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# COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

## Twelfth Session

**Incheon, Republic of Korea , 5-11 April 2017**

**International Year of Plant Health in 2020 (IYPH 2020) -  
Report on the activities relating to the International Year of Plant Health in  
2020**

## Agenda item 13

**Prepared by the IPPC IYPH Steering Committee**

### I. Introduction

1. At CPM-10 (2015) Finland proposed to establish an International Year of Plant Health (IYPH) in the year 2020. The proposal received strong support from the CPM-10 and it was decided to pursue the establishment of IYPH in 2020 under the leadership of Finland.

2. At CPM-11 (2016) further discussions were held on the establishment of the IYPH. CPM-11 adopted a defining scope of “Plant Health” in the context of the IYPH. This defining scope is to be understood to set the parameters of what the IYPH will cover. In addition, CPM-11 adopted the main and specific objectives for the IYPH and established an IPPC steering committee for the IYPH (hereinafter “IYPH StC”). For 2016 a set of ambitious tasks was established to promote the proclamation of the IYPH and to initiate the planning process for the year 2020.

### II. Activities to promote the proclamation of the IYPH in 2020

3. In 2016, two major FAO meetings took place at which the IYPH 2020 was presented and put forward for adoption. In September 2016, the 25th meeting of the FAO Committee on Agriculture (COAG) approved the proposal by the Government of Finland to establish IYPH 2020 in the UN system and endorsed the Draft Conference Resolution as proposed to COAG. The discussions in COAG were preceded by a well-attended side session that marked the official beginning of the campaign to establish an International Year of Plant Health in 2020 within the UN framework. A number of speakers,

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including FAO Assistant Director General Ren Wang, Veli-Pekka Talvela, Director General, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Finland and Eric Robinson, Alternate Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Canada to the Rome-based United Nations Agencies gave presentations on the importance of encouraging public support to plant health to help address issues of global concern, including hunger, poverty and threats to the environment. Mr. Ralf Lopian, also of the Finnish Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, as well as IPPC Secretary Jingyuan Xia provided remarks on global and regional perspectives, and the importance of raising awareness of plant health issues in general.

4. At its 155th session held in Rome from 5 to 9 December 2016, the FAO Council considered a draft resolution on the observance of 2020 as the IYPH. The resolution recognizes the need for healthy plants as the foundation of all life on Earth, ecosystems functions, and food security. At the same time, it affirms plant health's critical role in addressing the needs of more food for the increasing world population, and the subsequent need to raise awareness on this role at the global scale. The 155th FAO Council endorsed the draft resolution and submitted it to the 40th FAO Conference (3-8 July 2017) for adoption.

5. The adoption of the Finnish proposal for a resolution to proclaim 2020 as the IYPH by FAO COAG and FAO Council are encouraging indicators with regard to the 40th Session of the FAO Conference. This event will mark the final FAO decision on the matter before it is submitted to the UN Economic and Social Council and the UN General Assembly for final approval. The IPPC Secretariat and Finland are negotiating to organize a joint side-event at the 40th FAO Conference to further promote the IYPH 2020.

### **III. First meeting of the IPPC Steering Committee for the IYPH**

6. The 1st meeting of the IYPH StC was held on 9-11 November 2016. The meeting took place with some of the members nominated by CPM-11 (2016) not present and being replaced by alternates. The meeting took place with an extremely constructive approach and resulted in a number of recommendations to the CPM. Mr Ralf LOPIAN (Finland) and Ms Akiko NAGANO (Japan) were elected as Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively.

7. The IYPH StC recalled the IYPH 2020 objectives, as detailed in the CPM 2016/34 paper<sup>1</sup>, and drew attention on the fact that outputs should reflect the specific IYPH objectives and help articulate the expected results. The IYPH StC members established a matrix, which included the expected outputs and outcomes in relation to each specific IYPH objective. The IYPH StC also believed that it would be necessary to design outputs and outcomes that are measurable for future evaluation purposes of the IYPH. The outcome of the IYPH StC discussions on the IYPH outputs and outcomes is presented in Appendix 1. The IYPH StC recommends that outputs and outcomes as presented in Appendix I are adopted by the CPM-12.

