



COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

NINETEENTH SESSION

LATEST DEVELOPMENT ON ONE HEALTH

AGENDA ITEM 13.3

(Prepared by the IPPC Secretariat)

1. Introduction

- [1] The Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM), its subsidiary bodies, and the Strategic Planning Group (SPG) have had ongoing discussions regarding the One Health concept in recent years. These discussions have been largely aimed at giving a more prominent role to plant health within the One Health paradigm.
- [2] This paper provides update on the 2024 IPPC Secretariat (hereafter referred to as “the secretariat”) activities to promote the role of plant health within the One Health paradigm, as well as the progress made to achieve the CPM-18 (2024) decisions.¹

2. Global context and new One Health definition

- [3] The One Health High-level Expert Panel (OHHLEP) is an advisory body to the Quadripartite organizations – FAO, the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Health Organization and the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) – in their collaboration on One Health.
- [4] In 2021, OHHLEP revised the definition of One Health, which was officially adopted in December 2021. The revised definition states that:

One Health is 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 interdependent.²

- [5] This update was part of the OHHLEP’s effort to provide a clear and comprehensive framework to address the interconnected health of humans, animals, plants and ecosystems globally.
- [6] Earlier definitions often emphasized the health interconnections between humans, animals and ecosystems primarily in the context of zoonotic diseases and public health threats. The revised definition expands the scope to include not just health but also well-being, recognizing the critical role of plants, biodiversity and ecosystems in sustaining life.³

¹ CPM-18 (2024) meeting report, see agenda 16.1:

https://assets.ippc.int/static/media/files/publication/en/2024/05/CPM-18_Report_2024-05-15.pdf

² One Health: A new definition for a sustainable and health future:

<https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC9223325/>

³ OHHLEP: [https://www.who.int/groups/one-health-high-level-expert-](https://www.who.int/groups/one-health-high-level-expert-panel#:~:text=One%20Health%20is%20an%20integrated,of%20people%2C%20animals%20and%20ecosystems)

[panel#:~:text=One%20Health%20is%20an%20integrated,of%20people%2C%20animals%20and%20ecosystems](https://www.who.int/groups/one-health-high-level-expert-panel#:~:text=One%20Health%20is%20an%20integrated,of%20people%2C%20animals%20and%20ecosystems)

3. Coordination on One Health at FAO level – IPPC Secretariat’s involvement

- [7] The *FAO Strategic Framework 2022–31* includes a dedicated Programme Priority Area (PPA) on One Health, committed to achieving strengthened and better-performing national and international integrated One Health systems for human, animal, plant and environmental health, through improved pest and disease prevention, early warning, and management of national and global health risks, including antimicrobial resistance (AMR). The secretariat is part of the One Health Technical Working Group⁴ that coordinates cross-sectoral technical expertise, activities and initiatives to foster One Health across FAO. The IFU Lead, Sarah BRUNEL, is the secretariat focal point for One Health who attends the working group meetings and regularly updates the group on the activities of the secretariat to protect plants, and promote the plant health profile within the One Health framework.

3.1 Committee on Agriculture discussions on One Health

- [8] At the Twenty-eighth Session of the Committee on Agriculture (COAG-28) in July 2022, the committee discussed One Health and specifically “*recommended* FAO to strengthen cooperation between the Quadripartite and the IPPC to consider plant health.”⁵ The committee also acknowledged the importance of the One Health approach in addressing Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), and the role of Codex Alimentarius, the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) and the IPPC in developing coherent texts to support efforts to address AMR, in line with the conclusions of the Eighty-first Session of the Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CCEXEC81) and the Forty-fourth Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC44) in 2021, respectively.⁶ The committee *encouraged* FAO to collaborate with the secretariat to prioritize guidance on the use of antimicrobial agents for phytosanitary purposes.⁷

3.2 FAO Council discussions on the COAG report

- [9] During the Hundred and Seventy-first Session (CL-176) of the FAO Council in December 2022, the Council reviewed the COAG report. Reflecting on the many requests from members on the need for the IPPC and plant health to be more prominent in One Health, the council *recommended* FAO to strengthen cooperation between the Quadripartite and the IPPC to consider plant health.⁸

