



**Pan American
Health
Organization**



**World
Health Organization**
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE Americas

17th INTER AMERICAN MINISTERIAL MEETING ON HEALTH AND AGRICULTURE “One Health and the Sustainable Development Goals”

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Theme of the provisional agenda

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Introduction to Panels 1 and 2

The intersectoral collaboration on Health and Agriculture for the Sustainable Development Goals

Panel 1: Governance of Zoonotic Diseases

Panel 2: Food Safety & Antimicrobial Resistance

Sustainable development, a multidimensional and multisectoral process, is conceptually defined as that which “meets the needs of the present, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”. In September 2015, the Countries approved the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which includes 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and 169 Targets, with different and complex interrelationships, in which the success or failure to comply with those targets will have a crosscutting impact on the goals.

Undoubtedly, poverty eradication is one of the major, if not the main, challenges to attain sustainable development, which is expressed in the first goal: “End poverty in all its forms everywhere”. Nevertheless, economic growth alone is not enough per se, it should be integrated to social and environmental aspects, expressed in different SDGs, always bearing in mind their complex and profound interaction.

Agriculture and health are mentioned in SDGs 2 and 3, whose statements are, respectively: “End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture” and “Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages”. The intersectoral approach, in this case between health and agriculture, recognizes the transversal nature of complex topics with shared responsibilities and incorporates actions aimed at bridging gaps, avoiding overlapping, and generating synergies between institutional sectors.

The analysis of intersectoral contribution to sustainable development is directly related to the institutional field of involvement assigned to the health and agriculture sectors in the countries. The area of action of these sectors is not always the same in different countries. For instance, the agricultural sector is sometimes in charge of the development, implementation and/or coordination of policies, programs and projects of different “sub-sectors”, and not only of producing animal and vegetable food for human consumption. Therefore, its contribution and impact may be different according to prevailing agricultural production systems, lifestyles, and consumption habits in a country/region, or its contribution as generator of employment and wealth, among many others.

On the other hand, as people is the core of sustainable development, it has been stated that it will be attainable where there is no high burden of communicable and non-communicable diseases, whose incidence and prevalence have a close relationship with agriculture and environment. Today, due to a wide range of factors social – demographic, economic, political, cultural, climatic, environmental and technological, among others – there is a close proximity and relationship between human populations and other living species and their products, which increases the risk of exchanging and/or generating events that affect the health and well-being that should prevail between them.

This brief description shows that a close and permanent articulation between the health and agriculture sectors is needed in order to successfully address multiple common challenges that will hardly be overcome in isolation. Unfortunately, although some areas have experienced progress and advancement, many limitations still exist for an efficient and effective synergy between them.

As an example, this RIMSA has scheduled two discussion panels about “Health and Agriculture Intersectoral Contribution” that will analyze some of the many challenges in which a successful response depends on the sustained collaboration and adequate governance between both sectors, that is, characterized by a legal, transparent, responsible, agreed, efficient and effective participation of all players, and being sensitive to the needs of the public and its stakeholders.

PANEL 1 is aimed at reflecting on the intersectoral governance mechanisms between health and agriculture regarding emerging and endemic zoonotic diseases in the Americas, along with its situation regarding control and elimination capacities. PANEL 2 will analyze two topics: the first will address food safety and the other will discuss the prudent use of antimicrobials in health and agriculture for resistance containment.

The panels of RIMSA 17 will have a dialogue/interview format, and will be moderated by a professional journalist who will pose questions to the participants and facilitate the exchange of opinions and experiences on the topic. All panel participants are expected to meet the journalist before the panels begin. At the end of each section, participants are expected to ask questions and make observations to the panelists, so that the resulting conclusions and recommendations reflect the real interests and thoughts of all the participants.