



**Nistha Dawadee**, a World Food Forum Nepal Chapter leader, addresses the Youth Led AMR Awareness Campaign in Chitwan, Nepal.

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## ACT AND YOUTH: NEPAL'S YOUNG LEADERS TAKE ON ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE

### *Success story*

**Nistha Dawadee** is young, informed and deeply concerned. **“It is affecting our economy, it is affecting our public health, it is affecting our food system. It is affecting everything. It is really important to work on AMR now,”** she insists. **She is speaking about AMR** – antimicrobial resistance - at a multistakeholder meeting in her home province of Chitwan in southern Nepal. She and her fellow volunteers have been spreading the message on AMR to local farmers, food business operators and officials. **“I’m here to share the youth perspective — what young people are capable of, what they are currently doing, and what they plan to do in**

**the fight against AMR,”** she tells the meeting. **“We are all well aware of the vital role youth can play and the immense potential we hold.”**

This “vital role youth can play” has been harnessed by the Action to support implementation of Codex AMR texts (ACT) project in Nepal to help raise awareness about the responsible and prudent use of antimicrobials when needed and acknowledge the threat of antimicrobial resistance. **“We wanted to organize a youth led, youth targeted AMR campaign in which the youth are the ones to initiate the campaign, to execute the campaign, and to amplify and report the results of the campaign,”** explains **Prasun Subedi**, Youth Engagement Associate for FAO Nepal. It is the Nepal Chapter of FAO’s World Food Forum (WFF), the Global Youth Action Initiative, that is supporting the ACT project and leveraging the potential youth networks have in the country to reach places and people the project simply cannot get to. **“What we have understood so far,”** says **Sakar Shivakoti**, ACT Project Coordinator in Nepal, **“is that to effectively spread our awareness**



**campaign, the youth play an important role, as they are not only the future, but also a vital part of the present.”** The WFF is a global FAO initiative that drives action to transform agrifood systems through the power of youth, science and innovation, and investment. Its Nepal Chapter engages young people in promoting sustainable agriculture, food safety and action against antimicrobial resistance.



**Prasun Subedi**  
Youth Engagement  
Associate for FAO Nepal  
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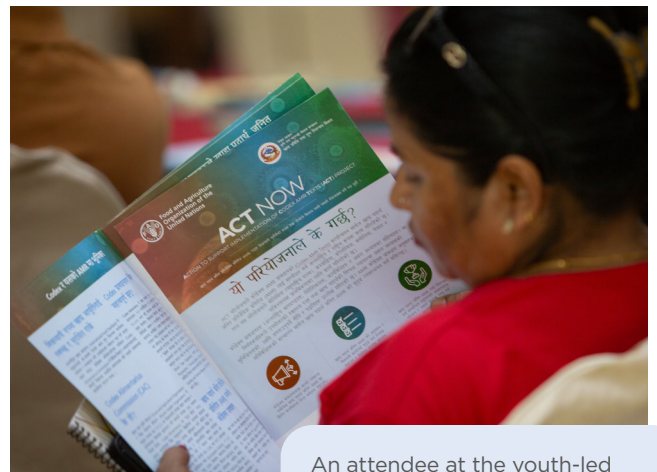
*“We gathered youth from across Nepal, from every province of the country”  
Subedi explains*

Awareness raising is a key pillar of the ACT Project, which is supporting six countries (the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Cambodia, Colombia, Mongolia, Nepal and Pakistan) to also improve governance and surveillance of foodborne antimicrobial resistance. Both of these aims rely also on chain-long awareness of the threat of AMR, together with an understanding of the responsibility of all stakeholders to respond appropriately to calls for responsible and prudent use of antimicrobials and improvements in disease prevention.

Dawadee understands these things, having learnt about them at agricultural college. And the other WFF members are also highly informed, since the majority are students or recent graduates in veterinary sciences, medicine, microbiology and other related topics.

