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منظمة  
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# COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

## Sixteenth Session

**Virtual Meeting, 5, 7 and 21 April 2022**

**The IPPC Secretariat and One Health**

**Agenda item 8.5**

**Prepared by the IPPC Secretariat**

## I. Background

1. During CPM-15 (2021), some Contracting Parties (CPs) suggested that consideration be given to an enhanced involvement of the IPPC Community in the One Health approach. It was suggested that this could start with the IPPC Secretariat having discussions with key international players in One Health such as FAO, the World Health Organization, the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) and the United Nations Environment Programme. CPM-15 requested that “the agenda of the next Strategic Planning Group include a discussion on the extent of the involvement of plant health in the One Health approach, and the role of plant health in biosecurity, biosafety and environmental protection, to allow a further assessment and to make an informed CPM decision on this issue”.

2. Updates on the link with the CPM Focus Group on Pest Outbreaks Alert and Response Systems, the New FAO Strategic Framework and the FAO One Health Technical Working Group and Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and plant health were presented to the SPG in 2021 and are reported below as well.

3. Argentina and New Zealand presented papers to SPG, the related discussions are reflected below.

## II. Links with the Development Agenda on Pest Outbreaks Alert and Response Systems

4. “Strengthening Pest Outbreak Alert and Response Systems” is one of the Development Agenda items in the IPPC Strategic Framework (2020-2030). Guidance to advance this new activity was provided by a CPM Focus Group (FG) on Pest Outbreaks Alert and Response Systems<sup>1</sup>.

5. The FG met virtually each month since January 2021 to address the twelve tasks laid out in its Terms of Reference. Over 20 side meetings were also organized to advance the work and several sessions were organized to have other organizations present overviews of their existing alert and response systems. An analysis of the most renowned alert systems was undertaken and will be published in a report in early 2022. Discussion in the FG meetings provided an opportunity to liaise with One Health stakeholders from within FAO (EMPRES, dealing with transboundary animal and plant pests and diseases, and animal health and emergency units) as well as external organizations such as OIE, WHO, etc.

6. A study on existing alert and response systems and the detailed recommendations of this Focus Group are to be published early 2022. A CPM paper providing the main conclusions is also presented under Agenda point 8.8.1.

## III. New FAO Strategic Framework and the FAO One Health Technical Working Group

7. FAO adopted a new Strategic Framework for 2022-2031. “FAO's Strategic Framework articulates FAO’s vision of a sustainable and food secure world for all, in the context of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development. FAO's Strategic Framework seeks to support the 2030 Agenda through the transformation to MORE efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agri-food systems for better production, better nutrition, a better environment, and a better life, leaving no one behind” (FAO Office of Strategy, Programme and Budget (OSP)).

8. The IPPC Secretariat activities have been assessed as falling under two FAO Programme Priority Areas (PPA), namely:

- **One Health**, the 3rd PPA under “Better Production” (BP3) for which the outcome statement is “Strengthened and better performing national and international integrated One Health systems for human, animal, plant and environmental health achieved through improved pest and disease prevention, early warning and management of national and global health risks, including AMR”.
- **Transparent market and trade**, the 5th PPA under “Better Nutrition” (BN5) for which the outcome statement is “Improved market transparency and equitable participation in markets, global value chains and international trade achieved through policy coordination and human and institutional capacities for evidence-based decision-making”.

9. For the One Health PPA, further information on gaps, outcomes, SDG targets, SDG indicators, accelerators, key thematic components, normative aspects, core function strategies, trade-offs and risk mitigation are available in Appendix 1 of the IPPC Secretariat SPG 2021 paper on IPPC and One Health<sup>2</sup>, which are an extract from the FAO Director General’s Medium-Term Plan 2022-2025 and Programme of Work and Budget 2022-2023.

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<sup>1</sup> IPP Webpage on the CPM Focus Group on Strengthening Pest Outbreak Alert and Response Systems: <http://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/governance/cpm/cpm-focus-group-reports/strengthening-pest-outbreak-alert-and-response-systems/>

<sup>2</sup> SPG 2021 IPPC Secretariat paper on IPPC and One Health (08\_SPG\_2021\_Oct) <http://www.ippc.int/en/publications/90247/>

10. Intersectoral working groups have been set for each PPA within FAO and IPPC Secretariat staff are participating in BP3 “One Health” and BN5 “Transparent market and trade”.

11. During their meetings, the FAO One Health Team drafted a definition of “One Health”, completed a SWOT analysis and prepared a road map for future activities.

12. Furthermore, in May 2021 a One Health High-Level Expert Panel was established by FAO, OIE, UNEP and WHO. However, their focus is on the policy-relevant scientific assessment of the emergence of (human) health crises, and the development of guidance on a long-term strategic approach to reducing the risk of zoonotic pandemics, rather than phytosanitary issues.

