CSE IN WAAW 2025

GLOBAL SOUTH ACTION ON AMR

6 ESSENTIAL FACTS ON ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE (AMR)

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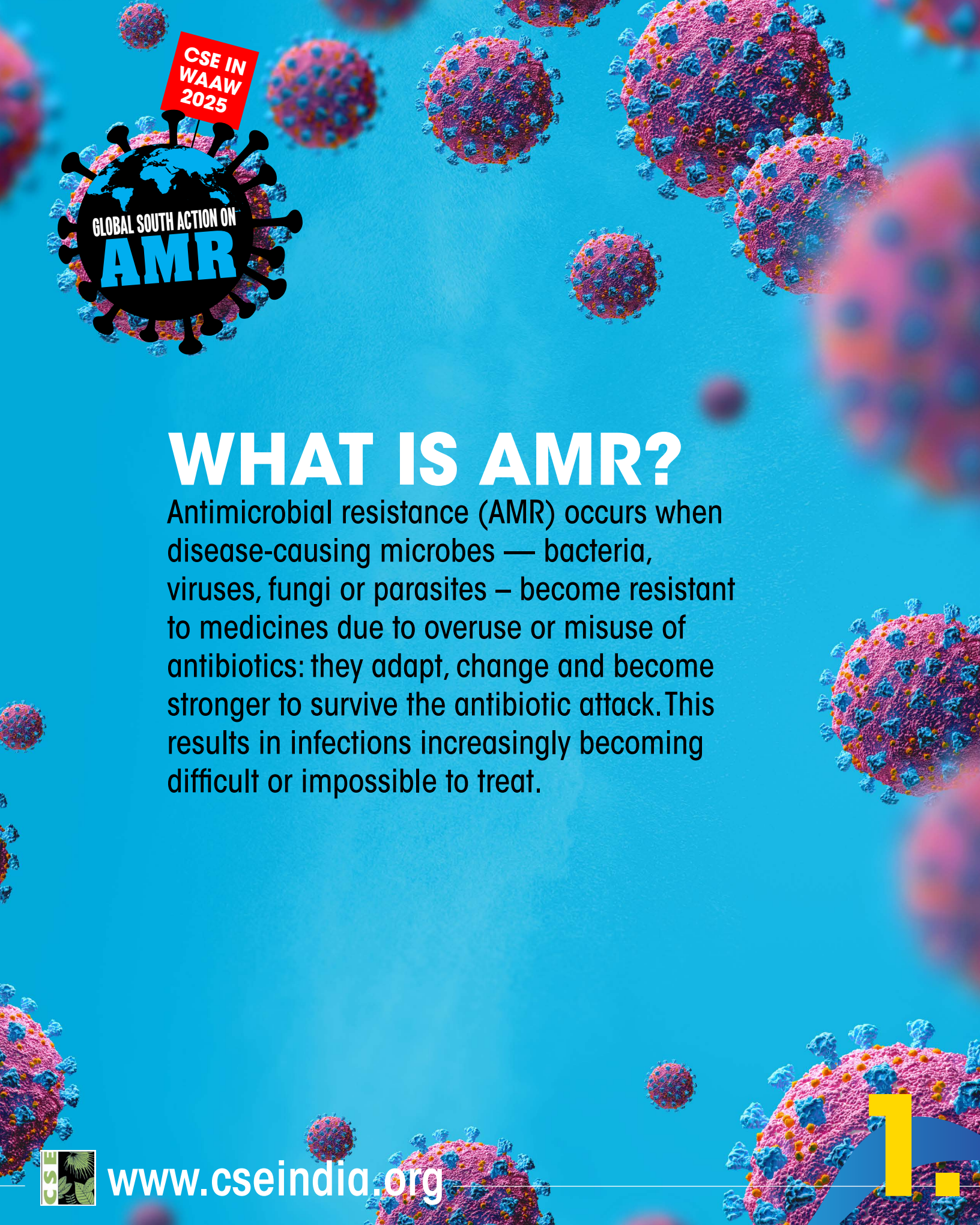

WHAT IS AMR?

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) occurs when disease-causing microbes — bacteria, viruses, fungi or parasites – become resistant to medicines due to overuse or misuse of antibiotics: they adapt, change and become stronger to survive the antibiotic attack. This results in infections increasingly becoming difficult or impossible to treat.

WHY IS AMR CALLED A 'SILENT' PANDEMIC?

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is silent but deadly. In 2021, 4.7 million deaths worldwide were linked to it, with 1.14 million being directly caused by it. That's more than the toll from **HIV (0.7 million)** and **malaria (0.6 million)** put together. If we don't act now, **AMR could kill 1.9 million people every year by 2050**, adding up to a staggering **39 million deaths** between 2025 and 2050.

Source: Lancet

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HOW ARE ANTIBIOTICS OVERUSED OR MISUSED IN ANIMALS?

Antibiotics are being overused and misused in human health, livestock and food-production; this accelerates AMR. Antibiotics are freely used in industrial, large-scale production of food from animals (like eggs and meat from poultry) -- not just to treat infections, but also to promote faster growth.

HOW ARE ANTIBIOTICS OVERUSED OR MISUSED IN CROPS?

Antibiotics are being overused and misused in human health, livestock and food-production; this accelerates AMR. Antibiotics are being used as pesticides against fungal infestations in crops. With no limits set for antibiotic residues in crops, these drugs remain **untested and undetected.** Antibiotic misuse and overuse in crops are one of the major, unregulated pathways to AMR.

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ARE ANY NEW ANTIBIOTICS BEING DEVELOPED?

Even as microbes become drug-resistant, very few new antibiotics are being developed. Pharma companies are investing in more profitable areas of drug development like cancer. The few new antibiotics that have been developed are not easily available in the poorer countries. The world could run out of antimicrobial treatment options very soon.

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WHAT CAN BE DONE TO CONTAIN AMR?

There are some antibiotics which are meant for difficult-to-treat infections – these need to be conserved, as they can save lives. Phase out and stop their use in animals reared for food, especially when used for non-therapeutic purposes like growth promotion.

Further, 'real' preventive measures such as good farm management, clean water and housing, vaccination, biosecurity, waste management should be upscaled