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DRAFT REPORT

Focus Group on Plant Health in the Context of One Health

**Virtual Meeting
30 April, 2025**

IPPC Secretariat

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1. Opening of the meeting

1.1 Welcome by the IPPC Secretariat

- [1] The virtual meeting of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) Focus Group on Plant Health in the Context of One Health (FG-PHOH) was convened by the IPPC Secretariat (hereafter referred to as “the secretariat”).

2. Meeting arrangements

- [2] The focus group agreed to anticipate the monthly meetings.
- [3] The focus group:
- (1) *requested* the IPPC secretariat to send recurring calendar invitations for monthly focus group meetings.

2.1 Rotational chairing list

- [4] The secretariat had previously confirmed that the focus group will operate a rotational chairing list, ensuring each group member has the opportunity to chair the meeting.
- [5] The focus group selected Michelle Gray (United States of America) as chairperson of the meeting.

2.2 VM02 meeting report

- [6] The focus group adopted, in principle, the report of the previous meeting and noted that any comments or revisions to the draft report received by members would be incorporated into the final report.

2.3 Selection of the rapporteur for the meeting

- [7] The focus group selected Alvaro Sepulveda (Chile) rapporteur for the meeting.

2.4 Adoption of the agenda

- [8] The focus group adopted the agenda (Appendix 1).

3. Administrative matters

3.1 Participants list

- [9] The secretariat confirmed that the list of participants for the focus group would be updated and attached to the report (Appendix 2). The membership list is accessible through a link on the International Phytosanitary portal page for the focus group.¹

4. Update on CPM-19 outcomes on One Health and AMR

4.1 CPM-19 outcomes: Friends of the chair on AMR, science session, CPM-19 decisions

- [10] The secretariat presented the highlights and decisions from the recent CPM-19 affecting the work of the FG – PHOH. The importance of plant health in the context of One Health had been mentioned at several occasions during CPM -19, including by the FAO director general who called for greater inclusion of plant health in One Health initiatives, as well as by the director general of the World Organization for Animal Health, who also expressed support for collaboration with IPPC within the One Health framework.
- [11] The CPM-19 agenda item 13.3 (One Health) focused solely on the latest developments on One Health, including updates from the work of the FG – PHOH, a report on One Health congress and a call for a potential CPM recommendation on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) by CPM chairperson, Gregory Wolff (Canada).

¹ FG – PHOH membership list: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/94284/>

- [12] In response to the chair's invitation to CPM-19 to consider the merit of developing a CPM recommendation on AMR, the CPM had shared its concerns, considering lack of clarity on the role of plant health within One Health, the potential narrow scope of the recommendation, as well as the focus group's capacity. The topic was further discussed at the Friends of the Chair meeting outside of the session. As a result, the CPM-19 requested the FG – PHOH to prioritize the task 7 (Consider whether a formal CPM Recommendation would be of use and value and, if so, provide an outline of what it may address) from its terms of reference,² and present the outcomes of the assessment and possible outline of the recommendation to the 2025 Strategic Planning Group (SPG) meeting.
- [13] The secretariat briefed the FG – PHOH on the CPM Science session on the importance of plant health in the context of One Health,³ including the feedback from contracting parties, as well as the follow up actions and enhanced collaboration with the FAO One Health Technical Working Group Secretariat, including a potential proposal to include a work area on plant health in the Quadripartite workplan for 2025, promotion of the IPPC Plant Health Campus⁴ as a One Health capacity development tool, and collaboration on a potential One Health event at the FAO World Food Forum.
- [14] The focus group noted the updates.

5. Update on AMR

5.1 IPPC Observatory Study on AMR

- [15] The secretariat gave a PowerPoint presentation on the IPPC Observatory Study on AMR. The study was conducted to assess antimicrobial use in plant protection and its implications for AMR. Results were previously presented to CPM. The study found there was a lack of AMR-related data at the plant protection level as most data is generated by animal and human health sectors. The study's approach consisted of two global surveys on the use of antibiotics and fungicides in plant health.
- [16] On antibiotics, of the countries that took part, 66 percent reported no use of antibiotics in plant protection. No European countries reported using antibiotics in plant protection. Those that do use antibiotics reported using it mostly for bacterial diseases in crops like potato, citrus, and tomato. Common antibiotics included *Kasugamycin* and *Streptomycin*. Misuse was suspected in cases where antibiotics were used outside bacterial disease management. On fungicides, of the countries that took part, all respondents confirmed fungicide use. Use is widespread across many crops, targeting major fungal diseases.
- [17] The study found that antibiotic use in plant protection is limited in some regions and forbidden in Europe. Fungicide use is extensive and may present a risk of resistance due to chemical groups that have similarities with human and animal medicines. Chemical group analysis is therefore crucial to understanding resistance risks. Recommendations included strengthening collaboration across plant, animal, and human health sectors, and use the International FAO Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring (InFARM) platform⁵ to collect and analyze data.
- [18] In conclusion, the secretariat said current data is insufficient to justify a CPM recommendation on AMR in plant protection. More comprehensive, science-based data collection is needed to guide future actions. Speaking of the next steps, the secretariat mentioned that the study report for the IPPC Observatory Study on AMR will be prepared and published in collaboration with FAO's Plant Production and Protection Division (NSP).

