TC-RPPO Paper

Update on the Action Plan and RPPOs role in upcoming IYPH key activities

Background on the role of RPPos in celebrating the IYPH 2020

1. The RPPOs play a key role in the coordination of NPPOs at the regional level. The functions of RPPOs are mostly laid down in the Article IX of the IPPC and include:

* Coordination and participation in activities among their NPPOs in order to promote and achieve the objectives of the IPPC
* Cooperation  among regions for promoting harmonized phytosanitary measures
* Gathering and dissemination of information, in particular in relation with the IPPC
* Cooperation with the CPM and the IPPC Secretariat in developing and implementing international standards for phytosanitary measures.

1. Each RPPO has its own activities and programme[[1]](#footnote-1). As IYPH approaches, the interactions among NPPOs, RPPOs and the IPPC Secretariat should progressively increase with the purpose of achieving IYPH main objective, which is to raise awareness on the importance and impacts of plant health in addressing issues of global importance, including hunger, poverty, threats to the environment and economic development.
2. The IYPH implementation strategy provides that initiatives and activities should take place at the national, regional and global level, with a strong emphasis on country-led and/or regional initiatives. Given the high level of engagement required, the IPPC Secretariat, along with its other partners in FAO, has prioritised its agenda to focus on certain global initiatives, whose management shall be centralised but in close cooperation with all stakeholders globally involved. These initiatives include:

* Launch events in Rome and New York City
* Ministerial-level CPM-15 (2020)
* Ministerial declaration on plant health

1. Each one has a specific interaction and engagement among all parties involved; RPPOs shall also have a crucial role to play for the success of said initiatives.

Update on IYPH definition in the Action Plan

1. The International Year of Plant Health International Steering Committee (IYPH ISC) discussed the IYPH Action Plan presented at its second meeting on 16 September 2019. In particular, the IYPH ISC reviewed the definition of plant health as adopted by CPM-11[[2]](#footnote-2). The IYPH ISC Chairperson clarified that this definition was adopted in the context of the International Year of Plant Health and had a specific meaning due to its five-year history. Despite this clarification, various ISC Members highlighted that Plant Health cannot be limited to prevention of pest spread but includes elements of integrated pest management, among other things. The IYPC ISC concluded by adding the following sentence after the CPM-approved definition: “The above definition is interpreted as including the range of management actions that can be taken to eradicate or contain the spread of pests.”

RPPOs should take this into consideration when implementing, facilitating or supporting IYPH activities.

Suggested Actions to RPPOs

1. The IYPH Secretariat has drafted and disseminated a number of key messages and actions for targeted audiences, namely academia, private sector, IGOs and CSOs, government and public at large[[3]](#footnote-3).

RPPOs should support the dissemination of such key messages and actions while providing support to NPPOs in adapting them for their respective national audiences as they see fit.

RPPOs should help to spread the message on the three key events and key messages to strengthen participation and engagement to the IYPH in general by promoting a country-led approach.

Launch events in Rome and New York City

1. As of today and following the discussion of the IYPH ISC, there are two launch events programmed to officially launch the IYPH:

* launch event in Sheikh Zayed Centre, FAO headquarters in Rome (Italy) on 2nd December; and
* launch event at UN Headquarters in New York City (United States) during the same week.

1. The launch event in Rome shall take place in the form of a side event of the Council of FAO; proposed speakers include so far: the FAO Director-General (invited); Minister of Agriculture, and the Marine of Ireland; and the Permanent-Secretary for Agriculture and Forestry of Finland (invited). Other proposals would be submitted by the IYPH ISC by the end of September 2019; the IYPH ISC discussed about involving various stakeholders at a high-level ranging from public, private sectors and academic level. Hence, the expected audience should include FAO Permanent Representations and other government officials.
2. The IYPH ISC also discussed about the launch event in New York. They agreed to hold it either on the same day as the Rome event (2nd December) or at a later appropriate date. In terms of contents, the IYPH ISC suggested to involve UN member states, with a panel of two/three speakers. The IYPH Secretariat clarified that the event was usually organized by the FAO Liaison Office in New York, but the programme may be developed by the IYPH ISC.
3. RPPOs could also be the ideal collectors for suggestions coming from NPPOs regarding potential speakers or general support (e.g. video messages, targeted promotional materials, publications, etc.) to be shared in Rome and New York City.

