



## COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

### TWENTIETH SESSION

## PROPOSAL TO EXTEND THE MANDATE OF THE CPM FOCUS GROUP ON PLANT HEALTH IN THE CONTEXT OF ONE HEALTH

### AGENDA ITEM 14.3

*(Prepared by the IPPC Secretariat with input from the CPM Focus Group on Plant Health in the Context of One Health and the CPM Bureau)*

#### 1. Background

- [1] CPM-18 (2024) established the CPM Focus Group on Plant Health in the Context of One Health with Terms of Reference (ToR)<sup>1</sup> that include, as primary tasks, conducting a study to better understand linkages between plant health and One Health, and developing an action plan for communication and advocacy to raise the profile of plant health within One Health framework.
- [2] The focus group has met on a monthly basis since January 2025 to advance its mandate. While significant progress has been made, some activities originally envisaged to be completed by CPM-20 (2026) remain in progress. This delay is primarily attributed to the late establishment of the focus group, resulting from a lack of nominations from the regions, as well as the absence of a dedicated budget allocation.
- [3] Further details on the work undertaken and deliverables produced by the focus group are provided in CPM paper 2026/24, related to agenda item 14.3.<sup>2</sup>

#### 2. Update on progress of key focus group activities

##### 2.1 Study on plant health and One Health

- [4] The focus group initiated the study on plant health in the context of One Health following CPM-19 (2025) discussions on a possible CPM recommendation on antimicrobial resistance (AMR). These discussions highlighted concerns regarding the 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 to address these issues within the existing timeframe. Consequently, CPM-19 requested the focus group to prioritize tasks related to consideration of a formal CPM recommendation and to present findings and recommendations to the Strategic Planning Group (SPG).
- [5] The study began with a comprehensive desk and literature review. An initial plan to hire an international phytosanitary specialist was reconsidered when Michelle Gray, focus group and Bureau member from North America, volunteered to co-lead the review with the IPPC Secretariat.

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

<sup>2</sup> CPM 2026/24

[6] The desk and literature review report, including an assessment of the role of plant health within One Health and the state of antimicrobial use (AMU) and AMR in plant health, was presented to the SPG in 2025.<sup>3</sup> The SPG commended the secretariat and the focus group for the quality and relevance of the work and acknowledged the progress and recommendations made.

[7] Building on the desk and literature review, the study is now being further developed. Marie Verhaegen, the FAO Plant Production and Protection Division (NSP) focal point who has participated in the focus group since its inception, is working with the IPPC Secretariat to draft and finalize the study. Preliminary insights emerging from the study include the following:

- **Plant health is an essential pillar of One Health.** Plant health is closely connected to human, animal and environmental health through its roles in food security and safety, ecosystem stability and oxygen production, while maintaining a distinct scope compared to zoonotic diseases.
- **Strong phytosanitary systems are fundamental to One Health.** Robust national phytosanitary systems are essential for preventing and managing plant pest risks with potential broader environmental, economic and health consequences.
- **The Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluation (PCE) tool is a One Health tool.** The PCE is a key instrument for strengthening national phytosanitary systems and should be further emphasized as a practical One Health tool. By enhancing capacities for prevention and risk management, it helps prevent and manage plant health threats, which can improve human, animal and environmental health.
- **One Health considerations should be mainstreamed early into IPPC topics for standards and implementation materials.** One Health perspectives should be considered when new topics are proposed for phytosanitary standards and implementation and capacity development materials. This would support proactive mainstreaming of cross sectoral perspectives and raise awareness among One Health partners.
- **Limited evidence of AMR in plant pathogens.** Findings from IPPC Observatory surveys indicate that antibiotic use in plant health is limited, whereas fungicide use is more prevalent. Additionally, current evidence of antibiotic resistance in plant pathogens remains limited. Nonetheless, a proactive approach could include consideration of a CPM Recommendation and related guidance on AMU.
- **Leveraging the IPPC's role within the World Trade Organization's (WTO) Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) framework, as a standard setting body to strengthen One Health integration.** As a WTO recognized standard setting body under the SPS Agreement, alongside *Codex Alimentarius* and the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH), the IPPC operates within an established global framework linking plant health, trade and standards. This role provides a strong foundation for deeper engagement in One Health.
- **Communication and awareness raising on IPPC's contribution to One Health within and beyond the IPPC community.** Communication and promotion of plant health contributions within the One Health community should be strengthened to raise awareness on IPPC's role within One Health, both within and beyond the IPPC community.

[8] To complement the desk and literature review with country-level perspectives, a dedicated [short survey](#) was launched in February 2026 to IPPC Contracting Parties and RPPOs, with the deadline being extended to 31 March 2026. The short survey approach was selected to ensure methodological rigor, transparency, representativeness, and efficiency in terms of both cost and time. By enabling direct input from all IPPC Contracting Parties and RPPOs, the data gathered will be integrated into the study to strengthen its empirical foundation and provide more robust, evidence-based recommendations to CPM.

<sup>3</sup> Plant Health within One Health: desk and literature review report, annex 1: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/95076/>

## 2.2 Communication and advocacy to strengthen visibility of plant health within One Health

- [9] In parallel with the study, the focus group's ToR envisaged the development of a communication and advocacy strategy to strengthen the visibility of plant health within One Health. Progress has been made through regular engagement with the FAO Technical Working Group on One Health and contributions to the *FAO Framework for One Health in Agrifood Systems*, ensuring that plant health considerations were adequately reflected. However, the structured communication and advocacy strategy foreseen under the ToR has not yet been completed. Its development will be informed by the final findings and recommendations from the study.

