



COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES
SEVENTEENTH SESSION
ONE HEALTH AND AMR ISSUES
AGENDA ITEM 15.1

(Prepared by the IPPC Secretariat)

1. Background and purpose

- [1] 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] During the SPG in 2022, a paper presented by the United States of America outlined some opportunities for the IPPC community and knowledge gaps regarding One Health. The paper concluded that IPPC involvement with One Health should be based on existing CPM initiatives and programmes, and importantly, their relevance should be communicated to the FAO One Health community to ensure a broad recognition of IPPC contributions in this space.
- [3] Another paper from the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization discussed the pivotal role to play for Plant Health in the One Health approach in Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) and food security. Additionally, the paper highlighted the low level of awareness and implementation of One Health in the plant-health community, as well as the low profile of plant health in the wider international One Health debate.
- [4] The SPG during its October 2022 meeting¹ concluded that the current CPM paper should:
- outline the various IPPC activities that contribute to the One Health agenda;
 - indicate possible areas that require more work.

2. Latest global developments on One Health

- [5] 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"².
- [6] 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,

¹ Report Strategic Planning Group (SPG) Meeting, 24-26 October 2022, Rome, Italy: https://assets.ippc.int/static/media/files/publication/en/2022/12/SPG_Oct_Report_2022.pdf

² 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>

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.

[7] The Quadripartite drafted the One Health Joint Plan for Action (OH JPA)³ 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 zoonotic, neglected tropical and vector-borne diseases;
- (4) Strengthening the assessment and management of food safety risks;
- (5) Curbing the silent pandemic of antimicrobial resistance (AMR); and
- (6) Integrating the environment into One Health.

[8] Action track 1, 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 1 corresponds with the IPPC community goal of promoting enhanced regional surveillance systems for early detection, pest reporting, and response. This is the first line of defense to prevent the spread and damage of invasive plant pests. 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.

3. The One Health High Level Expert Panel

[9] 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.

[10] 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 spill-over and subsequent spread of diseases.

[11] OHHLEP is supported by a joint Secretariat with representatives from the four partner agencies, undertaking coordination and information flow and providing reports for all meetings⁴.

New definition of One Health

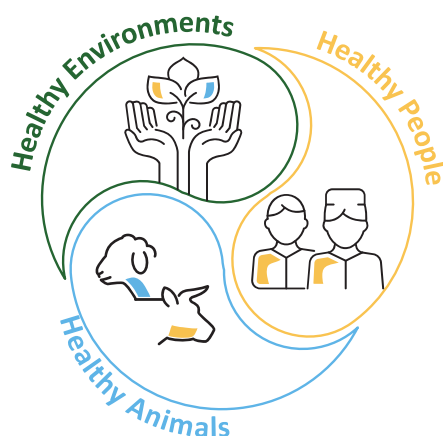
[12] In 2021, the One Health High-Level Expert Panel defined One Health as **“an integrated, unifying approach that aims to sustainably balance and optimize the health of people, animals and ecosystems**. It recognizes the health of humans, domestic and wild animals, plants, and the wider environment (including ecosystems) are closely linked and inter-dependent. The approach mobilizes

³ One Health Joint Plan of Action (summary) <https://www.woah.org/app/uploads/2022/04/oh-joint-plan-of-action-summary.pdf>

⁴ 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>

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.”

- [13] The Expert Panel designed a pictogram to illustrate One Health:



- [14] The SPG considered that the definition of One Health is problematic and highlighted the need for plant health to be more explicitly recognized in the One Health concept. The SPG also noted that the concept of plant health in the IPPC context is narrower than in One Health, consequently, the IPPC community could only address those aspects of plant health that fall within the scope of the IPPC.
- [15] At the same time, the SPG also recognized the opportunity One Health presents for engagement on how plant health fits into One Health approach.

The One Health Intelligence Scoping Study

- [16] The Quadripartite is undertaking a One Health Intelligence Scoping Study (OHISS)⁵, 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

- [17] 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.⁶ The objectives of the Strategic Framework are to be achieved through the implementation of 20 Programme Priority Areas (PPAs), one of which is One Health.

The One Health Programme Priority Area

- [18] The One Health Programme Priority Area (OHPPA)⁷ 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).

