



Institution of Veterinarians of Poultry Industry

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Response from IVPI, a registered professional body of poultry veterinarians, to concerns of Anti-Microbial Resistance (AMR) from chicken consumption and antibiotics use in Poultry production

Respected Sir/Madam,

Sub: Regarding article **Eating chicken can make you a victim of tenth largest disease worldwide** in The Asianet News via Dailyhunt on June 4th 2023/

Sir, our main concern is about the professional news streaming agencies like your esteemed Asianet News and Daily Hunt do not screen the news for their truthfulness, unbiased nature and scientific references. The above said article is biased to promote vegetarianism and makes shoddy reference to WHO, without understanding the complete context of WHO information's. In the following screenshot on WHO on chicken as major AMR threat, you will see that in the entire report of WHO the word 'chicken' is not there at all.

By misquoting WHO, your news agency is doing a disservice to the society.

We propose below the facts and challenge your news source to provide the complete source of information where you have quoted from WHO.

Antibiotics use in poultry production in recent days:

It is the primary responsibility of all stakeholders in the food chain to infuse confidence in the consumer minds about the safety and wholesomeness of food they buy. It's unfortunate that your news agency is creating doubt / fear in the minds of consumers about food (chicken) safety. **Poultry stakeholders including various veterinary associations, being ethically responsible bodies in monitoring and production of scientifically safe food,** would like to take this opportunity to put forth the exact picture of commercial chicken production for better understanding & confidence.

- Most of the chicken meat and egg production in the country is under the supervision of Qualified Veterinarians on a day-to-day basis.
- Modern Disease diagnosing and monitoring facilities are available all over the country for early detection of diseases to minimize their spread.
- **Commercial chicken farms make use of flock health prevention techniques like biosecurity, hygiene practices in farming, vaccinations against major infectious diseases and use of nutritiously balanced feed.**
- **Birds in Commercial farms are scientifically grown by providing adequate feed, water, air and sufficient space for their movement and social behavior.** These parameters have been scientifically studied and modified and upgraded from time to time.

- Birds in Commercial farms are administered antibiotics for the specific period, only when the birds show clinical signs of fever or other diseases situations. There are strict norms followed by commercial poultry producers not to use any antibiotics before ten days the birds go for processing.
- Due to scientific management, driven by technology and highest efficiency with internationally acclaimed best productivity levels, Eggs and chicken is available in India to the consumer at most affordable prices lower than consumer prices prevailing in neighbouring countries and western countries as well.
- **As per National action plan on microbial resistance² (Government of India), India accounts for only for 3% of global consumption, whereas China accounts for 23%, US 13% and Brazil 9% for all animal usage.**

Norms for use of antibiotics by regulatory bodies:

- **The judicious use of antibiotics to grow farm animals in India is guided by the regulations set by the regulatory departments like Ministry of Health under Food Safety and Standard Authority of India, July 2018 (FSSAI)³ which is the ultimate authority for the food safety.** These authorities have clearly laid down the norms for antibiotic use to safeguard the health of animals and for tolerable antibiotic residue limits to ensure the safety of the food produced for human consumption. The guidelines include the judicious use of antibiotics in feed or in drinking water to treat and control disease outbreaks under supervision of Veterinarian.
- **FSSAI³ has banned usage of many antibiotics and veterinary drugs in meat and meat products, poultry, and eggs, including seafood's shrimp, prawns and fish.**
- Poultry producers in India adopt good farming practices to reduce the incidence of bacterial infections in the flocks. **In case of disease outbreaks, poultry producers adhere to the FSSAI guidelines and have the in-house veterinarians or consulting veterinarians to guide them in the process of treatment of disease situations.** There are more than 3000 veterinarians who are specialists in poultry health and production, are continuously advising & guiding the Indian commercial poultry industry, which has a turnover of over 1.5 lakh crore Indian rupees contributing to Indian Agricultural GDP⁴.

Are there antibiotics in the chicken and eggs we eat?

- **The Poultry Industry is strongly supporting and bound to follow the guidelines laid across by the Government of India and the respective food authorities.** A key step in this direction is stipulating Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs)/tolerance limits/safe limits of medicinal residues in the food produced by animals. This is a widely accepted global practice, and well adopted by Government of India in the recent days (Tolerance limit of Antibiotics in the food of Animal origin as per FSSAI which is effective from Jan 2019, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt of India).
- Consumers can be highly confident about the chicken meat and eggs treated with antibiotics as completely safe because the FSSAI has a rigorous approval process for poultry medicine and withdrawal periods. **The FSSAI makes sure the foods produced from farm animals adhere to the Maximum Residue limits (MRLs)/safe limits of medicinal residues.**

- The recent study of Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) shows the maximum residue limits (MRL) of antibiotics is much lower than the permitted MRL as per European Union (EU) as shown below.

	CSE found antibiotics in Delhi			As per Codex Alimentarius Commission, the Maximum Residue limits		
	Level of antibiotic			Level of antibiotic		
Antibiotics	In Muscles	In Liver	In Kidney	In Muscles	In Liver	In Kidney
	µg/kg	µg/kg	µg/kg	µg/kg	µg/kg	µg/kg
Oxytetracycline	8.4 – 13.6	9.1	8.2	100	300	600
Chlortetracycline	10.2	ND	ND	100	300	600
Doxycycline	14.6 – 20.6	11.9	15.7	100	300	600
Enrofloxacin	3.84 – 58.0	3.37 – 131.7	ND	100	200	300

The poultry products from India are regularly exported to highly quality consensus EU, Japan and Middle East countries. Also, QSRs like MacDonal, KFC, Dominos and others are buying from India for their outlets and are happy with the hygiene and quality standards maintained.

- **The Commercial Poultry Industry is determined & committed to the Indian customers to provide safe, economical, and healthy protein in the form of chicken and eggs.**
- This, I am assuring you as the Current President of Institute of Veterinarians of Poultry Industry (IVPI). The Institute has over 250 members who are highly qualified Poultry Veterinarian specialized in all aspects of Poultry production. I have been in the University of Agricultural Sciences teaching and doing and guiding Research in Poultry Science in the past 40 years and I have been in many Governments Advisory Boards & Committees.

With regards



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