² FG – PHOH terms of reference: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/93481/>

³ CPM-19 Science session: The Importance of Plant Health within One Health: <https://www.ippc.int/en/commission/cpm/cpm-sessions/cpm-19/cpm-19-side-sessions/cpm-19-science-session-the-importance-of-plant-health-within-one-health/>

⁴ IPPC Plant Health Campus: <https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=1255>

⁵ FAO InFARM: <https://www.fao.org/antimicrobial-resistance/resources/infarm-system/en/>

5.2 Update on NSP activities on AMR

- [19] A representative from FAO's NSP division presented NSP work and initiatives on antimicrobial use and resistance in plant health. NSP had developed a work plan on AMU and AMR in the plant sector.
- [20] As a first step, data is being collected for the InFARM system to strengthen surveillance and reporting on AMU at the country, regional and global levels. The second step is to institutionalize AMR in pesticide management, strengthening an enabling environment and policy dialogue, reducing AMU and AMR in food systems through integrated pest management, good agricultural practices and precision agriculture. Thirdly, capacity development needs to take place among smallholder farmers. Finally, awareness raising, communication and advocacy will be promoted for smallholders through workshops, webinars, factsheets and policy briefs.
- [21] The representative said several activities have taken place under the work plan during the past 18 months. The first is the creation of a network of experts and getting involved in working groups. The second is creating a technical brief on antibiotics used in plant health and their potential alternatives. The representative described a technical brief NSP is working on which will cover antibiotics used for plant production and protection and examples of available alternatives. The brief will describe the AMU for plant production and protection; cover worldwide legislation on AMU; prevention of bacterial contamination in the first place; and showcase solutions and what is done in countries that don't use antibiotics.
- [22] Other ongoing activities include awareness raising and communication which included updating FAO webpages, seminars, getting involved in the One Health Knowledge Nexus, participating in the scientific conference, One Health and the Challenge of Antifungal Resistance in April 2024. Finally, NSP has been streamlining data collection on AMU in plants for the use of a data collection module in the InFARM platform. The data gap in this area is also being filled by the IPPC survey, outlined above, and FAOSTAT.
- [23] The representative said NSP is working on a global system on data collection under One Health which will coordinate other agencies including the WHO (GLASS system) and the WOAHA (ANIMUSE) and FAO (InFARM). InFARM will look at AMR data on animals and food. A new InFARM module will collect data on plant health. A questionnaire was created with the help of the secretariat which will be filled out by participating countries, collecting both quantitative and qualitative data. This is different from FAOSTAT which only collected the amounts of active ingredients.
- [24] In the future, NSP could hold training programs for smallholder farmers on AMU and AMR through farmer field schools, which would include hands-on learning.

5.3 Update on FAO Resolution on AMR

- [25] The secretariat updated the focus group on the progress with the draft FAO resolution on AMR. The draft resolution had been presented to members at the 177th Session of the FAO Council and had been received with wide support. The plan is to present it to members for adoption at the 44th Session of the FAO Conference in June for adoption. The NSP recalled that the draft resolution text refers to the IPPC as a key player in shaping international guidance on antimicrobial use in plant health and supporting responsible phytosanitary practices.

The secretariat said if the resolution is adopted it will present a legal framework on AMR, which will guide the secretariat on other possible guidance documents such as an eLearning course or training materials.

6. Update on One Health communication activities

6.1 Update on NSP/IPPC communication and awareness raising activities on plant health and One Health

[26] The NSP focal point told the focus group about communications initiatives related to plant health in the context of One Health. One initiative is the One Health Knowledge Nexus, an FAO-powered platform with six thematic communities of practice involving over 1,500 members aimed at knowledge sharing and evidence building. Under the initiative, NSP launched a community of practice on One Health governance. Two more communities of practice will involve ICT and emerging pests and diseases.

The focus group heard there are more internet searches for One Health than plant health, highlighting an awareness gap. But plant health searches spike on the International Day of Plant Health. The focus group also learned that on the International Day of Plant Health this year the secretariat would share a series of videos on One Health, plus new content on the website and newsletter. NSP is also trying to position plant health within the broader context of One Health communications opportunities such as FAO's 80th anniversary.