#### IV. Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and plant health

13. Currently the IPPC community does not have robust data on the extent and volume of antimicrobial use by the plant sector worldwide. There are regional and national differences in antibiotic recommendations, which may be due to agricultural needs, legislation, availability, cropping systems, extension services, or the nature of the pathogens that are causing problems. Some studies, however, provide an example of types of use; at least 20 countries authorize antibiotic use to control fire blight and citrus greening disease in plants. In some countries, streptomycin is authorized to control certain bacterial diseases in pip fruit, stone fruit, seedling tomatoes and kiwifruit. Kasugamycin, oxytetracycline and oxolinic acid are other antibiotics used to control plant pests (de León et al., 2008<sup>3</sup>; Stockwell and Duffy, 2012<sup>4</sup>).

14. The available data, although limited, demonstrates extreme variation between the use of antibiotics in crop production across the regions, as well as in the amounts of antibiotics used by various countries within the regions.

15. CPM-14 (2019)<sup>5</sup> conveyed appreciation for the discussion on the use of Antimicrobials and Antimicrobial Resistance in respect of plant health and noted it as an important topic to monitor. CPM-14 (2019) supported the IPPC Secretariat's continued monitoring of Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) issues related to plant health, through participation in the FAO AMR working group, subject to CPM and IPPC Secretariat priorities and resources. The CPs further suggested that a CPM Recommendation on AMR be developed in relation to plant health. Hence, CPs initiated the discussion on the effects of the use of antimicrobial products for plant health and agreed to collect systematic data of the effects of antimicrobials used in plant health.

16. Finally, it was agreed that the IPPC Secretariat 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 the development of International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs).

17. Currently, the IPPC Secretariat is contributing to the development of the FAO “List of Antimicrobials in Horticulture: Importance categorization”. This document will contribute to the joint list of One Health identified antimicrobials, with those identified by FAO, OIE and WHO. This document could be used by stakeholders, as a risk management tool, by providing an integrated and balanced ranking of importance of these antimicrobials, considering the human, animal and horticulture perspectives.

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<sup>3</sup> Comparative efficiency of chemical compounds for *in vitro* and *in vivo* activity against *Clavibacter michiganensis* subsp. *michiganensis*, the causal agent of tomato bacterial canker

<sup>4</sup> Use of antibiotics in plant agriculture, V.O Stockwell, B.Duffy

<sup>5</sup> Report CPM-14 (2019): [http://assets.ippc.int/static/media/files/publication/en/2019/07/CPM-14\\_Report\\_withISPMs-2019-07-31.pdf](http://assets.ippc.int/static/media/files/publication/en/2019/07/CPM-14_Report_withISPMs-2019-07-31.pdf)

## V. Discussions on One Health at the Strategic Planning Group

18. Argentina<sup>6</sup> and New Zealand<sup>7</sup> presented a paper on the IPPC and One Health.
19. The IPPC Secretariat prepared and introduced their paper<sup>8</sup> and explained that there is demand for relevant information and data regarding plant health and that partner organizations have expressed their interest in cooperating with the IPPC Secretariat on this matter.
20. The SPG discussed this issue and noted that several SPG participants already agreed that the IPPC Secretariat should continue to monitor the discussions and be involved in One Health dialogues within FAO and in other relevant contexts only when it contributes concretely to the advancement of the IPPC mission.
21. The SPG agreed that there are clear linkages between plant health and nutrition, the environment and animal health, but that the discussion is fluid and changing, underlining how the One Health discussion has been focused on antimicrobial resistance for the last four years, whilst today's discussion focuses predominantly on environmental issues. The SPG concluded that the IPPC Secretariat should continue participating in the One Health dialogue but intervene and commit IPPC Secretariat resources only when the link to the IPPC is clear and the benefit is tangible. The SPG suggested that the IPPC Secretariat follows a similar approach as with other groups, such as the biodiversity liaison group, and drafts a consolidated version aligning the three SPG papers on One Health while also considering the potential involvement of the CPM FG on Communications to help convey the long-standing role and contributions that plant health authorities and programs contribute to food security, production, nutrition and environmental health.
22. The CPM is invited to:
  - 1) *Note* that, as advised by the SPG, the IPPC Secretariat will continue monitoring and participating in the FAO One Health discussions and reporting back to the SPG and Bureau, while ensuring any work or commitments are strictly aligned with the IPPC Secretariat work and strategic priorities.

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<sup>6</sup> SPG 2021 Argentina's paper on IPPC and One Health <http://www.ippc.int/en/publications/90269/>

<sup>7</sup> SPG 2021 New Zealand's paper on IPPC and One Health <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/90227/>

<sup>8</sup> SPG 2021 IPPC Secretariat paper on IPPC and One Health (08\_SPG\_2021\_Oct) <http://www.ippc.int/en/publications/90247/>