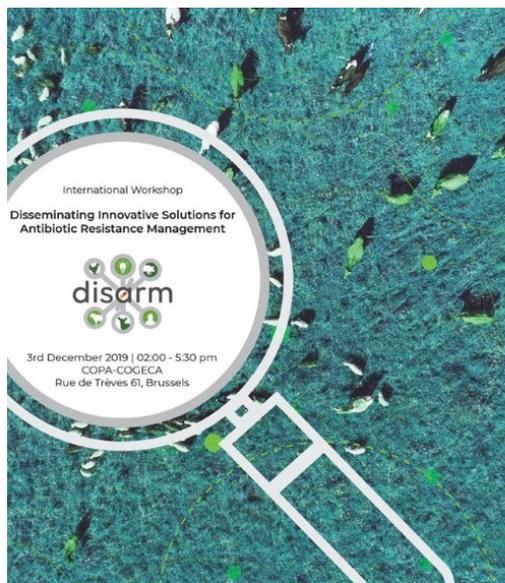




## "Disseminating Innovative Solutions to Antibiotic Resistance Management" in Livestock Farming

### DISARM: First Public Event

The first public event was held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2019 with the presence of attendees at the seminar in Brussels and online via a webinar (WebinarGeek).



#### Programme

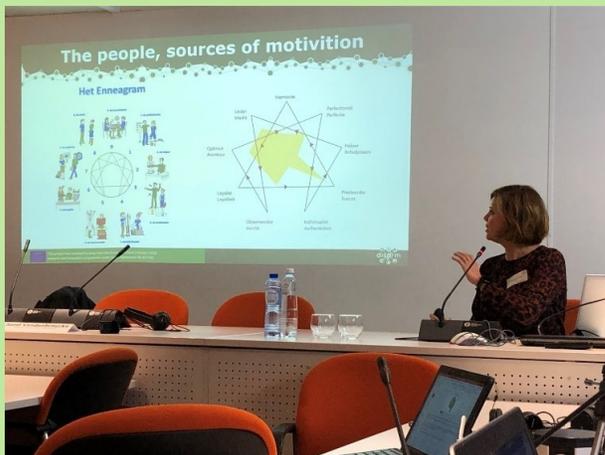
3rd December 2019  
2.00 - 5.30 pm  
COPA-COGECA  
Rue de Trèves 61, Brussels



- 02:00 pm - Registration open
- 02:30 - 02:45 pm - Welcome and introduction by the DISARM project team
- 02:45 - 03:45 pm - Presentation of the Farm Animal Health Teams
- 03:45 - 04:00 pm - Coffee Break
- 04:00 - 04:30 pm - Presentation of the Community of Practices
- 04:30 - 05:30 pm - Panel discussion:
  - Mr Edgar Garcia Manzanilla, Head of Pig Development Department at Animal & Grassland Research and Innovation Centre Teagasc
  - Mr Jeroen de Wulf, professor at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at Ghent University
  - Mr David John, Senior Technical Manager at Animal Health Europe
  - Mr Joost Vandenbroucke, manager of the Nutrition and Health department at Belgian Consumer Association Test-Achats/Test-Aankoop
- 05:30 pm - Networking cocktail



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### Physical Event: Presentations

There were 35 attendees alongside the 26 members of the DISARM consortium. Guests included veterinarians, researchers, farmers and representatives of farmer associations.

There was a good atmosphere and everyone listened attentively during the presentations which gave different insights into the project in general, going into detail on several work packages. External speakers participated in the presentation about Farm Animal Health Teams; Gemma van den Berg (ZLTO) spoke about proper techniques for coaching and Tommy Van Limbergen (PeHeStat) showed how and data can be used to guide and motivate farmers.

## Physical event: Panel discussion

With the help of the chairperson, the discussion got off to a great start during the panel discussion, with the following points called into question:

### Human health

- Reducing antibiotic use in farm animals is important for farmers' own health. Less resistance in bacteria from animals means less risk of transferring resistance to bacteria affecting the farmers themselves and of further spread to other humans.
- It can be challenging to convince farmers that this issue can be a risk to themselves and others.
- Farmers often are unaware of their on-farm use of antibiotics.
- To which level are farmers responsible? Their own farm or wider society e.g. resistance in hospitals?



