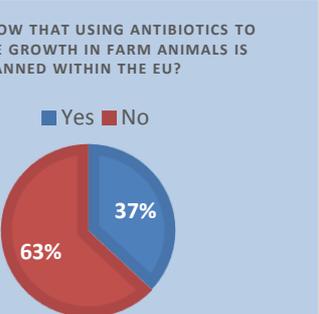
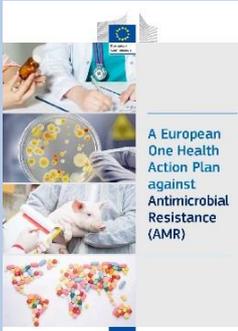


## THE ROLE OF ANIMAL NUTRITION IN ANIMAL HEALTH MANAGEMENT

Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) is of high societal and political importance due to its significant impacts on human and animal well-being. The feed and livestock sector is asked to deliver its share of solutions to reduce AMR, most concretely by enhancing animal health. Both EFSA and the European Commission recognise that the interaction of nutritionally-balanced feed with the gut is a key factor for animal health and can, therefore, impact the need for veterinary treatment with antibiotics, provided that animals can prosper in optimal housing and hygiene conditions. Animal nutritionists, therefore, should be part of the group of experts that advise livestock farmers on optimal animal health management. At the same time, European citizens need to be reminded that antibiotic growth promoters are no longer allowed in animal feed in Europe since 2006, which, according to the Eurobarometer, only 37% of Europeans are aware of.

 <p>European Food Safety Authority</p> <p><i>“Safe and nutritionally balanced feed are effective preventive measures to help animals to cope with pathogens by enhancing the overall animal health &amp; welfare status through specific feeding strategies, feed composition, feed formulations or feed processing.”</i></p> <p>(EFSA-EMA “RONAFA” report<sup>1</sup> - January 2017)</p>	<p>Envisioned multi-actor advising network for livestock farmers on optimal animal health management</p> 
 <p><i>“Only 37% of Europeans aware of ban on antibiotic growth promoters.”</i></p> <p>DO YOU KNOW THAT USING ANTIBIOTICS TO STIMULATE GROWTH IN FARM ANIMALS IS BANNED WITHIN THE EU?</p> <p>■ Yes ■ No</p>  <p>(Eurobarometer report on Antimicrobial Resistance – June 2016)<sup>2</sup></p>	<p><i>“The Commission will continue to promote animal husbandry, including aquaculture and livestock farming systems &amp; feeding regimes, which support good animal health &amp; welfare to reduce antimicrobial consumption.”</i></p>  <p>A European One Health Action Plan against Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)</p> <p>(The European One Health Action Plan against AMR - June 2017)<sup>3</sup></p>

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/4666>

<sup>2</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/health/amr/sites/amr/files/eb445\\_amr\\_generalreport\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/health/amr/sites/amr/files/eb445_amr_generalreport_en.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/health/amr/sites/amr/files/amr\\_action\\_plan\\_2017\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/health/amr/sites/amr/files/amr_action_plan_2017_en.pdf)

## ANIMAL NUTRITION SOLUTIONS

The ability of farm animals to control pathogens in the gut is enhanced through specific nutritional constituents that affect microbiota or specific processes. Quality sourcing as part of the raw material management with a focus on antinutritional factors serves as the basis for the diet formulation phase where elements such as protein levels & digestibility and the incorporation of specialty feed ingredients are decided. Feed processing, in particular the particle size at grinding stage, also plays an important role in feed digestibility to the benefit of animal health. Overall, the compound feed manufacturer assures the safety of feed deliveries, ensuring animal health is not compromised by negative impacts from mycotoxins, feed-borne microbes or moulds. For more information see the FEFAC 2030 Animal Feed Industry Vision<sup>4</sup>.



**Raw material  
management**



**Diet  
formulation**



**Feed  
processing**



**Feed safety**

(© Nutreco)

## THE WAY FORWARD

1. Member States should **include a “feed chapter” in national AMR action plans** on preventive measures, while supporting the involvement of animal nutritionists in the animal health advisory network that surrounds the livestock farmer.
2. Feed operators need **more legal flexibility to communicate** to livestock farmers **about the added value of certain feeding strategies or formulations**, based on scientific evidence, regarding the benefits in terms of animal health & welfare.
3. The **encouragement of public research into** the understanding of the mechanisms and interactions that make **feeding strategies enhance animal health** and immunological status, especially for young animals, for example through EU & National Research Framework Programmes.
4. The stimulation of **scientific investigation into the socio-economic drivers for livestock farmers** to make use of nutritionally optimised feed and expert advice, regardless of the production system they exercise. FEFAC therefore welcomes the allocation of funds under Horizon 2020 to develop further knowledge on this.
5. Outreach activities should be performed at regulatory and professional level in the global arena. **Animal nutrition science** is an international discipline and **should be recognised as part of the solution by international institutions** like CODEX and the OIE, as a follow up to recognition by FAO and the International Feed Industry Federation.

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.fefac.eu/publications.aspx?CategoryID=3666&EntryID=22146>