



COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

Fifteenth Session

Virtual Meeting, 16, 18 March and 1 April 2021

Report from Strategic Planning Group - Establishment of CPM Focus
Group on Climate change impacts on plant health

Agenda item 8.3

Prepared by the IPPC Secretariat and the SPG

I. Terms of Reference for a CPM Focus Group on Climate Change and Phytosanitary Issues

A. Background

1. Available science suggests that climate change has a significant impact on plant health, especially due to the actual and potential expansion of pest distribution and intensity, and changes in pest epidemiology and life cycle. Mitigation of these impacts will present a major challenge to the national, regional and international plant protection organizations.
2. The IPPC Strategic Framework 2020-2030 includes assessing and managing the impacts of climate change on plant health as one of the eight development agenda items to be addressed by the global plant health community over the current decade.
3. The goal defined in the IPPC Strategic Framework is that by 2030, the impacts of climate change on plant health and the safe trade of plants and plant products are 1) evaluated on a regular basis, especially in relation to pest risk analysis and management issues, and that 2) phytosanitary matters are adequately reflected in the international climate change debate and better considered for example by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.
4. To enhance understanding of the issue, the IYPH International Steering Committee has commissioned a study report on the impacts of climate change on plant health, which will be published on 1 June 2021. The results and recommendations of the study report will be presented at the first International Plant Health Conference in Helsinki in June 2021, where climate change is also one of the major thematic topics to be discussed. The study report, which will be accompanied by a summary for

policy makers, will be one of the key legacies of the International Year of Plant Health 2020, and its results and recommendations, together with the findings of the Helsinki conference, will provide an important scientific basis for the future action on assessing and managing the impacts of climate change.

5. At its October meeting, the SPG provided guidance to the IPPC Secretariat on how to proceed with the afore-described development agenda item. The SPG agreed that the major goal in 2021 with regard to this should be to increase understanding of the phytosanitary issues associated with climate change, and that the study report and the Helsinki Conference form an important basis for this understanding. The SPG also agreed that the Helsinki Conference should be followed up by a webinar organized by the Secretariat, targeting IPPC contracting parties, to further inform and enhance countries' understanding of the issue. The primary goal of the webinar would be to better define the key actions that the CPM should take.

6. In addition, the SPG agreed to recommend the CPM to establish a focus group on climate change and phytosanitary issues. The mandate of the focus group would be, *inter alia*, to develop an IPPC action plan on climate change and to coordinate its implementation. Its proposed purpose, further functions, composition, funding and duration are explained in more detail below.

B. Purpose

7. The focus group will coordinate the development and support the implementation of the IPPC's action plan on climate change

- 1) to raise awareness of the impacts of climate change on plant health;
- 2) to enhance evaluation and management of risks of climate change to plant health and
- 3) to enhance the adequate recognition of phytosanitary matters in the international climate change debate, *inter alia* by providing related advocacy.

C. Membership

8. The IPPC focus group on climate change and phytosanitary issues is composed of up to ten members with relevant skills and experience in one or several of the following fields: plant health, climate change, plant pathology, agricultural entomology, climatology, modelling, economics, genomics, statistics-biometrics, spatial analysis, Decision Support Systems (DSS), advanced automated trend/pattern analysis, advanced optimization, social sciences, ecosystems, phytosanitary measures or other relevant field.

9. In addition, all members should have knowledge of the IPPC's mandate and activities.

D. Functions

10. The focus group will:

- conduct an analysis of the CPM responsibilities on climate change issues as appropriate, with a view on their effect on plant health policies;
- develop an IPPC climate change action plan with a schedule to be presented to the CPM-16 (2022) for consideration;
- provide guidance on and lead the development of the IPPC future actions with regard to the impacts of climate change on plant health;
- support implementation of the action plan at the global, regional and national levels;
- call IPPC contracting parties, regional plant protection organizations, relevant international organizations, and major donors, for actively contributing to the planning and implementation of the IPPC climate change action plan;
- identify and solicit revenue sources to fund the implementation of the action plan;
- monitor implementation of the action plan against its key performance indicators;

- perform other related functions as required.

E. Process

11. The CPM Bureau, upon consultation with the IPPC Secretariat and taking account of the balance of skills and experience required, stakeholder and geographical representation and gender balance, will select and appoint the members by June 2021.
12. The focus group will convene virtually for the first time by July 2021, soon after the results and recommendations of the study report on the impacts of climate change on plant health are published on 1 June 2021, to select its chairperson and discuss its action plan and functions as described in section 3.
13. The relevant action plan will be presented to the CPM Bureau and the SPG by December 2021.
14. A webinar on the impacts of climate change on plant health will be organized by the IPPC Secretariat to present the proposed action plan.
15. The action plan will be presented to CPM-16 (2022).

F. Funding

16. The organization that employs an IPPC meeting participant is responsible for funding the travel and daily subsistence allowance for that person to attend. If the employer is unable to allocate sufficient funds, participants are first encouraged to seek assistance from sources other than the IPPC Secretariat. Where such demonstrated efforts to secure assistance have been unsuccessful, requests for assistance (i.e. travel and subsistence costs) from the IPPC Secretariat may be made. However, any support is subject to available funds. The IPPC Secretariat will consider funding assistance for participants following IPPC criteria for funding. Full details on these criteria can be found on the IPP (<https://www.ippc.int/publications/criteria-used-prioritizing-participants-receive-travel-assistance-attend-meetings>).

G. Duration

17. The focus group will remain effective until CPM-19 (2025).