3.3 Evaluation of FAO’s Programme Priority Area on One Health – recommendation to strengthen multisectoral integration

- [10] In 2023, FAO conducted an evaluation of its PPA work on One Health carried out between 2010 and 2023.⁹ The evaluation found that, historically, FAO’s work in One Health has been disease-focused, significantly shaped by projects of the animal health sector. Therefore, one of the primary recommendations from the evaluation is to leverage the multidisciplinary and multisectoral dimensions of FAO in its positioning on One Health, ensuring the appropriate engagement of underrepresented divisions in One Health efforts (as part of a system approach). The evaluation report highlights the importance of integrating **plant health** into the One Health framework, emphasizing its significance in

⁴ FAO One Health Technical Working Group was established in July 2021 with nominated FAO One Health focal points from 17 FAO divisions, five (5) regional offices and two (2) liaison offices and is supported by a secretariat. The group holds virtual meetings every month.

⁵ 28th Committee on Agriculture paper on One Health and related policy and technical guidance: <https://www.fao.org/3/nj006en/nj006en.pdf>

⁶ 28th Committee on Agriculture paper on Progress report on the FAO Action Plan on AMR 2021–2025: <https://www.fao.org/3/nj007en/nj007en.pdf>

⁷ Report of the 28th session of the Committee on Agriculture (Rome, 18–22 July 2022): <https://www.fao.org/3/nj925en/nj925en.pdf>

⁸ The FAO Council, the 171st session report: <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/e3f4f9be-283c-443d-a28b-3c0e139618d4/content>

⁹ Evaluation of FAO’s Programme Priority Area (PPA) on One Health (better production 3) – Evolution of FAO’s One Health Approach 2010–2023: <https://doi.org/10.4060/cd3478en>

food security, pest control and biodiversity conservation, and stressed the role of plant health as a core component of One Health initiatives.

4. Activities to promote plant health within One Health approach

[11] In 2024, the secretariat undertook several activities to promote its profile and, specifically, work on plant health that directly contributes to One Health. These are detailed below.

4.1 CPM-18 (2024) decisions on One Health and progress

[12] A group from the SPG had presented a paper to CPM-18 (2024),¹⁰ discussing the IPPC's role and contributions to One Health, along with recommendations on the way forward to leverage plant health within One Health. The paper emphasized that the aim was not to create a new initiative or programme specific to One Health but rather that the IPPC community identify and communicate the work it was already doing that directly supported and contributed to One Health outcomes. To conduct this work, CPM-18 (2024) established a CPM Focus Group on Plant Health in the Context of One Health with a clear terms of reference¹¹ to develop an action plan for communication and advocacy, as well as to consider the merits of developing a One Health component to the IPPC Communications Strategy.

[13] As recommended by CPM-18 (2024), the theme of the 2025 International Day of Plant Health (IDPH) is "The Importance of Plant Health to One Health". The secretariat has been undertaking efforts for the organization of the IDPH celebrations at FAO headquarters, proposing to feature IPPC community's work on plant health, such as early warning and response (POARS), setting and ensuring implementation of International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs), simulation exercises on *Fusarium TR4*, featuring the application of artificial intelligence (AI), the work on Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation – which is recognized as a One Health tool, and the innovative new IPPC digital learning platform – the IPPC Plant Health Campus.

[14] CPM-18 (2024) had noted the former IPPC Secretary's arrangements to represent the IPPC community and, along with CPM Bureau members and other experts from academia, present a side session at the Eighth World One Health Congress in 2024. Gregory WOLFF, Chairperson of the CPM Bureau, represented the IPPC at the Eighth World One Health Congress, held from 20–23 September 2024 in Cape Town, South Africa, which is discussed in detail in paper CPM 2025/33.

4.2 CPM Focus Group on Plant Health in the Context of One Health

[15] The secretariat had issued a call for experts for the CPM Focus Group on Plant Health in the Context of One Health in June 2024.¹² The deadline to the call had been extended twice due to the low number of nominations. The issue regarding the small number of nominations had also been raised at the CPM Bureau October 2024 meeting. The focus group will be activated through a CPM Bureau e-decision.