Ministerial-level CPM-15 in Rome

1. CPM-15 is the most relevant opportunity for the IPPC to celebrate the IYPH: having Ministers of Agriculture gathered to raise awareness on Plant Health is an historic moment that requires all members of the IPPC to play their part to ensure its success and a lasting legacy. The IYPH Secretariat (composed of representative of the IPPC Secretariat, the FAO Plant Protection and Production Division, and the FAO Partnerships Division, with the support of the FAO Office for Corporate Communication) briefed the IYPH ISC regarding the Ministerial segment at CPM-15 (2 April 2020), with a three-hour session from 2:00 to 5:00 pm that includes an opening of the session with a keynote speaker, a Ministerial declaration on plant health, the adoption of the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020-2030 and a reception.
2. RPPOs should promote and emphasise the importance of a Ministerial-level CPM-15 to NPPOs to ensure the participation of all Ministers of Agriculture from each contracting party.
3. The actions RPPOs may use to achieve results in ensuring the participation of Ministers at CPM-15 should be communicated by the IPPC Secretariat but may also be adjusted for each specific region, to maximise the effectiveness in terms of visibility, communication and persuasion. RPPOs should keep NPPOs engaged during the months preceding CPM-15 and relay any need that may arise to the IPPC Secretariat for immediate support on any related matter.

Ministerial declaration

1. During the latest meeting of the IYPH ISC, it was noted that the IPPC community (national plant protection organizations and regional plant protection organizations) would circulate the Ministerial declaration on plant health for comments until 30 September 2019. The draft declaration would be revised based on comments and reviewed by the IPPC Strategic Planning Group and CPM Bureau upcoming meetings in October 2019. Once revised, the draft declaration would be shared with NPPOs, RPPOs and IYPH ISC members to channel it to respective ministers.
2. The Ministerial declaration is strongly connected to CPM-15 and RPPOs should provide support to the IPPC Secretariat in creating consensus around the circulated draft, collecting and compiling potential comments from NPPOs and/or other national institutions.
3. RPPOs should also act in view of solving any issue that may arise within a specific Region regarding the ministerial declaration as well as a platform for making sure all NPPOs and the IPPC Secretariat are on the same page.
4. RPPOs certainly play a key role in ensuring the distribution and delivery of the draft ministerial declaration to each respective minister, reporting any issue to the IPPC Secretariat for immediate action.
5. The TC-RPPO is invited to:

* *Note* the report.
* *Discuss* ideas and plans to sustain and coordinate the IYPH initiatives at the regional level.
* *Help* spread the message and programme of the IYPH key global events.
* *Facilitate* the IPPC Secretariat in its resource mobilization efforts by sharing contacts of potential non-state donors that could be interested in IYPH activities.
* *Send* reports and news-items of IYPH-related activities and initiatives.
* *Promote* and *support* the IYPH launch events in Rome and New York City.
* *Support* the IPPC Secretariat in disseminating the Ministerial Declaration to the general public.

1. Source: <https://www.ippc.int/en/external-cooperation/regional-plant-protection-organizations/> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Ref. IYPH paper to CPM-11 (2016): [https://www.ippc.int/static/media/files/publication/en/2016/03/34\_CPM\_April\_2016-IYPH\_planning-2016-03-10.pdf](https://www.ippc.int/static/media/files/publication/en/2016/03/34_CPM_April_2016-IYPH_planning-2016-03-10.pdf%20and%20CPM-11) and CPM-11 (2016) Report: <https://www.ippc.int/static/media/files/publication/en/2016/07/Report_CPM-11_2016-07-19_withISPMs-revised.pdf>. In the context of IYPH, the eleventh session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM-11) has adopted the following definition of plant health: *“Plant health is usually considered the discipline that utilizes official or legislative approaches to prevent pests and disease causing organisms to spread into endangered areas, especially through human interaction such as international trade.”* [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. IYPH key messages will be available at [www.fao.org/plant-health-2020](http://www.fao.org/plant-health-2020) [↑](#footnote-ref-3)