One Health and AMR issues

*Prepared by the IPPC Secretariat*

1. Background

CPM-16 (2022) noted that the IPPC Secretariat would continue monitoring and participating in the FAO One Health discussions and reporting back to the SPG and CPM Bureau, while ensuring any work or commitments are strictly aligned with the Secretariat’s work and strategic priorities.

2. New definition of One Health

In 2021, the One Health High-Level Expert Panel defined One Health **as “an integrated, unifying approach that aims to sustainably balance and optimize the health of people, animals and ecosystems**. It recognizes the health of humans, domestic and wild animals, plants, and the wider environment (including ecosystems) are closely linked and inter-dependent. The approach mobilizes multiple sectors, disciplines and communities at varying levels of society to work together to foster well-being and tackle threats to health and ecosystems, while addressing the collective need for clean water, energy and air, safe and nutritious food, taking action on climate change, and contributing to sustainable development”.

The Expert Panel designed a pictogram to illustrate One Health:



3. Latest global developments on One Health

The World Health Organization (WHO), World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) have been working together for many years at the human-animal-environment interface. This collaboration was formalized in 2018 when these organizations entered into a tripartite Memorandum of Cooperation (MoU) on One Health and a tripartite secretariat was established to coordinate One Health activities. An example of the materials and supporting tools developed jointly by these three organizations to support the member countries in advancing their capacities in One Health is the guidance document published in March 2021, "A Tripartite Guide to Addressing Zoonotic Diseases in Countries”[[1]](#footnote-1).

In March 2022, the MoU was updated to include the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), forming a Quadripartite between FAO, WOAH, WHO and UNEP. The new Quadripartite MoU provides a legal and formal framework for the four organizations to tackle the challenges at the human, animal, plant and ecosystem interface using a more integrated and coordinated approach. This framework will also contribute to reinforce national and regional health systems and services.

The Quadripartite drafted the One Health Joint Plan for Action (OH JPA)[[2]](#footnote-2) as a collaborative and participatory effort among the four organizations. The OH JPA aims to further strengthen a comprehensive One Health approach and to foster the joint work by the four entities required for successful mainstreaming of One Health at all levels, thereby promoting the health of people, animals, plants and the environment. It contains six action tracks, namely:

1. Enhancing One Health capacities to strengthen health systems;
2. Reducing risks from emerging and re-emerging zoonotic epidemics and pandemics;
3. Controlling and eliminating endemic and neglected zoonotic and vector-borne diseases;
4. Strengthening the assessment, management and communication of food safety risks;
5. Curbing the silent pandemic of antimicrobial resistance (AMR); and
6. Integrating the environment into One Health.

Action track 5 and 6 of the OH JPA are of particular relevance to plant health and each action track consists of a set of actions with specific activities, deliverables and a timeline to achieve the objectives. The objective of action track 5 is to take joint actions to preserve antimicrobial efficacy and ensure sustainable and equitable access to antimicrobials for responsible and prudent use in human, animal and plant health. The objectives for action track 6 are to protect and restore biodiversity, prevent the degradation of ecosystems and the wider environment to jointly support the health of people, animals, plants and ecosystems underpinning sustainable development.

***The One Health High Level Expert Panel***

The One Health High Level Expert Panel (OHHLEP) is a global, multidisciplinary panel of 26 international One Health experts who were selected and appointed for a two-year term in May 2021. The OHHLEP has an advisory role to the Quadripartite partners and is expected to provide multidisciplinary as well as evidence-based scientific and policy guidance to address global, regional and national challenges raised by One Health.

The OHHLEP has four active working groups:

1. One Health Implementation;
2. Inventory of current knowledge in preventing emerging zoonoses;
3. Surveillance, early detection and rapid data sharing in the prevention of emerging zoonoses;
4. Factors causing spillover and subsequent spread of diseases.

OHHLEP is supported by a joint Secretariat with representatives from the four partner agencies, undertaking coordination and information flow and providing reports for all meetings[[3]](#footnote-3).

***The One Health Intelligence Scoping Study***

The Quadripartite is undertaking a One Health Intelligence Scoping Study (OHISS)[[4]](#footnote-4), which will support global health security by improving early warning and risk assessment at national and international levels. This will be delivered by identifying an operational framework for enhanced information sharing between the environment, agriculture, animal and human health sectors.

4. Recent FAO developments on One Health

The FAO Strategic Framework for 2022-31 supports the transformation to MORE efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agri-food systems under the four betters (4Bs): better production, better nutrition, a better environment and a better life, leaving no one behind[[5]](#footnote-5). The objectives of the Strategic Framework are to be achieved through the implementation of 20 Programme Priority Areas (PPAs), one of which being on One Health.

***The One Health Programme Priority Area***

The One Health Programme Priority Area (OHPPA)[[6]](#footnote-6) has been developed to strengthen national and international integrated One Health (OH) systems for human, animal, plant and environmental (HAPE) health through improved pest and disease prevention, early warning and management of national and global health risks, including antimicrobial resistance (AMR).

