Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is a silent pandemic. In 2019, bacterial AMR accounted for an estimated 4.95 million deaths across the world. Besides its public health outcomes, AMR also impacts food productivity, livelihood and attainment of Sustainable Development Goals. Globally, AMR containment is being prioritized through a One Health approach, endorsed by groups and organisations such as the World Health Assembly, the United Nations, the Quadripartite [Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), World Health Organization (WHO), World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH/OIE) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)], and the Global Leaders Group on AMR.

India’s National Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance (NAP-AMR, 2017-2022) and the Delhi Declaration on AMR were launched at the Inter-ministerial Consultation on AMR in April 2017; they underscored the Government of India’s political commitment to tackle AMR with a One Health approach. The NAP-AMR envisaged development of state action plans (SAPCAR) since health, agriculture, fisheries, water and sanitation are all state subjects under the Indian Constitution, and inter-sectoral collaboration at the state level is essential for AMR containment. Currently, few states have action plans in place and several others are in the process of developing theirs. It is clear that there are multiple challenges that need to be understood and addressed for effective state-level action.

Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) and the WHO Country Office for India are jointly organising a three-day national workshop at the Anil Agarwal Environment Training Institute to help state-level actors understand these challenges, and to build their capacity for development and implementation of state action plans.