

## **NITTE UNIVERSITY DESIGNATED FAO REFERENCE CENTER ON ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE**

The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of United Nations has designated Nitte University as “FAO Reference Center on antimicrobial resistance and aquaculture”. This was conveyed to the Vice Chancellor, Dr. Satheesh Kumar Bhandary by the Deputy Director General of FAO, Ms Maria Helena Semedo by a letter dated October 25, 2022. Nitte is one of the three such centers recognized globally, the other two being Mississippi State University, USA and Yellow Sea Fisheries Institute of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Qingdao, China. As a FAO Reference Center, Nitte University will collaborate with FAO in four core areas (a) support awareness raising about antimicrobial resistance among the stakeholders in ONE HEALTH context involving human, animal, plant health and environment (b) support developing capacity for surveillance of antimicrobial resistance, antimicrobial use and residues of antimicrobial agents (c) strengthening governance related to antimicrobial use and antimicrobial resistance by providing scientific advice to Regional Associations like the Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) (d) promote prudent and responsible use of antimicrobials.

The designation of Nitte as FAO Reference Center comes as a recognition of the expertise in Nitte University and past collaboration with FAO. Previously Nitte had hosted FAO International Workshop on Understanding antimicrobial resistance in aquaculture and Dr. Iddya Karunasagar, Advisor, Nitte University and former FAO Senior Officer has been participating in capacity building activities related to antimicrobial use, antimicrobial resistance, surveillance and guidelines from Codex Alimentarius Commission on risk analysis related to antimicrobial resistance in food in several countries including Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia and Vietnam.

With the formal designation of Nitte University as a FAO Reference Center, more international activities in the area in collaboration with FAO towards reducing antimicrobial use, minimizing antimicrobial resistance and achieving One Health goals are being planned.