



Report from the CPM Focus Group on plant health in the context of One Health

COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

TWENTIETH SESSION

REPORT FROM CPM FOCUS GROUP ON PLANT HEALTH IN THE CONTEXT OF ONE HEALTH

AGENDA ITEM 14.3

(Prepared by the IPPC Secretariat and the CPM FG on Plant Health in the Context of One Health)

1. Introduction

[1] The Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM), its subsidiary bodies, and the Strategic Planning Group (SPG) have discussed the One Health concept extensively in recent years. These discussions have aimed to ensure that plant health is appropriately recognized as an integral component of the broader One Health framework. CPM-18 (2024) established the CPM Focus Group on Plant Health in the Context of One Health with terms of reference (ToR)¹ which included a task to conduct a study to understand linkages between plant health and One Health, and to develop an action plan for communication and advocacy to promote plant health within One Health.

[2] In line with the ToR, a detailed workplan was developed and approved, as presented in Appendix 1 of this paper, including activity statuses and deliverables. The focus group advanced its work despite the absence of a dedicated budget allocation, primarily relying on in-kind contributions and voluntary expert support.

[3] This paper provides an update on progress made by the focus group in accordance with its ToR.

2. Tasks from the terms of reference: update on progress

2.1 Focus group membership

[4] The focus group was formally established in January 2025 following an extended call for experts launched in June 2024 and has since met monthly in virtual format to advance its workplan.

[5] The membership of the focus group includes seven regional representatives, in addition to representatives from the CPM Bureau, regional plant protection organizations (RPPOs), as well as a representative from the FAO One Health Technical Working Group.² To strengthen synergies, staff within the FAO Plant Production and Protection Division (NSP), working on antimicrobial resistance (AMR), and One Health also participate in the meetings.

2.2 Science session on the Importance of Plant Health within One Health

[6] The secretariat organized a dedicated science session on the importance of plant health within One Health during CPM-19 (2025).³ The focus group provided technical input, contributed to the

¹ CPM FG on Plant Health in the context of One Health TOR: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/93481/>

² CPM FG on Plant Health in the context of One Health membership list: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/94284/>

³ CPM-19 Science session on the Importance of Plant Health within One Health: <https://www.ippc.int/en/commission/cpm/cpm-sessions/cpm-19/cpm-19-side-sessions/cpm-19-science-session-the-importance-of-plant-health-within-one-health/>

programme and selected case studies featured during the event. The session highlighted how plant health underpins the One Health framework, presented scientific evidence and interconnections, shared diverse perspectives, and showcased real-world case studies from IPPC contracting parties. This session was the first unique opportunity to gather high-level speakers from FAO, the Codex Alimentarius, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Health Organization, and the World Organisation for Animal Health, calling for strengthened strategic collaboration and a unified vision for action.

[7] One of the case studies presented during the session was later featured in a spotlight article and disseminated through the FAO One Health Technical Working Group and relevant newsletters.⁴

2.3 Study on plant health and One Health drafted in full collaboration with NSP

[8] The study on plant health and One Health is the primary focus group task. At CPM-19, in response to the CPM Chairperson's proposal to develop a dedicated CPM recommendation on AMR, the CPM expressed concerns regarding a lack of clarity on the role of plant health within One Health, the potentially narrow scope of such a recommendation, and the focus group's capacity. Consequently, CPM-19 requested the focus group prioritize tasks related to Item 7 of its ToR, concerning the consideration of a formal CPM recommendation, and to present findings and recommendations at the 2025 SPG meeting.

[9] Following this direction, the focus group initiated the study to clarify linkages between plant health and One Health. The study began with an extensive desk and literature review to assess the current representation of plant health within One Health, interconnections between plant health and other pillars of One Health, national and regional experiences from NPPOs and RPPOs and the state of antimicrobial use (AMU) and AMR in plant health.