This youth-led campaign has been organized into two key parts. **“We gathered youth from across Nepal, from every province of the country and we had a very intensive, a very deliberate, ‘training of trainers’ session in which experts from different sectors, including the animal health, human health, food and veterinary sectors, came and delivered very impactful presentations,”** Subedi explains.

The issues were shared and well-explained, equipping these young advocates to encourage their peers to learn and disseminate AMR-relevant messaging. The idea is that they will spread the messages with friends, with family and with their communities: **“Youth are, like, everywhere!”** Dawadee says, explaining the logic. **Subedi expands on the roll-out plans: “The trainers that have been trained will go back to their provinces and organize two sessions each. The first one is going to be a physical campaign session, more targeted towards the stakeholders of AMR and its impact. So that’s going to be farmers, businessmen, and government workers that are currently working in the localized, offices of the Department of Food Technology and Quality Control, for example.”**



An attendee at the youth-led AMR awareness campaign in Chitwan, Nepal, reads a brochure about the ACT project.  
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**Sakar Shivakoti**  
ACT Project  
Coordinator in Nepal  
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*“The ACT Project alone can’t hope to reach farmers at this depth without bringing young people on board.” says Shivakoti*

On a visit to a poultry farm, Dawadee and fellow-volunteer, Dipesh Gurung, discuss antimicrobial use with farmer Arjun Thapa. He welcomes the chance to chat about his farm and his practices. He is very conscientious about biosecurity, having suffered many failures over the years. He recognizes the need to introduce practices to prevent disease. He is also very cautious about antimicrobial use. But, asks Gurung, does he know about antimicrobial resistance? **“I don’t know about this topic,” says Thapa.**

The discussion opens up the chance to talk about AMR and the things Thapa can do to help reduce its spread. **“Such personal interactions at the community level by youth across the nation make all the difference. The ACT Project alone can’t hope to reach farmers at this depth without bringing young people on board.” says Shivakoti.**

**“We interact with farmers, we share information, take their stories, their problems,” Dawadee touches on an element of the campaign** that will serve to not only spread the messages of the ACT project, but that will also enrich the project’s understanding of what is working and not working, how farmers and other stakeholders understand and receive the messages that are being disseminated. **“By coming back to us with reports and stories from their communities, the young people are helping us to tailor our messages and our approach for a more effective outcome,” Shivakoti explains** the potential two-way nature of this initiative.



**Nistha Dawadee** and **Dipesh Gurung** speak with **Arjun Thapa**, a poultry farmer in Chitwan, Nepal, as part of the youth engagement programme.  
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*“We interact with farmers, we share information, take their stories, their problems.” explains Dawadee*



The second part of the youth campaign is online. “To expand our impact and reach a broader audience, we are planning to conduct online awareness programmes,” Dawadee says. “In the online campaign, the trainees need to make sure that around 100 youths from each of their provinces are participating. And so, this part of the campaign has a more social media focus,” adds Subedi. The trainees also need to ensure the messaging they disseminate is approved by the project so that accurate information reaches the right people.

“These youth leaders and members of the WFF Nepal team have helped to promote awareness and understanding of the foodborne AMR risks at the community level,” explains Ken Shimizu, FAO Representative for Bhutan and Nepal, who describes these young people as “agents of change for agrifood systems transformation and also for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.”

### Nepal at a glance

- About 67 percent of Nepal’s population is engaged in agriculture. The poultry population is nearly twice the size of the human population and has increased by 195 percent over the past decade.
- In 2021, an estimated 4700 deaths were attributable to AMR, and 19 600 deaths were associated with AMR.

This last point has not passed Dawadee by. “I’m really excited about this initiative,” she says, “because it is a part of FAO global and it is aimed at harnessing the energy and enthusiasm of youth engaged in transforming sustainable agrifood systems, to synergize their efforts in ensuring food safety and reducing foodborne AMR.”



Nistha Dawadee takes notes at a poultry farm, while speaking to farmers Lok Prasad Sapkota, Mira Sapkota and Chandrawati Sapkota, in Chitwan, Nepal.  
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More information



Nepal in ACTION



ACT project



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