8. With regard to financial matters, the IYPH StC recognized that according to FAO procedures "an International Year will not be proclaimed unless full financing (which in principle should be based on voluntary contributions) .... [is] confirmed"<sup>2</sup>. It concluded that consequently, no programme activity of the IYPH should be financed directly by the IPPC Secretariat from its regular budget. Subsequently, extra budgetary funds are necessary in order to promote the proclamation of the IYPH and to prepare a relevant programme. Concerning the resource requirements for promoting the proclamation of the IYPH, the IYPH StC believed that a number of communication and lobbying activities would have to be carried out, such as organizing side events at FAO or other UN meetings. Currently there are extra-budgetary contributions of approximately USD 87 000 earmarked for the IYPH. The IYPH StC believed that and the costs estimated to undertake these activities were estimated to be around USD 160,000 – 200,000 until 2018, when the IYPH proclamation would hopefully be secured. Concerning the shortfall

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<sup>1</sup>CPM 2016/34

<sup>2</sup>FAO, C 2013/LIM/15

of available funds, the IYPH StC decided to recommend to CPM-12 that additional funds would be donated in 2017 for activities until the proclamation of IYPH in 2018.

9. Concerning the resource requirements for the detailed activities to plan and execute the IYPH, the IYPH StC discussed the need for a financial strategy and a resource mobilization plan. The IYPH StC established a “Working Group on Finances”, which would develop the financial strategy and resource mobilization plan with assistance from the IPPC Secretariat and in coordination with the CPM Bureau Finance Committee. In this context, the IPPC Secretariat reminded the participants that its own resources are rather stretched and that especially staff resources to undertake all the activities in relation to the IYPH might not be available. The IYPH StC understood the position of the Secretariat. It thought that the initiative of declaring 2020 as the IYPH is an investment into the future of NPPOs, RPPOs and the IPPC. Consequently, NPPOs, RPPOs and the IPPC Secretariat would have to invest some of their energies and resources into the declaration process. In the specific case of the IPPC Secretariat, the IYPH StC agreed to suggest to CPM-12 (2017) that staff activities of the IPPC Secretariat in relation to the IYPH should be increased either through funding new IPPC staff from extra-budgetary resources, or re-aligning priorities within the IPPC Secretariat to intensify its focus on the IYPH. The IYPH StC also suggested to the IPPC Secretariat to report about the IYPH and potential funding necessities at meetings of the SPS Committee.

10. With regard to communication activities for the IYPH in 2020, the IYPH StC agreed on the establishment of a Communication and Partnerships Working Group whose main task is to identify potential partners for the IYPH and to develop communication strategies and material. The IYPH StC also decided that this working group should publish a quarterly newsletter for the IYPH.

11. In relation to the development of a detailed programme for IYPH 2020, the IYPH StC concluded that this would be initiated at a later stage, after the adoption of the IYPH outputs and outcomes by CPM-12 and after the adoption of the IYPH 2020 resolution by the FAO Conference. However, the IYPH StC decided that its members would consult in their regions for programme ideas in order to be able to commence programme planning immediately after the FAO Conference has made its decision.

#### **IV. Recommendations to CPM-12**

12. The IYPH StC made a number of recommendations to CPM-12.

13. The CPM is invited to:

- 1) *Note* the report of the 1st meeting of the IYPH StC.
- 2) *Adopt* the envisaged outputs and outcomes for the IYPH as laid down in Appendix 1.
- 3) *Encourage* Contracting Parties to provide extra-budgetary contributions to enable promotional activities to support the IYPH proclamation process.
- 4) *Consider* how the IPPC Secretariat should be provided with staff resources enabling it to provide assistance to the planning and execution of IYPH 2020.
- 5) *Urge* Contracting Parties to support the proposal for an IYPH in 2020 at the upcoming 40th Session of the FAO Conference (3-8 July 2017).
- 6) *Invite* Contracting Parties to propose potential IYPH programme events and activities to their regional representatives in the IYPH StC.

