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MFDS Collaborates with FAO in Fight against AMR

ROK expected to play a bigger role on the international stage under newly signed agreements

- On July 20, the Ministry of Food and Drug Safety (MFDS, Minister Kim Ganglip) signed agreements with FAO in an effort to support developing countries in Asia and Latin America for building capacity in foodborne antimicrobial resistance (AMR) control.
 - MFDS and FAO signed the Framework Arrangement to bolster comprehensive collaboration and the Contribution Arrangement which stipulates detailed terms and conditions. The agreements aim at promoting implementation of international norms in recipient countries to support containment and reduction of foodborne AMR.
 - The initiatives include:
 - ▲ making contribution of a total of KRW 11.5 billion via FAO until 2025
 - ▲ conducting research on foodborne AMR control and developing action plans
 - ▲ building a risk assessment system
 - ▲ building a monitoring system for AMR and the misuse or abuse of antibiotics
 - ▲ establishing global AMR database.
 - The agreements hold significance in that they are first to be concluded between MFDS and FAO to strengthen partnership in the food sector.
 - MFDS expects the agreements to become the foundation for promoting

global cooperation and improving global capacity for control and containment of AMR.

- Efforts of a single nation or a sector alone can only go so far. Addressing AMR requires concerted efforts from all nations and all relevant sectors—the environment, animal health, plants and human health—as well as the One Health* approach.
 - * One Health: an approach that recognizes a close connection among the environment and healths of animals, plants and humans.
- Regional implementation of international norms is significantly important in addressing AMR. Bearing this in mind, MFDS has worked assiduously with the global community to develop international norms** while serving as the chair of *Ad-Hoc* Codex Intergovernmental Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance.
 - ** MFDS participated in revising the Code of Practice to minimize and contain foodborne antimicrobial resistance and establishing Guidelines for the Integrated Monitoring and Surveillance of Foodborne Antimicrobial Resistance.
- MFDS will continue to work closely with international organizations to contribute to the world food safety systems by supporting developing countries and to the one of the most pressing global health issues, the fight against AMR.