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| **Systems-based integrated program for enhancing the sustainability of antibiotic-restricted poultry production** |
| Sponsor | US Department of Agriculture |
| Investigators | Raghava Kommalapati (PVAMU PI) part of a team led by Kumar Venkitanarayanan at Univ. of Connecticut |
| Project Dates | 09/20-09/25 |
| Amount Awarded | $10M (PV Budget -$450,000) |
| Project Description: |
| The US has the largest broiler industry producing 9 billion birds annually. Antibiotics have been an integral part of poultry production contributing in part to the sustained growth of broiler production, where antibiotic growth promoters (AGP’s) are used to enhance poultry performance, feed efficiency and general health. Research indicates that antibiotic-restricted production can adversely affect bird health, production efficiency, and the environment. Therefore, in light of the FDA’s directive to phase out AGPs in poultry production, it is critical to ensure sustainability of broiler production for meeting future demand. This proposal’s goal is to promote sustainability of broiler production by targeting three major system components in the poultry sector, namely Chicken, Humans and the Environment. To achieve this, we have assembled an interdisciplinary team of researchers, educators and extension professionals with the following objectives: 1) control necrotic enteritis and coccidiosis in broilers; 2) develop novel feed ingredients for improved performance; 3) promote bird welfare; 4) increase broiler meat safety; 5) control antimicrobial resistance dissemination; 6) develop strategies for recycling of poultry litter; 7) enhance consumer confidence and acceptability of broiler meat; 8) develop an outreach program targeting poultry producers and other stakeholders; 9) empower the future workforce with skills needed for sustainable broiler production; and 10) assess the socio-economic-environmental impact of proposed interventions.This project will enhance broiler production sustainability by improving bird health, human health and environmental health, and increasing consumer acceptability and economic returns to farmers.**Priorities Addressed:** Increasing profitability in agriculture and enhancing rural prosperity and health. |