[10] The initial plan to hire an international phytosanitary specialist was reconsidered after Michelle Gray, the focus group and bureau member from North America, volunteered to co-lead the desk and literature review with the secretariat. Her offer was endorsed by the group. The focus group members contributed resources and reviewed outputs throughout the process.

[11] The desk and literature review report, which included an assessment of plant health within One Health and the state of AMU and AMR in plant health, was presented to the SPG in 2025.⁵ The SPG commended the secretariat and the focus group for the quality and relevance of the work and acknowledged the recommendations and progress made.

[12] Building on the desk review, the study is being further developed into a joint publication in collaboration with NSP's AMR and One Health team. The publication will include a set of recommendations and address the CPM-19 request for the focus group to provide advice on the potential value of a CPM recommendation on AMR.

[13] Marie Verhaegen, the NSP focal point who has participated in the focus group meetings since its inception, is leading the study from the NSP side. The focus group continues to provide input and oversight. The initial draft of the study will be peer reviewed by the focus group, other relevant CPM focus groups, including those related to the Pest Outbreak Alert and Response Systems (POARS), sea containers and safe provision of aid, and the FAO technical working groups on One Health and AMR.

[14] Marie Verhaegen will also lead the report for the IPPC Observatory Study on AMU, ensuring alignment and synergy between the two studies and supporting continuity and retention of knowledge, as detailed in agenda item 13.9.

⁴ Dominican Republic leads with One Health innovation to safeguard food security: <https://www.ippc.int/en/news/spotlight-dominican-republic-leads-with-one-health-innovation-to-safeguard-food-security-2/>

⁵ Desk and literature review report, annex 1: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/95076/>

2.3 Advocacy and awareness raising in collaboration with FAO

[15] Based on the study's recommendations, the secretariat is developing a communication strategy to elevate the profile of plant health as a core pillar of One Health. This work is being undertaken in close collaboration with the NSP's AMR and One Health team, with oversight from the focus group.

[16] The secretariat also participates in the monthly meetings of the FAO Technical Working Group on One Health and provides regular updates on the focus group's activities. This group coordinated the development of the *FAO Framework for One Health in Agrifood Systems for Global Health and Food Security*, which aligns with FAO's Four Betters and provides cross-sectoral guidance to address complex health risks across agrifood systems. The IPPC focal point helped draft the framework to ensure that plant health was well reflected. The draft underwent external peer review, during which Michelle Gray was selected as an expert reviewer. The framework was pre-launched on 17 October 2025 during a high-level event titled "One Health in agrifood systems is everyone's health" at the World Food Forum.⁶

Recommendations

[17] The CPM is invited to:

- (1) *note* the progress of the focus group on plant health in the context of One Health,
- (2) *note* the study on plant health and One Health and its recommendations as presented to CPM-20 (2026) as a conference room paper
- (3) *note* the development of a communication strategy to strengthen visibility of plant health within One Health;
- (4) *advise* on the potential value of a dedicated CPM recommendation on AMR for the plant health community, based on the findings and recommendations of the study; and
- (5) *acknowledge* that the focus group has completed its tasks under its terms of reference and consider dissolving the focus group in March 2026.

Commented [RM1]: This will also be developed later as we have some recommendations from the study.

Commented [RM2R1]: Not sure if this should be presented as an appendix, or as a CRP, as the strategy will be developed next year, prior CPM - [@Cassie_Aonic \(NSP\)](#) could you please advise

⁶ One Health in agrifood systems is everyone's health: <https://www.fao.org/science-technology-and-innovation/science-innovation-forum-2025/programme-sif-2025/one-health/en>

Appendix 1: CPM Focus Group on Plant Health in the context of One Health Workplan

This workplan was developed on the basis of the [terms of reference](#) of the focus group, approved by CPM-18 (2024), and to remain active until CPM-20 (2026).

