**UPDATE ON ACTIVITIES OF THE CPM FOCUS GROUP ON climate change and phytosanitary issues**

Prepared by the IPPC Secretariat with review and input of the FG Chairperson

1. Introduction

The Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) Focus Group on ‘Climate Change Impacts on Plant Health’ was formally endorsed by the CPM Bureau in July 2021[[1]](#footnote-2), following a recommendation of the Strategic Planning Group[[2]](#footnote-3) in October 2020 and the subsequent establishment by CPM-15 in April 2021(Appendix 6 of the [CPM-15 Final Report](https://assets.ippc.int/static/media/files/publication/en/2021/04/CPM-15_Final_Report_with_ISPMs_Appendices-2021-04-30.pdf)).

The Focus Group is composed of ten members with specialized skills and experience in climate change and phytosanitary issues, and knowledge of the IPPC and its activities (as specified in the CPM adopted ToRs). The Focus Group also includes an independent expert on climate change, representing the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), and a Bureau ‘Champion’ representative. The Focus Group will remain effective until CPM-19 (2025), and the composition of the focus group is presented in Annex 1.

The primary role of the Focus Group will be to coordinate the development of the IPPC’s ‘Action Plan on Climate Change’ and support the implementation and delivery of action plan over the next four years (2021-2025). The key outcomes of the IPPC’s ‘Action Plan on Climate Change’ include but are not limited to:

* Raising awareness of the impacts of climate change on plant health;
* Enhancing the evaluation and management of risks of climate change to plant health; and
* Enhancing the recognition of phytosanitary matters in the international climate change debate

2. Progress update

The IPPC Secretariat coordinated the preparation of three focus group meetings on the 2, 21 and 23 September 2021. In the inaugural Focus Group meeting on the 2 September, Focus Group members provided updates on their climate change and phytosanitary credentials, professional experience and professional linkages to climate change and phytosanitary measures. The members also reviewed the Focus Group ToRs and related background documentation, including the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020-2030, and the results and recommendations of the [“Scientific review of the impact of climate change on plant pests”](http://www.fao.org/3/cb4769en/online/cb4769en.html).

During the second meeting, the Focus Group elected a Chairperson (Mr Christopher DALE, Australia), initiated discussion around implementation of the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020-2030 Development Agenda item *“Assessment and management of climate change impacts on plant health”*, and discussed strategic opportunities of the Focus Group based on a draft action plan initiated by the Secretariat.

The Focus Group continued discussion on potential activities linked to the three key outcomes of the IPPC ‘Action Plan on Climate Change’ during the third Focus Group meeting on 23 September. Recommendations from the [“Scientific review of the impact of climate change on plant pests”](http://www.fao.org/3/cb4769en/online/cb4769en.html) and potential activities from individual members were presented, discussed and prioritized.

The Focus Group on Climate Change Impacts on Plant Health will meet again on 12 October to continue developing the draft IPPC Action Plan on Climate Change (with a strong focus on awareness, advocacy and technical training opportunities) to be presented to the CPM Bureau in December 2021 and CPM-16 in 2022 for adoption.

3. Proposed ‘IPPC Action Plan on Climate Change’ Activities

The proposed activities currently under discussion and development for the ‘IPPC Action Plan on Climate Change’ include, but are not limited to;

Outcome 1: Awareness of the impacts of climate change on plant health is improved

* Raise global, regional and national awareness of the importance and the impacts of climate change on plant health;
* Raise awareness and promote collaboration opportunities within the IPPC community (CPM, Bureau, Standards Committee, Implementation and Capacity Development Committee, IPPC Focus Groups, FAW and TR4 Technical Working Groups) of the importance and impacts of climate change on plant health;
* Utilize Global (IRSS), Regional and National survey and evaluation tools to assess the impacts of climate change on plant health;
* Explore how the IPPC reporting system (which combines official reporting by contracting parties with other available and published information) may be enhanced to further identify and share climate change information relating to changes to pest distributions, host range, and adaptability of pests and host plants;
* Develop a ‘climate change impacts on plant health’ webpage (landing page) on the IPP as a repository of all FG-CCPI related materials and resources;
* Promote FG-CCPI and action plan at CPM-16 and IYPH plant health conference (2022).