7. Next steps

7.1 CPM FG workplan

Following the updates from CPM-19 (2025) and progress with the IPPC Observatory Study on AMR and NSP work on AMR, the secretariat presented the CPM-19 decisions related to AMR:

(115) *invited* the focus group to take into consideration the discussions held in this decision item on AMR and *requested* that the focus group prioritize tasks that will lead to delivery of task 7 in the approved terms of reference for the focus group, which relates to the consideration of a formal CPM recommendation;

(116) *requested* the focus group to present their advice on the potential value of a CPM recommendation at the 2025 SPG meeting, and, if supported, provide an outline of its content; and

[27] The members noted the current terms of reference (ToR) and the work plan of the focus group already covered the CPM decisions. The next step, according to the ToR, is to conduct a study analyzing the scientific evidence on how plant health contributes to One Health, including interlinkages with AMR – tasks 1,2,3,4,5 from ToR. The focus group added a new sub-activity to the work plan to present the findings of the study, particularly with regards to potential value and content of a CPM recommendation at the 2025 Strategic Planning Group (SPG) meeting. Otherwise, the work plan remains unchanged.

[28] The secretariat presented the terms of reference for the preliminary study, including the study's purpose, objectives, methodology, expected deliverables, and timeline. The secretariat noted that an international consultant (a scientist with expertise in phytosanitary issues) might be hired to conduct the study. The secretariat invited participants to suggest suitable candidates by sharing their CVs. One focus group member asked if there was a possibility of preparing the study within the secretariat. The secretariat noted the lack of available staff who could undertake the study, yet agreed to consider the possibility and inform the focus group.

[29] One focus group member mentioned the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO) Database on Resistance Cases⁶ in the conduct of the preliminary study. The focus group called the secretariat to ensure consideration of available resources on AMR and plant health in the context of One Health in the desk research and literature review to be conducted as part of the preliminary study.

⁶ EPPO Database on Resistance Cases: <https://resistance.eppo.int/>

[30] The focus group:

- (2) *requested* the IPPC secretariat to create an excel document to map the existing resources relevant for the preliminary study desk research and literature review.

8. Any other business

[31] The focus group agreed to discuss the items under this agenda item at the next meeting.

9. Closing of the meeting

[32] The chairperson thanked the participants for their contributions and closed the meeting.

Appendix 1: Agenda

Commission on Phytosanitary Measures

Focus group on plant health in the context of one health

*Virtual meeting***30 April 2025****17:00-19:00 (CET)**

| Agenda Item | Document No. | Time | Presenter(s) |
|--|--|--------------|-------------------|
| 1. Opening of the Meeting | | 5 min | |
| 1.1 Welcome by the IPPC Secretariat | -- | | IPPC Secretariat |
| 2. Meeting Arrangements | | 5 min | |
| 2.1 Rotational chairing list | CPM FG on OH chairing list – Michelle Gray | | MADAMINOVA |
| 2.2 VM02 meeting report | Available here | | MADAMINOVA |
| 2.3 Selection of the Rapporteur for the meeting | | | Chairperson |
| 2.4 Adoption of the Agenda | 01_FGOH_2025_April | | Chairperson |
| 3. Administrative Matters | | | |
| 3.1 List of participants | To be attached to the meeting report | | MADAMINOVA |
| 4. Update on CPM-19 outcomes on One Health and AMR | | | |
| 4.1 CPM-19 outcomes: Friends of the chair on AMR, science session, CPM-19 decisions) | 02_FGOH_2025_April | 10 min | MADAMINOVA |
| 5. Update on AMR | | | |
| 5.1 IPPC Observatory Study on AMR: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outcomes | CPM-19 paper on AMR PPT | 25 min | KOUMBA |
| 5.2 Update on NSP activities on AMR | PPT | 10 min | VERHAEGEN |
| 5.3 Update on FAO Resolution on AMR | Oral | 5 min | MADAMINOVA |
| 6. Update on One Health communication activities | | | |
| 6.1 Update on NSP/IPPC communication and awareness raising activities on plant health and One Health | PPT | 10 | MIJATOVIC |
| 7. Next steps | | | |
| 7.1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CPM FG workplan (ToR of the Focus Group) Preliminary study – plant health within One Health – TOR | Focus Group Workplan 03_FGOH_2025_April | 40 min | BRUNEL/MADAMINOVA |

| Agenda Item | | Document No. | Time | Presenter(s) |
|-------------|---|--------------|-------|--------------------|
| 8. | Any other business <ul style="list-style-type: none">Regional events for promoting PH within OH - link to the listUpdate - IUCN | | 5 min | BRUNEL/Chairperson |
| 9. | Closing of the meeting | - | 5 min | Chairperson |