*** *The establishment of the focus group, ensuring full membership, took longer than anticipated. This delay is reflected in the timeline of the activities.*

Activities and sub-activities	Outputs	Lead/Responsible	Target timeline	Progress
Study on how plant health contributes to One Health approach				
Launch a call for national and regional case studies related to plant health in the context of One Health	National and regional case studies collected	IPPC Secretariat	Q1-2025	Completed
Hire an international phytosanitary expert with expertise in One Health to conduct the study/ in-kind support	The expert is hired/ in kind support is received	IPPC Secretariat	Q2-2025	Completed
Conduct desk research to understand interrelations and interdependencies between plant health and the other pillars of the One Health approach	Desk and literature review is conducted	IPPC Secretariat/ International Phytosanitary Expert	Q2-2025	Completed
Coordinate with the steering group on Pest Outbreak Alert and Response Systems, the CPM Focus Group on Climate Change and Phytosanitary Issues, and other relevant focus groups and CPM, United Nations or FAO bodies to draft the study	Coordinated with all relevant groups, and inputs received	IPPC Secretariat/ CPM Focus group on Plant Health within the context of One Health/ International Phytosanitary Expert	Q2/ Q3-2025	In progress
Publish the study	Report is prepared and published	IPPC Secretariat/ International Phytosanitary Expert	Q4-2025/ Q1 2026	In progress
Communication and advocacy				
Develop an action plan to communicate and advocate "Plant Health" as one of the pillars of One Health	An additional component of the IPPC Communications Strategy dedicated to One Health is developed, on the basis of the content of the study	IPPC Secretariat/ CPM Focus group on Plant Health within the context of One Health	Q4-2025	In progress

Appendix 1: FG workplan

Develop a strategic plan for enhancing IPPC participation, advocacy, and effectiveness in the FAO One Health Committee structure and activity	Strategic plan is developed. <i>FAO Framework for One Health in Agrifood Systems for Global Health and Food Security – plant health and IPPC represented</i>	IPPC Secretariat/ CPM Focus group on Plant Health within the context of One Health	Q2-2025	Completed
Coordination, reporting and governance				
Advice on the organization of a CPM side session on plant health within One Health approach	Side session organized	IPPC Secretariat/ CPM Focus group on Plant Health within the context of One Health	Q1-2025	Completed
Consider whether a formal CPM Recommendation (on AMR or general on OH) would be of use and value and, if so, provide an outline of what it may address	Recommendation on the benefit of CPM Recommendation developed if necessary.	IPPC Secretariat/ CPM Focus group on Plant Health within the context of One Health	Q3/ Q4-2025	In progress
Present to the 2025 SPG meeting the advice on the potential value and content of a CPM recommendation (on AMR or general on OH) and provide an outline of its content	Presentation of the assessment on the relevancy of CPM recommendation on AMR, and the outline of the CPM Recommendation on AMR	IPPC Secretariat/ CPM Focus group on Plant Health within the context of One Health	October 2025 (SPG 2025)	Completed
Present any other observations or recommendations to CPM-20 as deemed appropriate in relation to defining and recommending a CPM engagement strategy on One Health.	CPM is regularly updated	IPPC Secretariat/ CPM Focus group on Plant Health within the context of One Health	Q1-2026	In progress

Appendix 2: Terms of Reference for the study: plant health and One Health

Purpose of the Study

[91] The CPM Focus Group for plant health in the context of One Health was established by CPM-18 (2024) to conduct a study aiming to understand clear linkages between plant health and One Health. This study will inform the development of a broader strategy and action plan to enhance the visibility and inclusion of plant health in global One Health dialogues and initiatives.

[92] The purpose of the study is to explore and define the role of plant health within the One Health approach. This includes identifying existing linkages, gaps, and opportunities for integration between plant health and other One Health sectors, including human, animal, and environmental health.

