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REPORT

Focus Group on Plant Health in the Context of One Health

**Virtual Meeting
22 January 2026**

IPPC Secretariat

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1. Opening of the meeting

1.1 Welcome by the IPPC Secretariat

- [1] The virtual meeting of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) Focus Group on Plant Health in the Context of One Health (hereafter referred to as “the CPM focus group”) was convened by the IPPC Secretariat (hereafter referred to as “the secretariat”).

2. Meeting arrangements

2.1 Rotational chairing list

- [2] The CPM focus group selected Phillippe REIGNAULT (France) as chairperson of the meeting.

2.2 VM07 meeting report

- [3] The secretariat apologized that the report of the seventh virtual meeting of the CPM focus group had not yet been drafted due to the lack of availability of report writers, and noted that the reports of the seventh and eighth virtual meetings of the CPM focus group would most likely be shared simultaneously.

2.3 Selection of the rapporteur for the meeting

- [4] The CPM focus group selected Michelle GRAY (United States of America) as rapporteur for the meeting.

2.4 Adoption of the agenda

- [5] The CPM focus group adopted the agenda (Appendix 1).

3. Administrative matters

3.1 Participants list

- [6] The secretariat confirmed that the list of participants for the CPM focus group would be updated and attached to the report (Appendix 2). The membership list is accessible through a [link](#) on the International Phytosanitary Portal page for the CPM focus group.

4. Preliminary study on plant health within One Health

4.1 Update on the progress of the study

- [7] Marie VERHAGEN took the CPM focus group through a document on the preliminary study. The document included the desk and literature review that had been presented at the Strategic Planning Group (SPG), to which further revisions had been made, such as definitions, section headings, figures, proposed interview questions and initial recommendations.

- [8] The chairperson asked if the next steps for the study could be outlined so members could be aware of how the first complete draft of the preliminary study would be reached. The secretariat replied that as a first step, feedback on the gaps and interview questions contained in the document would be requested from the group, and then the interviews would be completed. Following this, the document would be updated and shared with the CPM focus group and then would be sent to several groups for comment, after which it would come back again to the CPM focus group. The CPM focus group’s assessment of the study and the study recommendations is also planned to be presented to the Twentieth Session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM-20) (2026) in March.

4.2 Interviews for the study – national/regional

- [9] Marie VERHAGEN took the CPM focus group through the document that had previously been circulated for comment, which outlined the gaps under several headings and the proposed questions for the semi-structured interviews. Marie VERHAGEN thanked the focus group for the comments already

received and invited focus group members to make further comments at the meeting. The chairperson asked what the deadline for finalization of the identification of gaps and revision of interview questions was. Marie VERHAGEN said she would finalize the former following this discussion, and the latter would depend upon the identification of interview candidates, but it was hoped that interviews could be completed within a maximum of two weeks.

- [10] One CPM focus group member asked if the group would get to see the final version of the document as they had concerns with the leading nature of the last question in the list. Another focus group member shared these concerns. Marie VERHAGEN indicated that the question would be reworded and sent to the CPM focus group before the interviews took place, and that the final version of the document would be shared with the CPM focus group.
- [11] One focus group member raised concerns regarding the phraseology of a question referring to “aligning” IPPC standards with those of the *Codex Alimentarius* Commission and World Organisation for Animal Health and suggested “to better integrate” was more appropriate. The CPM focus group member also raised a concern over the question on how well plant health is integrated into Quadripartite One Health governance, indicating this was moving away from the FAO Directorate. Marie VERHAGEN agreed to revise these questions.
- [12] Vladimir MIJATOVIC suggested focusing one question on national One Health plans and their plant health components.
- [13] One CPM focus group member suggested that the group members could possibly provide support with conducting the interviews. The secretariat welcomed the suggestion. Interviews could be conducted in any of the six FAO official languages or in local languages with an English summary or transcription. A focus group member remarked that in their experience this would most likely be time-consuming and difficult.
- [14] The chairperson asked when the interview questions would be finalized. Marie VERHAGEN said she would circulate them the following day and give a week for feedback and finalization of the questions.