Appendix 2: Participants List

COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES FOCUS GROUP ON PLANT HEALTH IN THE CONTEXT OF ONE HEALTH

30 April 2025, 17:00–19:00 (Rome time)

PARTICIPANTS LIST

A check (✓) in the last column indicates confirmed attendance at the meeting

| | FAO region | Name, Organization, Country | |
|---|--|---|---|
| 1 | Africa (Kenya) | Mr Henri Edouard Zefack Tonnang International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE) Nairobi, Kenya | ✓ |
| 2 | Europe and Central Asia (France) | Mr Philippe Lucien Reignault French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health Safety (ANSES) Angers, France | ✓ |
| 3 | Latin America and the Caribbean (Chile) | Mr Alvaro Sepúlveda Luque National Plant Protection Organization Santiago de Chile, Chile | ✓ |
| 4 | Southwest Pacific (Cook Islands) | Ms Temarama Rou - Ariki Anguna Kamana Ministry of Agriculture Rarotonga, Cook Islands | ✓ |
| 5 | Neat East and North Africa (Egypt) | Ms Heba Salah El-Dein Kassab Central Administration of Plant Quarantine (NPPO) Giza, Egypt | ✓ |
| 6 | North America (United States of America) | Ms Michelle Gray Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service North Carolina, United States of America | ✓ |
| 8 | FAO Technical Working Group for One Health (FAO) | Ms Carmel Bullon The Development Law Service (LEGN), FAO Rome, Italy | |

IPPC Secretariat and NSP

| Name | |
|---|---|
| Ms Sarah BRUNEL IPPC Officer-in-Charge | ✓ |
| Ms Rokhila Madaminova Programme Specialist | ✓ |
| Mr Descartes Koumba Implementation Facilitation Officer | ✓ |

Other

| Name | |
|--|---|
| Ms Marie Verhaegen Consultant, FAO | ✓ |
| Mr Vladimir Mijatovic Public Information Specialist, FAO | ✓ |

Appendix 3: Proposed Terms of Reference for the preliminary study: plant health and One Health

1. Purpose of the Preliminary Study

[33] The CPM Focus Group for plant health in the context of One Health was established by CPM-18 (2024) to conduct a preliminary study aiming to understand clear linkages between plant health and One Health. This study will inform the development of a broader strategy and action plan to enhance the visibility and inclusion of plant health in global One Health dialogues and initiatives.

[34] The purpose of the preliminary study is to explore and define the role of plant health within the One Health approach. This includes identifying existing linkages, gaps, and opportunities for integration between plant health and other One Health sectors, including human, animal, and environmental health.

2. Objectives

[35] The preliminary study will:

1. **Identify and map the interconnections** between plant health and the other pillars of One Health – animal health, human health, and environmental health.
2. **Analyze the relevance of AMR to plant health**, identifying pathways, practices, and phytosanitary measures that may contribute to or mitigate AMR risks.
3. **Consider the national, regional, and international case studies received in response to the [IPPC call for case studies](#)** where One Health approach was applied for addressing plant health issues.
4. **Assess the impacts** of One Health-related initiatives on plant health systems.
5. **Identify existing collaboration mechanisms** or platforms within the One Health framework that include or could include plant health stakeholders.
6. **Highlight key thematic areas** where plant health could provide added value within the One Health agenda (e.g. food security, pest outbreaks, biodiversity, pesticide use).
7. **Pinpoint knowledge, policy, and operational gaps** in the current One Health narrative and implementation with regard to plant health.

4. Methodology

[36] The study will be conducted using a combination of the following methods:

- Desk review of scientific, regulatory, and policy literature on plant health in the One Health, and AMR contexts.
- Case studies from selected NPPOs, RPPOs, and other stakeholders.
- Semi-structured interviews with selected experts and representatives of relevant sectors and organizations.
- Mapping exercise to illustrate institutional relationships, gaps, and collaboration opportunities.

5. Deliverables

[37] By October 2025, the following will be delivered:

- A preliminary study report summarizing findings on plant health's role in One Health.
- A set of recommendations outlining key priorities and opportunities for integrating plant health into One Health at global and national levels, including on the relevancy of AMR for plant health.
- A proposed scope and focus for the IPPC community's subsequent work, including topics for deeper analysis and potential advocacy or communication actions.

- Regular updates on the progress of the study at the focus group meetings.

6. Timeline

- May 2025: Hiring an international consultant – phytosanitary expert/scientist
- Mid-May 2025: Initiation of study
- June 2025: Data collection and analysis
- July 2025: Draft report and internal review
- August – September 2025: Finalization of study

7. Coordination and Support

- [38] The study will be conducted by an international consultant - phytosanitary expert/scientist, with input and guidance from the CPM Focus Group, and coordination support from the IPPC Secretariat.