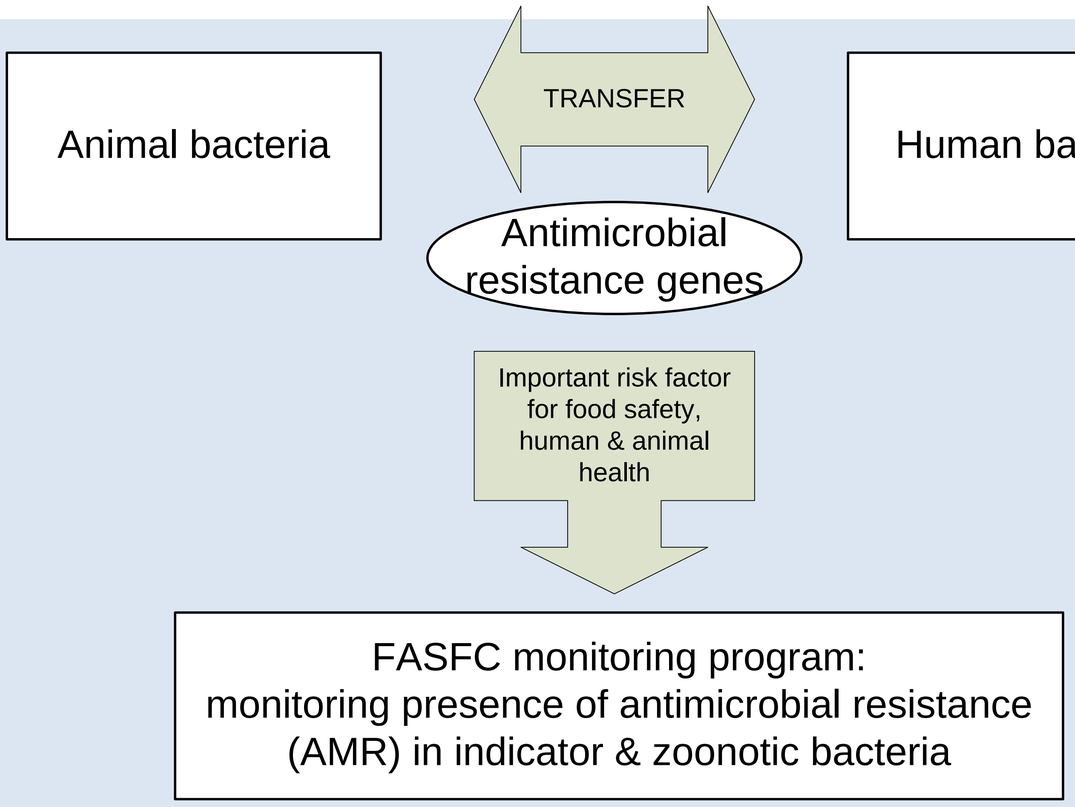
Introduction



Mandate and Methodology

To evaluate the current FASFC AMR monitoring program based on:

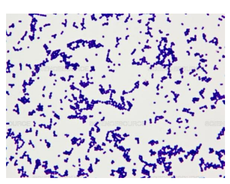
- data from scientific literature
- results of current AMR monitoring programs in Belgium
- expert opinion.

Recommendations

- **Intensify AMR monitoring of indicator bacteria from animals and reduce AMR monitoring in zoonotic bacteria (*Salmonella* and *Campylobacter*) of animals.** Best way to get a good view on evolution of AMR in animals

- **Continuing AMR monitoring of zoonotic bacteria in foodstuffs:** take consumption and probability of contamination with resistant bacteria into account for sample size calculation

- **Intensify AMR monitoring on imported foodstuffs of animal origin to better assess their contribution to overall risk.**

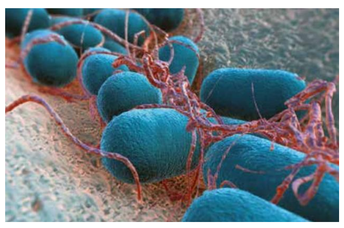


- **Resume AMR monitoring of Gram positive commensal bacteria (*Enterococcus faecalis* and *Enterococcus faecium*) of animal origin.**

- **Determine resistance profile using genetical characterization of AMR using modern molecular genetic techniques (e.g. NGS).** Special interest for strains showing exceptional or emerging resistance and strains showing resistance to a combination of critically important antibiotics.

- **Improve communication on AMR evolution:** publication of one general report on AMR in the food chain and human medicine combined with the results of antibiotic usage in human and veterinary medicine.

- **Introduce AMR monitoring of animal pathogens.**



- **Add new animal species / animal categories to the AMR monitoring plan**

Conclusions

- The Scientific Committee is of the opinion that current monitoring for AMR in the food chain in Belgium is of high quality and provides very useful information concerning the trend of AMR in primary production and in the food chain in general.
- Nevertheless, the Committee has identified some topics which can be improved.

For further information please visit: http://www.favv-afsca.fgov.be/scientificcommittee/ > Opinions > 2018 > Opinion 01-2018