## Appendix I

### Proposed Outputs and Outcomes for the International Year of Plant Health 2020

1. At the 1st meeting of the IPPC IYPH Steering Committee a considerable part of the discussions was used to develop the anticipated outputs and outcomes for realizing the CPM-11 adopted specific objectives. The outputs and outcomes of the IYPH 2020 are needed to determine the design of the programme for the IYPH 2020 and they are an essential component in convincing FAO and UN decision makers in the necessity of approving the IYPH 2020. In addition, when knowing the outputs and outcomes of the IYPH 2020 it is possible to conduct a fairly accurate evaluation of the IYPH 2020 activities and determine if the year has achieved its objectives. In order to determine the outputs and outcomes of the IYPH as accurately and consistently as possible the following example was applied:

2. Example to demonstrate how outputs and outcomes were determined:

Objective	[Process/Programme <sup>3</sup> ]	Output	Outcomes	[Indicators <sup>3</sup> ]
<b>Raising the awareness of the public and political decision makers</b>	[Development of communication and advocacy materials]	More political and other decision makers know about plant health.	Increased number of countries develop or update national legal plant health frameworks	Data collected via a questionnaire using IRSS as indicator

<sup>3</sup>This column serves as an example how the IYPH programme components and indicators can be incorporated into the matrix. At the IYPH SC this was not agreed on in such detail and only discussed in generalities.

The following table 1 presents the conclusions of the StC and are the proposals for CPM-12.

**Table 1: Proposed "Outputs" and "Outcomes"**

Objective	Output	Outcome
<b>1. Raising the awareness of the public and political decision makers at the global, regional and national levels about plant health.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More political and other decision makers know about plant health.</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased compliance with IPPC and its standards</li> <li>Increased number of countries develop or update national legal plant health frameworks (through NRO) and is reflected in national agricultural policies</li> <li>Adoption of regional policies on the importance of plant health by Regional ministerial conferences.</li> </ol>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public is aware about plant health.</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public acts responsibly</li> </ol>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establishment of 6<sup>th</sup> December as an International Day of Plant Health.</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Further increase of awareness about plant health</li> </ol>
<b>2. Promoting and strengthening of national, regional and global plant health efforts and their resources in light of increasing trade and new pest risks caused through climate change.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased resources for plant health.</li> <li>Strengthened capacity building activities.</li> <li>Strengthened plant health disciplines.</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A global strategic framework for plant health aligned with 2030 agenda for sustainable development is adopted.</li> <li>Increased number of countries with active participation of national experts in Regional Plant Protection meetings.</li> <li>All regions have a Regional Plant Protection Organization.</li> <li>Improved budgets for national, regional and global plant health services.</li> <li>Established sustainable financial mechanism for the IPPC.</li> <li>Better use of new plant pest management and control techniques.</li> <li>Increased availability of taxonomic and diagnostic expertise.</li> <li>Applied new technologies for trade facilitation (e.g. ePhyto).</li> </ol>
<b>3. Educating the public and increasing its knowledge about plant health.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public is educated about plant health.</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Educational systems incorporate plant health matters.</li> <li>Increased reflection of plant health matters in academic curricula.</li> </ol>
<b>4. Enhancing dialogue and stakeholder involvement in plant health.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthened public/private partnerships on plant health at national, regional and global level.</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More stakeholders are aware of the importance and benefits of plant health systems.</li> </ol>
<b>5. Increasing information about the state of plant protection in the world.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information on the state of plant protection in the world is available.</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adoption and publication of the "Review of the Status of Plant Protection in the World" (Article 11, 2 (a) of IPPC).</li> <li>Pest alert systems are improved and applied.</li> </ol>
<b>6. Facilitating the establishment of plant health partnerships on national, regional and global levels.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plant health partnerships are established on national, regional and global levels.</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Better international networking structure on plant health.</li> <li>Increased linkage between plant health systems and organizations working on climate change, environmental protection, border control.</li> <li>Improved functional collaboration with research community.</li> </ol>