Draft CPM Recommendation proposal: Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) to manage plant pests

*(prepared by European Union)*

Background

1. The Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) in its fourteenth session ([CPM-14, 2019](https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/87271/)) discussed the topic on “Antimicrobial resistance (AMR)” in relation to plant health.
2. Contracting parties welcomed the discussions and applauded the Secretariat for initiating the discussions in this regard, as the effects of the use of antimicrobial products for plants health, and its effects related to AMR had not been given the same focus as with its effects on human and animal health. Although acknowledging the importance of this topic and that there are links with the IPPC, some contracting parties indicated that it was important to take decisions based on sound science and assessment of risks, and suggested that before the CPM or the Secretariat commit resources to this subject greater focus in the FAO task force on the impact study in plants. It was also noted that the “One Health initiative” and suggested that plant health should be integrated into it. Furthermore, it was suggested that FAO conduct a systematic review of the effects of antimicrobials used it plant health on AMR risks for possible reporting to the next meeting of the SPG in October 2019.
3. Some CPs agreed that prudent use of antimicrobials is essential to limiting the emergence and spread of antibiotic-resistant bacteria in humans, animals and plants. They have noted that over these years there is a growing body of alternatives that can help further reduce the use of antimicrobials and phase out antibiotics. The CPs further suggested that a CPM Recommendation on AMR be developed in relation to plant health.
4. The Secretariat pointed out the ongoing collaboration with the FAO Task Force on AMR on the plant health related AMR issues. It was also highlighted that IPPC involvement in AMR should be limited to the scope of the Convention that is supporting the prevention of the spread of the plant pests through developed International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) and with regards to CPM priorities and Secretariat resources. IPPC should not be involved in the issues related the use of pesticide or antibiotics in pest management actions and their residues, as these issue fall under the scope of other international instruments, i.e. Codex Alimentarius Commission and the International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management.
5. The CPM-14:
6. *Noted* and conveyed appreciation for the discussion on the use of Antimicrobials and Antimicrobial Resistance in respect of plant health as an important topic to monitor.
7. *Supported* the IPPC Secretariat maintaining a watching brief on the contribution of plant health actions on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), through the FAO task force, subject to CPM and Secretariat priorities and resources.
8. The EU and its 28 Member States are now requesting considerations regarding the inclusion of a draft CPM recommendation in to the CPM work programme. The EU understands that it might be feasible, and hence worth of a follow-up discussion, to achieve a common support to a call for a prudent use of antimicrobials for plant health purposes, as it is an important topic deserving the attention of the plant health community.
9. The Bureau and the SPG are invited to:
10. *Consider* the topic for inclusion in to the CPM work programme, and *provide* a recommendation to the CPM.
11. *Discuss*, if appropriate, the text in the draft CPM recommendation proposal, as provided in **Attachment 1**.

**ATTACHMENT 1: Draft CPM Recommendation**

**Title: Reducing the risks of antimicrobial resistance developing from the use of antimicrobials to manage plant pests**

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| **Status box** | |
| This is not an official part of the CPM Recommendation and it will be modified by the IPPC Secretariat after adoption. | |
| Date of this document: | September 2019 |
| Document category: | Proposal for a CPM recommendation |
| Current document stage: | To the SPG for consideration as a draft recommendation for consideration by CPM-15 in 2020, following discussion at CPM-14 in 2019 |
| Submitted by: | The EU and its 28 member states |

**BACKGROUND**

1. The International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) aims to protect global plant resources and facilitate safe trade. This mission is accomplished by minimising the spread of plant pests and effectively managing their impacts within countries. The Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM), regional plant protection organisations (RPPOs) and national plant protection organisations (NPPOs) work together to set international standards for phytosanitary measures (ISPMs) and to develop and maintain the capacity of contracting parties to implement these harmonised measures to prevent pest introductions and spread, and minimise the impacts of pests on food security, trade, economic growth and the environment.
2. Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) occurs when microbes become resistant to antimicrobials such as antibiotics, anti-virals or fungicides. Mutations, which occur in bacteria, viruses, fungi and other microbes, may allow them to survive antimicrobials that are given or applied to treat human, animal or plant diseases. This natural phenomenon cannot be eliminated but must be controlled.
3. AMR is a significant threat to human and animal health, food security and to global development. The more antimicrobials are used – the more resistance is triggered. Of particular concern is antibiotic resistance, given that bacterial infections are common in humans and animals and the range of available antibiotics and their development is limited.
4. The full extent to which antimicrobial use in plant production selects for the emergence of AMR in plant pathogens, soil or spoilage organisms and in zoonotic pathogens present on foods of plant origin is not fully understood. However, AMR is detected in microorganisms on plants and in their immediate environment, and antimicrobials enhance the selection pressure for resistance development. Moreover, food products of plant origin may play a role in the food-borne transmission of resistant microorganisms and genes from plants to humans and animals.
5. The IPPC mandate is to prevent the spread and introduction of pests associated with trade of plants and plant products, and to promote appropriate measures for their control. The IPPC community is therefore uniquely placed to contribute to the global action to address the risks to human and animal health from AMR developing through the use of plant protection products.
6. Even if more information is needed to quantify the relationship between the use of antimicrobials and other disease preventive measures on the selection, transmission and persistence of AMR in the surrounding plant production environment, the IPPC community should play a role in multi-sectoral efforts to decrease the AMR risks.
7. This CPM recommendation therefore provides a platform for reducing the use of antimicrobials for plant health purposes by encouraging contracting parties and NPPOs, RPPOs and farmers to take action in order to decrease the risks of AMR developing from the use of antimicrobials to safeguard plants from pests or to manage pest risks associated with the movement of plants and plant products.

**ADDRESSED TO:**

1. Contracting parties, NPPOs, RPPOs and relevant industries involved in the production of or trade in plants and plant products.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. The CPM [henceforth ‘the Commission’] *recognizes* that the prudent use of antimicrobials is essential to limit the emergence and spread of AMR in humans, animals and plants, and hence can contribute to tackling AMR within the framework of the global "One Health" initiative.
2. The Commission *emphasizes* the important role the IPPC plays by preventing the international movement of plant pests and thereby reducing the need for antimicrobial use and hence the risk of AMR development.
3. The Commission further *encourages* contracting parties to develop national plans to:

a. Restrict to the minimum necessary the use of antimicrobials for plant protection purposes, and particularly of antibiotics that are used in animal and human disease control.

b. Develop and implement integrated crop production processes that prevent or reduce the incidence and severity of plant pests and diseases, and therefore the need to apply plant protection products, and to favour the use of sustainable pest control methods. This may include best agricultural practices, such as crop rotation, or pest impact reduction strategies using host resistance, induced resistance, integrated pest management or biological control.

c. Develop and implement strategies to minimize the contamination of plants and plant products with bacteria that cause food-borne illnesses, including faecal bacteria.

d. Raise awareness of the risks and impacts in the agriculture and health sectors of antimicrobial resistance.

**RECOMMENDATION(S) SUPERSEDED BY THE ABOVE**

1. None.