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## MORE POULTRY ASSOCIATIONS JOIN INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS TO REDUCE THE USE OF ANTIMICROBIALS

**S**even groups involved in poultry **production** have signed an agreement to reduce the use of **antibiotics** on poultry farms. These include associations of poultry farmers from several European countries and fast-food **industry** giants. The alliance announced that the objectives of the “Strategies for Transformation to Reduce On-farm Risks” (TRANSFORM) project will be adopted with the aim of using antibiotics **appropriately** according to the antimicrobial administration principles developed by the International Poultry Council.

The principles encourage farmers to commit to taking measures in four key areas: (1) Adopting a **risk-based** approach for each use of antimicrobials, (2) Implementing farm **management** practices that improve animal health and reduce the need for antimicrobials, (3) Using antimicrobials only in accordance with national authorizations, and (4) Using medically important antibiotics only under the approval and supervision of a veterinarian.

In total, the 26 organizations that are part of the TRANSFORM initiative represent over 40% of

global poultry meat production. Launched in 2021, the project has provided training to over 80,000 farmers in India and Kenya.

By proactively supporting science-based antimicrobial use principles, the private sector sends a clear message that antimicrobial administration must be **judicious**.

These initiatives should inspire more industry representatives to commit to responsible antibiotic management by adopting scientifically supported practices to improve animal health.

*Adapted after 9 May 2024, Chris Dall, MA*

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