[16] The initial meeting of the focus group will be dedicated to officially introduce the members to each other, provide a review of the terms of reference for a clear mandate, and discuss the concept note of the CPM-19 (2025) science session on One Health (**agenda item 17**).

4.3 Side event at the 29th Session of the FAO Committee of Agriculture

[17] In response to the request from members at the Twenty-eighth Session of COAG in 2022 and the FAO Council to strengthen collaboration with the IPPC and provide it with a more prominent role, the secretariat, in collaboration with the Plant Production and Protection Division of FAO, organized a side event titled *Plant Health: Why is it crucial for the success of One Health?* at the Twenty-ninth Session

¹⁰ CPM 2024/31, including Annex 1.

¹¹ CPM Focus Group on Plant Health in the Context of One Health with the terms of reference <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/93481/>

¹² Call for Experts for the CPM Focus Group on Plant Health in the context of One Health: <https://www.ippc.int/en/calls/call-for-experts-for-the-cpm-fg-on-plant-health-in-the-context-of-one-health/>

of COAG in 2024.¹³ The side event underscored plant health's crucial role in One Health and the importance of a greater engagement of the One Health Quadripartite with the IPPC.

- [18] The side session successfully promoted the ongoing work of the IPPC and FAO on plant health, including the development of ISPMs, developing phytosanitary capacity of members to implement these standards, the work on AMR in plant health, early warning and pest outbreak response, preparedness and prevention, innovative simulation exercises with the application of AI, as well as synergies that have been created between other One Health sectors.
- [19] The panel of the side session included high-level speakers, such as the FAO Deputy Director-General, FAO Assistant Director-General, and Director of the Animal Production and Health Division and Chief Veterinarian, which helped set the tone of the session's message – for a unified voice on the importance of plant health for One Health, creating the potential to foster greater collaboration and synergy among One Health sectors.
- [20] The session was conducted in a hybrid format, with both in-person and remote attendance. Over 390 participants joining remotely from across the world. The recording of the session, as well as the presentations, have been posted on the International Phytosanitary Portal.¹⁴ The session proved to be engaging, with participants actively posing numerous questions both in person and online.

4.4 Championing the contribution of plant health to One Health – engagement with Group of 77 and China

- [21] Following the highly successful COAG-29 (2024) side session, the secretariat was invited to deliver a presentation on its work on plant health and how it contributes to One Health at the meeting of the Group 77 and China¹⁵ on 22 November 2024. Presenting its work, the secretariat highlighted the critical role of plant health in the One Health approach. Members commended the IPPC for its proactive contributions in addressing plant health issues, which contribute to One Health.
- [22] Khalid MEHBOOB, Chairperson of the G77 and China, thanked the secretariat for the insightful presentation and engaging discussion. He underscored the need for continued collaboration and resource mobilization.
- [23] Some members invited the secretariat to also engage regional groups, such as the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean¹⁶ and the regional group for Asia, for further engagement on prioritizing plant health in One Health.

Recommendations

- [24] The CPM is invited to:
- (1) *note* the efforts undertaken by the secretariat to promote the role of plant health within the One Health framework, recognizing the success of these efforts; and
 - (2) *note* the progress made by the CPM Focus Group on Plant Health in the Context of One Health, as per the group's terms of reference.

¹³ Side event at the COAG-29, *Plant Health: Why is it crucial for the success of One Health?*: <https://www.ippc.int/en/news/healthy-plants-healthy-planet-the-key-to-one-health-success/>

¹⁴ Recording and presentations from the COAG-29 (2024) side event: <https://www.ippc.int/en/events/webinars/coag-29-side-event-plant-health-why-is-it-crucial-for-the-success-of-one-health/>

¹⁵ The G77 & China is a coalition of 134 developing countries that aims to strengthen collective economic interests and international economic cooperation. Its Rome Chapter is committed to addressing issues around the work of the United Nations Rome-Based Agencies – FAO, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, and the World Food Programme – such as food security, nutrition and agricultural development.

¹⁶ GRULAC (Group of Latin America and the Caribbean): <https://www.ipu.org/about-ipu/members/geopolitical-groups/grulac-group-latin-america-and-caribbean>