4.3 Proposals for candidates

- [15] The secretariat noted that the focus group’s help would be needed in identifying suitable candidates as due to time constraints an open call would not be issued. The chairperson asked what criteria would be used to select potential candidates, how many interviews were envisaged, and when the names were required. The secretariat responded that there were two options re the criteria: (1) the candidates did not need to be from an NPPO, but just needed to have expertise in a One Health-related sector, and (2) candidates from a plant health background with experience collaborating with other One Health sectors. Moreover, the secretariat noted that due to time constraints, the number of interviews would be limited and raised the idea of group interviews, indicating the hope was to receive these names at this meeting. The chairperson suggested pushing this out to the end of the following week together with comments on the study gaps and interview questions.
- [16] One focus group member proposed writing to NPPOs to ask for suggestions for interviewees. Another focus group member thought this would result in responses from the plant health field specifically, particularly when so few people were going to be interviewed.
- [17] A focus group member remarked that in their experience identifying candidates for interviews would most likely be time-consuming and highlighted that randomization of candidate selection is important. The secretariat suggested adding case studies to these targeted interviews to lessen this concern.
- [18] The CPM focus group members:

(1) *agreed* to coordinate within their institutions or regions on possible interviewees (plant health experts and experts from other One Health areas).¹

5. CPM FG PHOH TOR and workplan

5.1 Review of TOR and workplan (standing agenda)

[19] The secretariat shared the terms of reference (TOR) and workplan document with the group and went through the tasks one by one. One focus group member asked if anything should be added to the TOR and workplan to keep the CPM focus group on track, noted that the group did have access to case studies showing a lack of awareness of how plant health integrated into One Health, and recommended that to achieve the aim of the group as per the TOR, performing interviews with as diverse a group as possible should be focused on.

Plan for the communication strategy

[20] Vladimir MIJATOVIC remarked on the need to highlight plant health within One Health and noted that opportunities to do this existed in Quadripartite collaborations, where plant health is mentioned but is not evident operationally. In addition, Vladimir MIJATOVIC underlined the opportunity that the abovementioned study gave the secretariat to provide feedback on opportunities to highlight plant health within One Health.

6. CPM-20 (9–13 March)

[21] The secretariat noted that the paper on the work of the focus group had been published for the CPM, which includes proposed decisions, and the aim is, timeframe permitting, to also present the outcomes and recommendations from the pre-published study as well as the communications strategy at CPM-20. The CPM will also be asked for guidance related to a potential recommendation on antimicrobial use

7. Any other business

Online workshop – integrating PH into OH (20 January)

An online workshop on integrating plant health into One Health took place on 20 January. One focus group member stated they had attended and that there had been good discussion but asked what the next steps would be and what was the expected outcome of this workshop (e.g. case studies were requested but what were they on, collaborations on One Health or how plant health had successfully been integrated into One Health). Vladimir MIJATOVIC responded that the workshops took place as a collaboration between FAO and Kew Gardens, London, and the next steps were to draft the deliverables (two technical briefs and five case studies on the integration of plant health into One Health). The same focus group member asked what would be happening with the case studies. Vladimir MIJATOVIC stated that they would be used to provide insight into the connections between plant health and One

¹ To ensure a more rigorous, transparent, representative, cost and time efficient process, it was decided to proceed with a short survey instead of interviews at this stage. This approach allowed input to be gathered from all IPPC contracting parties and all regional plant protection organizations, ensuring inclusiveness and a stronger methodological grounding for the study. The interviews to be conducted by the secretariat following CPM-20. The candidates for the interviews are to be selected based on the data received through the short survey. More information is available in CPM 2026/CRP/03: https://assets.ippc.int/static/media/files/publication/en/2026/03/CRP_03_CPM_2026_CPMFocusGroup_PlantHealth_OneHealth_MandateExtension.pdf

Health and in the development of a framework on drivers of emerging plant and animal pests and diseases.

- [22] Another focus group member asked if the case studies would be included in the technical briefs. Vladimir MIJATOVIC responded that though connected, they are two separate things.
- [23] The secretariat stated that a link to the workshop recording would be shared with the group for comment.

One Health Summit to be held in Lyon, France on 7 April 2026 – FAO involvement

- [24] The secretariat noted that the FAO Director General will deliver a speech at the One Health Summit in Lyon, France, on 7 April 2026. The summit will cover four main topics: antimicrobial resistance, infectious diseases (including vector-borne infectious diseases), pollution by nano and microplastics, and nutrition and food systems.

Other events

- [25] The chairperson encouraged focus group members to keep in mind conferences/events on One Health that are being planned in their regions and estimate if sufficient emphasis is being placed on plant health. One focus group member agreed that this was a good idea.

The secretariat stated that a North America One Health University Network had recently launched a [webinar series](#). The secretariat highlighted that FAO were organizing a [conference on One Health](#) in September and that some case studies on One Health would be presented at the thirtieth session of the Committee on Agriculture which will be held on 20–24 July 2026 at FAO Headquarters in Rome.

