



JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

AD HOC INTERGOVERNMENTAL CODEX TASK FORCE ON ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE

Eighth Session (Virtual)

4 - 9 and 13 October 2021

Matters arising from IPPC

(Prepared by the IPPC Secretariat)

1. Currently the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) community does not have robust data on the extent and volume of antimicrobial use by the plant sector worldwide. There are regional and national differences in antibiotic recommendations, which may be due to agricultural needs, legislation, availability, cropping systems, extension services, or the nature of the pathogens that are causing problems. Some studies, however, provide an example of types of use; at least 20 countries authorize antibiotic use to control fire blight and citrus greening disease in plants. In some countries, streptomycin is authorized to control certain bacterial diseases in pip fruit, stone fruit, seedling tomatoes and kiwifruit. Kasugamycin, oxytetracycline and oxolinic acid are other antibiotics used to control plant pests (de León et al., 2008¹; Stockwell and Duffy, 2012²).
2. The present limited data demonstrates extreme variation between the use of antibiotics in crop production across the regions, as well as in the amounts of antibiotics used by various countries within the regions.
3. The IPPC Governing body – the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures - at its 14th Session (CPM-14)³ noted and conveyed appreciation for the discussion on the use of Antimicrobials and Antimicrobial Resistance in respect of plant health as an important topic to monitor. CPM-14 supported the IPPC Secretariat maintaining a watching brief on the contribution of plant health related actions on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), through the FAO AMR working group, subject to CPM and Secretariat priorities and resources. The IPPC Contracting Parties (CPs) further suggested that a CPM Recommendation on AMR be developed in relation to plant health. Hence, CPs initiated the discussion on the effects of the use of antimicrobial products for plant health and to collect systematic data of the effects of antimicrobials used it plant health.
4. Recently CPM-15 (2021) requested that the agenda of the next Strategic Planning Group (October 2021) include a discussion on the extent of the involvement of plant health in the One Health approach, and the role of plant health in biosecurity, biosafety and environmental protection, to allow a further assessment and to make an informed CPM decision on this issue.
5. Finally, it was agreed that IPPC involvement in AMR should be limited to the scope of the Convention, which is supporting the prevention of the spread of the plant pests through developed International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs).

¹ Comparative efficiency of chemical compounds for *in vitro* and *in vivo* activity against *Clavibacter michiganensis* subsp. *michiganensis*, the causal agent of tomato bacterial canker

² Use of antibiotics in plant agriculture, [V O Stockwell](#), [B Duffy](#)

³ https://assets.ippc.int/static/media/files/publication/en/2019/07/CPM-14_Report_withISPMs-2019-07-31.pdf