## 3. Rationale for a request to extend the mandate of the focus group

- [10] The focus group's progress was initially hampered by a delayed start, as its establishment was postponed due to the absence of nominations from regions. This late establishment reduced the time available to complete the activities envisaged under its ToR within the original timeframe.
- [11] Throughout its mandate, the absence of a dedicated budget — addressed through in-kind contributions — has also affected the pace of finalization of key tasks requiring sustained coordination, drafting and review.
- [12] While substantial progress has been achieved, the study has not yet been finalized. Additional time is required to complete the remaining activities. The full status of all tasks from the focus group ToR is as follows:
- [13] **Task 1** — *As part of the preliminary study, understand how plant health could contribute to the One Health approach by determining the interrelations and interdependencies between plant health and the other pillars of this approach.*
- Desk and literature review, including assessment of a potential value and content of a CPM recommendation on AMR — **completed**
  - Presentation of the desk and literature review report to SPG 2025 — **completed**
  - Launch of the short-survey on plant health and One Health to IPPC Contracting Parties and RPPOs — **in progress**
  - Complete drafting, consolidate recommendations and finalize the study — **to be initiated**
  - Publish the study through the 10-step FAO publication process — **to be initiated**
- [14] **Task 2** — *As part of the preliminary study, collect national and regional experiences from NPPOs and RPPOs relating to One Health.*
- Conduct follow-up interviews to gather national and regional experiences and insights to further strengthen study analysis and findings — **to be initiated**
- [15] **Task 3** — *As part of the preliminary study, structured peer review involving relevant CPM focus groups and FAO bodies — to be initiated*
- [16] **Task 4** — *At the conclusion of the preliminary study, enumerate the One Health topics where plant health is contributing to.*
- To be addressed as part of the finalization of the study, consolidating findings and recommendations — **to be initiated**

[17] **Task 5** — *Draw up an action plan to communicate and advocate "Plant Health" as one of the pillars of One Health as an additional component of the IPPC Communications Strategy.*

- See Task 9 below. The communication and advocacy strategy will be developed following finalization of the study — **to be initiated**

[18] **Task 6** — *Provide advice on the possibility of a CPM side session on One Health.*

- Provision of technical input at the CPM-19 (2025) Science Session on the importance of plant health within One Health — **completed**

[19] **Task 7** — *Consider whether a formal CPM Recommendation would be of use and value and, if so, provide an outline of what it may address.*

- Assessment of the potential value and content of a CPM recommendation on AMR completed as part of the desk and literature review — **completed**
- Final recommendation on a potential CPM recommendation on AMR to be consolidated as part of study finalization — **to be initiated**

[20] **Task 8** — *Consider how participation by plant-health representatives in the FAO One Health Committee structure can be most effective.*

- Participation of the IPPC Secretariat in the monthly meetings of the FAO Technical Working Group on One Health — **in progress**
- Participation of the IPPC Secretariat and CPM Focus Group representative in the drafting and peer review process of the FAO Framework for One Health in Agrifood Systems for Global Health and Food Security — **in progress**

[21] **Task 9** — *Develop a plan for enhancing IPPC participation, advocacy, and effectiveness in the FAO One Health Committee structure and activity.*

- Development of a communication and advocacy strategy to strengthen the visibility of plant health within One Health — **to be initiated** (*will be informed by the final findings and recommendations of the study*)

[22] **Task 10** — *Present any other observations or recommendations to the CPM as deemed appropriate in relation to defining and recommending a CPM engagement strategy on One Health.*

- To be addressed as part of the study's final recommendations to CPM — **to be initiated**

[23] The CPM Bureau at its March 2026 meeting, agreed to the proposal to extend the mandate of the focus group for one additional year, until CPM-21 (2027), to allow completion of the activities in progress and the ones to be initiated. The bureau requested the secretariat to forward this proposal to CPM-20 for approval.

[24] Approving the extension would ensure that CPM receives well-substantiated, evidence-based advice and that the work undertaken to date delivers its full intended value.

### **Recommendations (supersedes paper [CPM 2026/24](#) recommendations)**

[25] The CPM is *invited* to:

- (1) *note* the progress made by the CPM Focus Group on plant health in the context of One Health;
- (2) *note* progress of the *study on plant health and One Health* and the preliminary insights presented in this paper, expected to be finalized after CPM-20 (2026);

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- (3) *note* the launch of a targeted short survey to IPPC Contracting Parties and RPPOs, designed to support the *study on plant health and One Health* with national and regional level perspectives and strengthen the evidence base of the study's analysis and recommendations;
  - (4) *note* the plan to conduct follow up interviews to gather national and regional experiences and insights to further strengthen study analysis and findings;
  - (5) *note* that the development of a communication and advocacy strategy to strengthen the visibility of plant health within One Health, as per the focus group Task 5 of its ToR, will be based on the final analysis and recommendations from the *study on plant health and One Health*;
  - (6) *note* that the focus group will provide its advice and guidance on the potential value of CPM recommendation for the plant health community, as per the focus group Task 7 of its ToR and CPM-19 (2025) discussions on AMR, on the basis of the final analysis and recommendations from the *study on plant health and One Health*;
  - (7) *approve* the extension of the mandate of the CPM Focus Group on Plant Health in the Context of One Health until CPM-21 (2027) to allow completion of activities currently in progress or to be initiated and ensure the required quality of outputs; and,
  - (8) *note* that adequate budget provisions are an important enabler for the timely and effective delivery of planned outputs under CPM-mandated activities, including focus groups.

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