- [26] The secretariat also noted the following other One Health conferences:
- Society for Veterinary Epidemiology and Preventative Medicine – London (25–26 March 2026);
 - International One Health congress – Saint-Quay Portrieux, France (3–5 June 2026);
 - 4th Global Health Security Conference – Kuala Lumpur (9–12 June 2026);
 - One Health approach to infectious diseases congress – Barcelona (25–27 June 2026);
 - 3rd International Conference on Microbiology and One Health – Quy Nhon City, Vietnam (11–14 August 2026); and
 - 9th World One Health Congress – Lisbon (4–7 September 2026).

- [27] The CPM focus group members:
- (2) *agreed* to keep in mind conferences/events on One Health that are being planned in their regions and estimate if sufficient emphasis is being placed on plant health.

8. Date and time of the next meeting

- [28] The next meeting was scheduled for 17 February 2026.

9. Closing of the meeting

- [29] The secretariat thanked the participants for their contributions and closed the meeting.

Appendix 1: Agenda

Agenda Item	Document No.	Time	Presenter(s)
1. Opening of the Meeting		5 min	
1.1 Welcome by the IPPC Secretariat	--		IPPC Secretariat
2. Meeting Arrangements		5 min	
2.1 Rotational chairing list	CPM FG on OH chairing list - Philippe Reignault		MADAMINOVA
2.2 VM07 meeting report	Available here		MADAMINOVA
2.3 Selection of the Rapporteur for the meeting	Michelle Gray		Chairperson
2.4 Adoption of the Agenda	01_FGOH_2026_Jan		Chairperson
3. Administrative Matters			
3.1 List of participants	To be attached to the meeting report		
4. Preliminary study on plant health within One Health			
4.1 Update on the progress of the study	Verbal report	10 min	VERHAEGEN/ MADAMINOVA
4.2 Interviews for the study – national/ regional	Knowledge gaps and interview questions	30 min	VERHAEGEN/ MADAMINOVA
4.3 Proposals of candidates		30 min	All members of the CPM FG PHOH
5. CPM FG PHOH TOR and workplan			
5.1 Review of the TOR and workplan (standing agenda): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan for the communication strategy 	TOR Workplan	15 min	MIJATOVIC/ MADAMINOVA
6. CPM-20 (9-13 March)	CPM 2026/24	10 min	MADAMINOVA
7. Any other business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online workshop – integrating PH into OH (20 January) One Health Summit to be held in Lyon, France on 7 April 2026 – FAO involvement 	Verbal update	10 min	MADAMINOVA/Chairperson
8. Date and time of the next meeting	17 February 2026 (17:00-19:00 TBC)		Chairperson
9. Closing of the meeting	-	5 min	Chairperson

Appendix 2: Participants List

A check (✓) in the last column indicates confirmed attendance at the meeting

	FAO region	Name, Organization, Country	
1	Africa (Kenya)	Mr Henri Edouard Zefack Tonnang International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) Nairobi, Kenya	✓
2	Asia (India)	Mr Nagaraju Devalapura Kalasaiah Directorate of Plant Protection Quarantine Storage (DPPQS) Bengaluru, India	✓
3	Europe and Central Asia (France)	Mr Philippe Lucien Reignault French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health Safety (ANSES) Angers, France	✓
4	Latin America and the Caribbean (Chile)	Mr Alvaro Sepúlveda Luque National Plant Protection Organization Santiago de Chile, Chile	✓
5	Southwest Pacific (Cook Islands)	Ms Temarama Rou - Ariki Anguna Kamana Ministry of Agriculture Rarotonga, Cook Islands	
6	Neat East and North Africa (Egypt)	Ms Heba Salah El-Dein Kassab Central Administration of Plant Quarantine (NPPO) Giza, Egypt	✓
7	North America (United States of America)	Ms Michelle Gray Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service North Carolina, United States of America	✓
8	FAO Technical Working Group for One Health (FAO)	Ms Carmel Bullon The Development Law Service (LEGN), FAO Rome, Italy	

IPPC Secretariat and NSP

Name	
Ms Sarah BRUNEL IPPC Officer-in-Charge	
Ms Rokhila MADAMINOVA IPPC Programme Specialist	✓
Mr Russell CAPLEN Agricultural Officer	✓
Ms Marie VERHAEGEN Plant Pest and Pesticide Management Specialist, NSP, FAO	✓
Mr Vladimir MIJATOVIC Communications Specialist, NSP, FAO	✓