2. Objectives

[93] The study will:

1. **Identify and map the interconnections** between plant health and the other pillars of One Health – animal health, human health, and environmental health.
2. **Analyze the relevance of AMR to plant health**, identifying pathways, practices, and phytosanitary measures that may contribute to or mitigate AMR risks.
3. **Assess the impacts** of One Health-related initiatives on plant health systems.
4. **Identify existing collaboration mechanisms** or platforms within the One Health framework that include or could include plant health stakeholders.
5. **Highlight key thematic areas** where plant health could provide added value within the One Health agenda (e.g. food security, pest outbreaks, biodiversity, pesticide use).
6. **Pinpoint knowledge, policy, and operational gaps** in the current One Health narrative and implementation with regard to plant health.

4. Methodology

[94] The study will be conducted using a combination of the following methods:

- Desk review of scientific, regulatory, and policy literature on plant health in the One Health, and AMR contexts.
- National and regional experiences from NPPOs, RPPOs, and other stakeholders.
- Semi-structured interviews with selected experts and representatives of relevant sectors and organizations.
- Mapping exercise to illustrate institutional relationships, gaps, and collaboration opportunities.

5. Deliverables

[95] By October 2025, the following will be delivered:

- A draft literature and desk review report summarizing findings on plant health's role in One Health.
- A set of recommendations outlining key priorities and opportunities for integrating plant health into One Health at global and national levels, including on the relevancy of AMR for plant health.

6. Timeline

- Mid-May 2025: Initiation of study: literature review and desk review
 - a. June 2025: Data collection and analysis
 - b. July 2025: Draft report and internal review
 - c. August – September 2025: Finalization of the literature review and desk review report
- October 2025: presentation of the literature review and desk review report to the Strategic Planning Group Meeting
- January 2026: further work on the study – initial draft
- February 2026: review of the draft study – coordination with relevant stakeholders: CPM groups and subsidiary groups (POARS, FAO OH TWG, FAO AMR WG etc.)
- March/April 2026: finalization of the second draft of the study and presentation at CPM-20 (2026).

7. Coordination and Support

The study will be conducted by an international consultant - phytosanitary expert/scientist, with input and guidance from the CPM Focus Group, and coordination support from the IPPC Secretariat

Appendix 3: Research Matrix – questions to guide literature and desk review

	Research Area	Research Question
1	Conceptual understanding	What are the conceptual linkages between plant health and the OH approach?
		How is plant health currently defined in global OH frameworks, strategies, and dialogues?
2	Interlinkages with other OH areas	What are the linkages between plant health, animal health, human health, aquatic health and the environment?
3	AMR and plant health	What are the most significant pathways through which plant health contributes to or is affected by antimicrobial resistance (AMR)?
		What is the risk of resistance development when antimicrobials are used on plants (depending on the type of application, e.g. spraying has potential drift) on target and non-target microorganisms and of residues staying on the plants?
		What is the risk for the consumer when eating plants that were treated with antimicrobials (e.g. antimicrobial residues that are picked up)? Are there MRLs defined for the antimicrobials? (Link to food safety/security)
		What are the antibiotics used in plant health and what are the impact of their use on other OH areas (human, animal, soil, environment etc)?
		What are the fungicides used in plant health and what are the impact of their use on other OH areas (human, animal, soil, environment etc)?
4	Plant health within OH - enabling factors, gaps and capacity needs	How are NPPOs or RPPOs engaged with OH initiatives in practice?
		What existing mechanisms or platforms within the OH framework currently include plant health stakeholders?
		What policies or regulatory frameworks support or hinder the integration of plant health into OH?
		What are the key knowledge gaps in understanding the role of plant health in OH?
		What capacity-building needs exist for NPPOs to engage in OH initiatives?
5	Recommendations	In which thematic areas can plant health provide added value to OH?
		What are the priority actions for the IPPC community to enhance the visibility and integration of plant health in OH?
		How can the IPPC contribute to global advocacy and communication on plant health within the OH narrative?

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