### Role of veterinarians

- The role of veterinarians should not be underestimated. They are important advisors for farmers who have an important role in stimulating appropriate use of antibiotics (correct type, dosage and duration of treatment) with an overall aim to reduce antibiotic requirements and usage.
- A shift in the mindsets of veterinarians and farmers to focus on disease prevention business models rather than treatment-focused transactions is necessary.
- Veterinarians and doctors should encourage and support each other as part of a One Health approach.

### Role of legislation

- The fed industry suggest that nutrition can play a role in the reduction of antibiotic requirements, but some potential solutions are blocked by current legislation.
- Governments should improve regulations to enforce responsible use of antibiotics and there is a need for a transparent system (comparable across countries) for benchmarking farms based on antibiotic use and animal health data.

### Role of DISARM

- Appropriate persons should be involved at the farm-level during coaching e.g. veterinarian, climate/ventilation specialist, nutritionist etc. However, the persons involved in the farm teams is decided by the farmer, so that will affect the technical expertise in the group.

### Antibiotic usage

- A balance must be found between reducing antibiotic usage and maintaining animal welfare. It is (currently) not possible to achieve zero antibiotic use across the entire livestock sector as some animals will get ill and require treatment, and there are few effective alternatives to antibiotics.
- Appropriate doses and duration of treatments should be used as under-dosing has a negative effect on antibiotic resistance. If treating with antibiotics - treat well.

### Role of retail and society

- Farmers should be incentivised to achieve good animal health and low antibiotic use and requirements.
- Improved marketing and premium pricing for such products could make antibiotic reduction strategies more appealing and advantageous to farmers.
- There is a need for societal discussion about how we want to keep animals. Do consumers want to pay the lowest price possible for meat and animal products, or pay more which allows for better animal health and welfare and lower antibiotic usage?

## Webinar

For the webinar, 93 people had registered ahead of the event, of which 75 people finally watched - 62 people followed the webinar live, and 14 watched later. A further 11 people watched afterwards via the link to the recording which was shared on the DISARM social media channels and website.

Registrations came from all over the world, including mainly Belgium (40), USA (30), and the Netherlands (25). The average viewing time was 1 hour and 34 minutes, which the project team considered to be high.

During the webinar, the public chat function was available and used actively. Everyone introduced themselves to each other, questions were asked, and reactions were given to the discussion. A total of 69 messages were sent.

When the webinar was finished, the participants had the opportunity to share their experience about the webinar. There were 5 responses received, mainly indicating that it had been very interesting.

[Watch Online](#)

- FA** Fatima Afonso 16:15  
Can I save the video broadcast to re-watch again later?
- AS** Annick Spaans 16:16  
You will receive an email afterwards with the link to watch again later
- FA** Fatima Afonso 16:17  
Thank you so much, Annick ;)
- AS** Annick Spaans 16:25  
Community of Practice:  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/242076006728832/>
- AS** Annick Spaans 16:41  
You are free to ask questions!
- J** Johanna 17:00  
I have a comment!
- J** Johanna 17:02  
We have in sweden restrictions for use of 3rd and 4th generations cephalosporins and Quinolones and it has proven to reduce its use. But there are eceptions for this rule; in case of life thretening conditions for example. They are available for use if no other alternatives!
- J** Johanna 17:09  
in Sweden, a large proportion (90 %) of all antibiotics prescribed are used for individual treatment. Only the animal that is sick is given antibiotics. Only 10 % are used to treat groups/flocks. In some EU member states up to 90 % of antibiotics are given as group/flock treatment via feed or



## Reflections

We look back on a successful event with a good number of participants. The program was interesting due to the different aspects of the project that were highlighted. The panel discussion highlighted interesting issues and could have benefited from being a little longer. In conclusion, this event was a good example for future public events by DISARM.