The OHPPA defined the following five intermediary outcomes:

1. Countries adopt/achieve strengthened anticipatory, integrated, early warning and information systems on animal and plant pests and diseases (APPDs) including zoonotic diseases at the human-animal-plant-environment (HAPE) interface, as part of better early warning system performance at national, regional and global levels.
2. Countries adopt/achieve strengthened national biosecurity for pests and disease management, as part of coordinated regional and global approach to prevent, detect and respond to risks and prevent next pandemics.
3. National, regional and global capacities for food chain crisis emergency management are strengthened, through improved preparedness, anticipatory action and response for food chain emergencies and other health events at the animal-human-plant-environmental interface (HAPE) threatening livelihoods, food security and nutrition.
4. Capacities in AMR risk management are improved at national, regional and global level to support OH responses to AMR in the food and agriculture sectors.
5. Sustained One Health systems at national, regional and global levels. Countries invest on strengthening the contributions to One Health – biodiversity, and its ecosystem services, environmental health, soil/land, water, food safety and the sustainability of agri-foods systems.

***Establishment of the FAO One Health Technical Working Group***

FAO established a One Health Technical Working Group (OH TWG) to synergize FAO's One Health work across the organization, and externally with other international organizations that have a remit under the One Health umbrella. This multidisciplinary group was established in July 2021 with nominated FAO One Health focal points from 15 FAO divisions, five regional offices and two liaison offices and is supported by a Secretariat. The group has virtual meetings every month. Ms Sarah Brunel, acting lead for the Implementation and Facilitation Unit, was nominated as the focal point member for NSP.

To date, this group achieved the following tasks:

* + Finalized their Terms of References;
  + Contributed to the scoping document of the Global Plan of Action for One Health;
  + Provided input to the new definition of One Health released by OHHLEP (provided in point 1 of this paper);
  + Established a Task Force to develop United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) Guidance notes for One Health;
  + Contributed to other initiatives such as Global Environment Fund-8 and FAO regional conferences.

The OH TWG plans to release newsletters. The IPPC Secretariat advocated to have an issue dedicated to plant health to report on the International Plant Health Conference[[7]](#footnote-7).

***Committee on Agriculture (COAG) discussions on One Health***

The 28th Session of the Committee on Agriculture was held in Rome, 18-22 July 2022[[8]](#footnote-8). Under the section II on Sustainable Food and Agriculture, the committee discussed One Health and related policy and technical guidance[[9]](#footnote-9). COAG specifically “recommended FAO to strengthen cooperation between the Quadripartite and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) to consider plant health”.

*Committee on Agriculture (COAG) discussions on Antimicrobial Resistance*

During discussions on the Progress report on the FAO Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) 2021-2025[[10]](#footnote-10), the Committee acknowledged the importance of the One Health approach in addressing AMR and the role of *Codex Alimentarius*, WOAH and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) in developing coherent texts to support efforts to address AMR, in line with the conclusions of the 81st Session of the Executive Committee of the *Codex Alimentarius* Commission (CCEXEC81) and the 44th Session of the *Codex Alimentarius* Commission (CAC44). The committee encouraged FAO to work with the IPPC Secretariat, as appropriate, to prioritize the development of guidance on the use of antimicrobial agents for phytosanitary purposes.

The Strategic Planning Group is invited to:

* *Note* the latest global developments on One Health, in particular the new definition of One Health, the new Quadripartite arrangement between FAO, WHO, WOAH and UNEP and the establishment of the One Health High Level Expert Panel.
* *Note* the latest One Health developments at the FAO, in particular the One Health Programme Priority Area outcomes, and the establishment of the FAO One Health Technical Working Group.
* *Note* that the Quadripartite is expected to approach the IPPC Secretariat for further involvement on One Health.
* *Advise* on the next steps to address the request of the COAG to prioritize the development of guidance on the use of antimicrobial agents for phytosanitary purposes.

1. World Health Organization, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and World Organisation for Animal Health (2019) Taking a multisectoral, one health approach: a tripartite guide to addressing zoonotic diseases in countries. 16 p. <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789241514934> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. One Health Joint Plant of Action (summary) <https://www.woah.org/app/uploads/2022/04/oh-joint-plan-of-action-summary.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. WHO, One Health High Level Expert Panel (OHHLEP) meetings and thematic groups webpage <https://www.who.int/groups/one-health-high-level-expert-panel/meetings-and-working-groups> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. FAO (2022) The One Health Intelligence Scoping Study. 8 p. <https://www.fao.org/publications/card/en/c/CC0003EN/> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. FAO (2021) Strategic Framework 2022-2031. 39 p. <https://www.fao.org/3/cb7099en/cb7099en.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. FAO One Health webpage <https://www.fao.org/one-health/en> [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. International Plant Health Conference website <https://www.agiitoevents.com/event/a6e37cb4-c5a0-4a97-bafe-82a7d6ee4bd5/summary> [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Report of the 28th session of the Committee on Agriculture (Rome, 18-22 July 2022) <https://www.fao.org/3/nj925en/nj925en.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. 28th Committee on Agriculture paper on One Health and related policy and technical guidance <https://www.fao.org/3/nj006en/nj006en.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. 28th Committee on Agriculture paper on Progress report on the FAO Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) 2021-2025 <https://www.fao.org/3/nj007en/nj007en.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-10)