

MESSAGE FROM
THE HONOURABLE KARL SAMUDA
MINISTER OF INDUSTRY, COMMERCE, AGRICULTURE & FISHERIES
ON THE OCCASION OF THE CELEBRATION OF WORLD VETERINARY DAY 2017
SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 2017

World Veterinary Day 2017 is being celebrated on April 29, 2017 with the theme “**ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE - FROM AWARENESS TO ACTION**”. This is an appropriate theme as it highlights the increasingly serious threat posed by Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) to global public health and requires action across all government sectors, private sector



and society in general. It is widely believed, that the misuse and overuse of antimicrobial drugs in humans, animals and plants is one of the key factors in the emergence of resistance to these drugs.

The availability and use of antimicrobial drugs have enhanced the practice of human and animal medicine and there is no doubt that the use of such drugs has advanced global public health, animal health, food safety and security. We cannot however ignore the fact, that prudent use of these essential “tools” is one of the key approaches towards safeguarding the efficacy of life-saving antimicrobials, as well as their continued availability for both human and veterinary use.

I am fully aware of the critical role of the Veterinary Services Division, veterinarians and veterinary paraprofessionals in the fight against Antimicrobial Resistance, through their direct involvement in regulating and supervising the use of antimicrobials, giving professional advice to farmers and animal owners and collaborating with their human health counterparts. In light of the specific challenges posed by this global threat, the importance of a **One Health** approach involving human and animal health, agricultural and environmental experts cannot be overemphasized. As is already well known, more than 60% of human infectious diseases originated from wild or domestic animal sources and some 75% of emerging human diseases are of animal origin. The critical nature of the threat of Antimicrobial Resistance was further highlighted on September 21, 2016, when the United Nations General Assembly adopted a political declaration

aimed at combating the global threat posed by AMR and confirmed the “One Health” approach in line with the WHO Global Action Plan.

The Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries fully supports the World Health Organization (WHO), together with the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in the development of WHO Global Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance and commends their efforts in facilitating the development of National Action Plans. I note that the Ministry of Health and my Ministry, along with other key stakeholders with the support of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), are collaborating in the development of Jamaica’s AMR National Action Plan.

On the occasion of the World Veterinary Day 2017, I commend the Veterinary Services Division, the Membership of the Jamaica Veterinary Medical Association (JVMA), all our veterinarians and veterinary para-professionals for their continued efforts in the safeguard of human health, animal health, animal welfare, food security and food safety.