Outcome 2: Risks of climate change to plant health are evaluated and managed

* Review existing NPPO approaches to incorporating climate change factors in PRA, transboundary pest management, surveillance systems, pest outbreak and response systems;
* Provide advice on the use of climate change models (e.g., pros and cons of different models, time period to use, uncertainties, geographical and temporal scale) through the coordination and delivery of workshop webinars, guides, e-learning courses;
* Provide advice on how to assess the impact of climate change on individual pests, the suite of pests on an individual crop and pest control methods;
* Develop tools or link to tools that will help national risk assessments for climate change and pest issues;
* Review existing ISPMs for opportunities to add climate change factors into pest risk assessments (PRAs). Information on these topics can be found in the NAPPO discussion document, [“Climate Change and Pest Risk Analysis”](https://nappo.org/application/files/5415/8341/5783/DD_02_Climate_Change_Discussion_DocumentRev-07-08-12-e.pdf), and the associated [technical summary](https://nappo.org/application/files/9415/8334/3558/PPNo._5_ClimateChange-e.pdf);
* Investigate and evaluate the option of using of internet-based identification tools that allow for the rapid identification of plant pests (e.g., USDA APHIS | Pest Identification Technology Lab) to help support increased plant pest surveillance and reporting recommendations in the FAO [“Scientific review of the impact of climate change on plant pests”](http://www.fao.org/3/cb4769en/online/cb4769en.html);
* Investigate and evaluate the creation of regional climate hubs (e.g. USDA Climate Hubs) that provide science-based information to agricultural and natural resource managers to help address the effects of climate change. These climate hubs could help countries with adaptation and reduce climate change related plant health impacts;
* Investigate and evaluate the use of predictive models for plant pests that incorporate the effects of climate change, e.g., Climex and the Spatial Analytic Framework for Advanced Risk Information Systems (SAFARIS), to inform strategic planning and improve pest management which supports the increased capacity building recommendation in the FAO [“Scientific review of the impact of climate change on plant pests”](http://www.fao.org/3/cb4769en/online/cb4769en.html);
* Review linkages and opportunities to support the IPPC ‘Provision of Safe Aid’ recommendation;
* Develop an IPPC Guide to assist NPPOs in identifying, assessing, mitigating and managing ‘climate change impacts on plant health’;
* Include a ‘climate change impacts on plant health’ criteria (similar to the ‘implementation issues’ criteria) onto the template for draft ‘standard’ specifications, draft guidance material specifications, and into the assessment criteria for the upcoming IPPC ‘call for topics;
* Conduct a review and evaluation of all IPPC guidance materials (guides, e-learning, website component pages) to investigate opportunities to incorporate ‘climate change impacts on plant health’ into official IPPC technical resources;
  1. Outcome 3: Recognition of phytosanitary matters in the international climate change debate is enhanced
* Cooperate and exchange information on climate change and plant health matters with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC);
* Explore opportunities for cooperation and collaboration with other relevant international entities that deal with climate change and plant health such as the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD);
* Explore opportunities to mainstream phytosanitary policies into the international climate change debate;
* Investigate opportunities to raise awareness of ‘climate change impacts on plant health’ at the upcoming COP26 forum (Oct-Nov 2021) and future COP forums;
* Include ‘climate change impacts on plant health’ topic onto the agenda of all upcoming RPPOs meetings and conferences (including annual regional workshops);

The SPG is invited to:

1. *note* the report;
2. *provide* guidance on strategic direction.

Annex 1. Composition of the Focus Group on Climate Change and Phytosanitary Issues.

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| **Members** | |
| NPPO of Australia | Mr Christopher DALE - Chairperson |
| NPPO of Tunisia | Mr Adel JAMAZI |
| NPPO of Ghana | Ms Hannah SERWAA AKOTO NUAMAH |
| NPPO of the United Kingdom | Mr Dominic EYRE |
| NPPO of China | Mr Runzhi ZHANG |
| NPPO of Canada | Ms Karen CASTRO |
| NPPO of the United States of America | Mr Glenn FOWLER |
| NPPO of New Zealand | Ms Victoria LAMB |
| NPPO of Argentina | Mr Pablo CORTESE |
| NPPO of Zimbabwe | Mr Godfrey Pasurai CHIKWENHERE |
| Independent expert on climate change | Mr Josef SETTELE |
| **Other participants** | |
| Ms Marica GATT | Bureau representative (‘Champion’) |
| Ms Erika MANGILI ANDRÉ | IPPC Secretariat support (lead) |
| Mr Riccardo MAZZUCCHELLI | IPPC Secretariat support |

1. CPM Bureau Report - July 2021: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/90109/> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Report from Strategic Planning Group - Establishment of CPM Focus Group on Climate change impacts on plant health: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/89305/> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)