

28th Session of the Committee on Agriculture

Item 2.3: One Health and related policy and technical guidance

The global society faces a wide range of current and emerging challenges in agrifood systems that necessitate a One Health approach. FAO positions itself (in close partnerships with others) to apply One Health in agrifood systems systematically and holistically and to mainstream the One Health approach for the benefit of the health of people, animals, plant, and the environment globally, nationally and locally. FAO expands its long experience of implementing One Health efforts to even wider activities across sectors that can help to generate positive health outcomes.

Key areas covered:

- FAO recognizes the many threats caused by infectious disease agents and chemicals, as well as those stemming from pollution and environmental degradation, and promotes the One Health approach to identify sustainable solutions;
- FAO has implemented a range of activities, both internally and collaboratively with external partners, to generate a One Health portfolio that can make a difference;
- under the Strategic Framework 2022-31, FAO has created a “One Health” Programme Priority Area (PPA). This PPA applies an integrated and coordinated One Health approach to reduce losses to agrifood systems and adverse ecosystems impacts, caused by the spread of animal, plant and aquatic pests and diseases, including zoonotic infections of pandemic potential and AMR, as well as changes (mostly anthropocentric) to the natural environment that affect land, water, air, and soil. The topics broadly cover the main areas of One Health and leave scope for innovation across units in FAO. The “One Health” PPA implementation will leverage the long experience of multiple FAO technical divisions in food chain emergency prevention and crisis management, combined with its operational capacity and relationships at country level through its Decentralized Offices;
- these internal efforts are accompanied by external coordination to support the mainstreaming of One Health across sectors, disciplines, and all groups of society. Activities span from the establishment of an advisory group (One Health High Level Expert Panel – OHHLEP) to the Quadripartite, the leadership on One Health guidance notes for the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDCF), the focus on One Health intelligence systems for early warning, the Regional One Health coordination mechanisms, and collaborative research, advocacy and awareness raising;
- under FAO’s Tripartite Chair, the Tripartite and UNEP (now Quadripartite), with advice from OHHLEP, jointly elaborated the One Health Joint Plan of Action that aims to further strengthen a comprehensive One Health approach and to foster the joint work by the four entities required for a successful mainstreaming of One Health at all levels. It contains six action tracks that encompass major areas of One Health relevance; and
- going forward, FAO aims to strengthen One Health learning and dissemination, enable capacity development, increase multistakeholder engagement, play a stronger role in multisectoral coordination, secure funding, implement the One Health Joint Plan of Action, work on advocacy, and provide support to countries.

The Committee is invited to *provide guidance* on FAO’s recommendations to broaden and mainstream One Health.

Mr Keith Sumption, Chief Veterinary Officer, Animal Production and Health Division (NSA)