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Antimicrobial Stewardship in the Agriculture and Food Sector through access to Animal Health Guidelines -The Prescribing Companion App

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Project Overview

The Surveillance and Prescribing Support for Antimicrobial Stewardship Resource Capacity Building (SPARC) programme aims to improve antimicrobial stewardship (AMS), surveillance and prescribing across 22 low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) in Africa and Asia (Fig. 1). Funded by the Fleming Fund and managed by the Commonwealth Pharmacists Association, SPARC was launched in January 2022 and will close in December 2025. One of the SPARC core work areas includes;

Development and launch of a mobile application/website - Prescribing Companion App - providing national antimicrobial guidelines to support prudent antimicrobial prescribing in human and animal health (Fig 2), and it provides for:

- Standard Treatment Guidelines available offline at the point of care,
- Help raise knowledge and awareness of International AMS/IPC resources
- Strong country ownership of adaptable App beyond AMU/AMS to host other clinical guidelines and resources as needed by countries via App champion and App developer
- Foster a One Health approach through shared learning
- Sustainability through training and funding

Approach

International Animal Health Guidelines

A three-phase approach is used: 1) Scoping and Identifying guidelines from reliable sources(FAO, WHO, WOA, AU, ECOWAS, SADC) 2) the technical team verifies the authenticity of the guidelines, checks for accuracy and relevance and approves for uploading; (3) Uploading of guidelines

National Animal Health Guidelines

A five-phase approach is used: 1) Scoping and Identifying guidelines from reliable sources within the country and international sources (2) the country app champion verifies the authenticity of the guidelines, and checks for accuracy and relevance (3) the guidelines are sent for approval by relevant authorities in the country; (4) the app champion carries out the content editorial training (5) Uploading of guidelines

Impact

Promotion of access to access to over 60 international animal health resources and 7 One Health guidelines to over 92,000 app users across 22 LMICs.

Capacity Building for Animal health practitioners through serving as a training and education tool with up-to-date resources to strengthen rational antimicrobial use in veterinary sectors.

Future Prospects of the App

- Promoting country ownership and full integration of the app in health systems through training and government advocacy
- Improving the app interactivity to enable human and animal health practitioners to engage in cross-disciplinary knowledge-sharing.
- Leveraging advancements in technology by incorporating AI-supported enhancements in quality checking and Improvements in user interface and voice command functionalities.



Figure 1: The Prescribing Companion App project delivery countries



Figure 2: The layout of the Prescribing Companion App

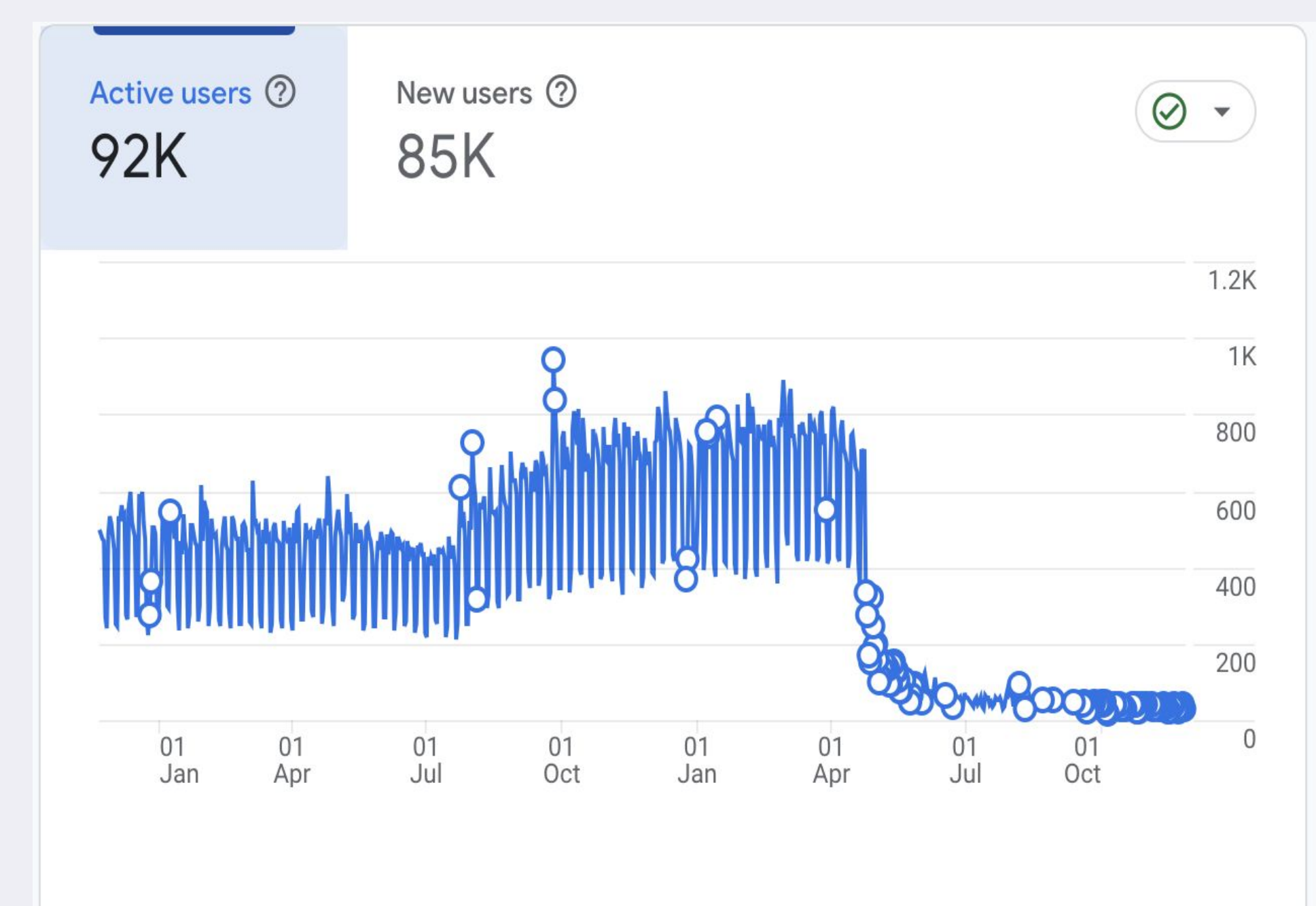


Figure 3: The Google analytics graph showing the Users of the App since inception

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