⁵ FAO (2022) The One Health Intelligence Scoping Study. 8 p. <https://www.fao.org/publications/card/en/c/CC0003EN/>

⁶ FAO (2021) Strategic Framework 2022-2031. 39 p. <https://www.fao.org/3/cb7099en/cb7099en.pdf>

⁷ FAO One Health webpage <https://www.fao.org/one-health/en>

Establishment of the FAO One Health Technical Working Group

- [19] 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 17 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.
- [20] To date, this group achieved the following tasks:
- Finalized its Terms of References;
 - Contributed to the scoping study of the Global Plan of Action for One Health;
 - Provided input to the new definition of One Health released by OHHLEP (provided in point 2 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.
- [21] The OH TWG releases a newsletter. The IPPC Secretariat advocated to have an issue dedicated to plant health to report on the International Plant Health Conference.⁸

Committee on Agriculture (COAG) discussions on One Health held in July 2022

- [22] The 28th Session of the Committee on Agriculture was held in Rome, 18-22 July 2022.⁹ Under section II on Sustainable Food and Agriculture, the committee discussed One Health and related policy and technical guidance.¹⁰ 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

- [23] During discussions on the Progress report on the FAO Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) 2021-2025¹¹, the Committee acknowledged the importance of the One Health approach in addressing AMR and the role of *Codex Alimentarius*, WOH 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.

FAO Council discussions on the COAG report held in December 2022

- [24] The 171st council of FAO was held on 5-9 December 2022.

⁸ International Plant Health Conference website <https://www.agiitoevents.com/event/a6e37cb4-c5a0-4a97-bafe-82a7d6ee4bd5/summary>

⁹ Report of the 28th session of the Committee on Agriculture (Rome, 18-22 July 2022) <https://www.fao.org/3/nj925en/nj925en.pdf>

¹⁰ 28th Committee on Agriculture paper on One Health and related policy and technical guidance <https://www.fao.org/3/nj006en/nj006en.pdf>

¹¹ 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>

[25] The Council reviewed the Report of the 28th Session of the Committee on Agriculture (COAG), and in particular for what concerns One Health and AMR:

- welcomed the development of the One Health Joint Plan of Action and strengthened cooperation between the Quadripartite, and recommended to enhance data integration and sharing across sectors, to strengthen global One Health knowledge and scientific information systems, and to assist Members, upon request, on national One Health early warning frameworks for rapid risk assessments of animal and zoonotic disease threats;
- recommended FAO to strengthen cooperation between the Quadripartite and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) to consider plant health; and
- welcomed the progress made in the implementation of the Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) 2021-2025, in close collaboration with the Quadripartite, and encouraged FAO to support Members in their implementation of good production practices as well as in AMR management throughout the food supply chain, called for the implementation of the Codex Alimentarius guidelines and standards on AMR and supported the development of guidelines, in line with the Action Plan, on monitoring the use of antimicrobials with the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH).

5. IPPC Secretariat role and further research on AMR

[26] The SPG considered that given resource constraints, it was better to show how existing IPPC activities could contribute to the One Health agenda rather than trying to establish a One Health programme within the IPPC work programme. While the IPPC Secretariat will continue attending the FAO meetings on One Health in a passive role as requested by CPM-16 (2022), the secretariat commented on the fine balance needed when attending the FAO One Health meetings to be aware of developments and have access to funds if available.

While all IPPC Secretariat activities contribute to One Health, the following are considered to be the most closely related:

- The 5th Development Agenda initiative in the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020-2030 “Strengthening Pest Outbreak Alert and Response Systems”;
- The Sea Container activities, which could be leading the way in areas that also affect animal health.
- The Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation, as a plant health capacity assessment and development tool, similar to the WOAHA Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) and the FAO Food Safety Assessment.
- Work underway to develop an IPPC Action Plan on climate change and plant health.

[27] The SPG also considered it was too early to develop a CPM recommendation on One Health, as it is necessary to understand AMR and plant health better before developing a recommendation.

Further research on AMR

[28] The SPG noted a knowledge gap about AMR and suggested the possible funding of an analysis on the scope of antimicrobial resistance in the plant-production and health sector. For such study, existing data on AMR should be analysed and gaps would be identified. A key objective for this baseline analysis would be to better understand the nature and scope presented by AMR-associated risks in the phytosanitary context. The Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC) discussed the topic as well and considered that the definition of the AMR should also include resistance to fungicides, insecticides and other pesticides which occur in all parts of the world. This topic is proposed as a transnational research topic through the EUPHRESKO network.

[29] The CPM is invited to:

- (1) *Note* the latest global developments on One Health, in particular the new definition of One Health, the new Quadripartite arrangement between FAO, WHO, WOAHA and UNEP and the establishment of the One Health High Level Expert Panel.
- (2) *Note* that the Quadripartite is expected to approach the IPPC Secretariat for further involvement on One Health.
- (3) *Request* the IPPC Secretariat and IC to consider how best to undertake a study to better understand the nature and scope presented by AMR-associated risks in the phytosanitary context, including resistance to fungicides, insecticides and other pesticides.
- (4) *Request* the Secretariat to represent the CPM at the FAO One Health meetings, share information about ongoing relevant IPPC initiatives at those meetings, and keep the Bureau informed on developments in this space that may impact CPM or require CPM awareness or action.