



TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR CPM FOCUS GROUP ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND PHYTOSANITARY ISSUES

1. 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 International Steering Committee (ISC) of the International Year of Plant Health 2020 (IYPH) has commissioned a study report on the impact of climate change on plant health. The study report will be published on 1 June 2021 at a virtual High-Level Launch Event where its results and recommendations will be presented. The study report, which will be accompanied by a summary for policymakers, will be one of the key legacies of the IYPH 2020, and its results and recommendations will provide an important scientific basis for the future actions on assessing and managing the impacts of climate change.
- [5] In light of the further postponement of the International Plant Health Conference (IPHC) to 2022, the IYPH ISC decided to hold a series of events to establish a path leading towards the first IPHC. A virtual launch event of the study report on the impact of climate change on plant health opens the series on 1 June 2021. The launch will be followed by two webinars on 29 and 30 June 2021 focusing respectively on plant health and food systems and on plant health, climate change and biodiversity. The session on 30 June will provide a chance to discuss the results and recommendations of the study report on a technical level. It aims at increased understanding of the technical and scientific aspects of the impact of climate change on plant health among the plant health community, especially with regard to the actual and potential impact on pest dispersal, epidemiology and life cycle.
- [6] 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 forms an important basis for this understanding.
- [7] 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.

2. Purpose

- [8] The focus group will coordinate the development and support the implementation of the IPPC's action plan on climate change:
 - to raise awareness of the impacts of climate change on plant health;
 - to enhance evaluation and management of risks of climate change to plant health and

- to enhance the adequate recognition of phytosanitary matters in the international climate change debate, inter alia by providing related advocacy.

3. Membership

[9] The IPPC focus group on climate change and phytosanitary issues will be composed of up to ten members with relevant skills and experience in one or several of the following fields: plant health policy and regulation (including plant pathology and agricultural and silvicultural entomology), phytosanitary measures, understanding of NPPO operations (including regulatory functions) and their interactions and relationships with other agencies, climate change, ecology or other relevant field.

[10] In addition, the group should have one or two experts on climate change designated by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

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

4. Functions

[12] 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 a draft IPPC climate change action plan with a schedule to be presented to the CPM-16 (2022) for consideration, based on the analysis above and the findings and recommendations of the IYPH International Steering Committee commissioned report on the impact of climate change on plant health;
- provide guidance on and lead the development of the IPPC future actions with regard to the impacts of climate change on plant health;
- cooperate and exchange information on climate change and plant health matters with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change;
- liaise also with other relevant entities that deal with climate change such as the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity;
- 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, with support of the IPPC Secretariat, 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.

5. Process

[13] The establishment of the focus group will follow a CPM decision on this subject in its 2021 session.

[14] The member selection for the Focus Group shall be carried out according to the following guidelines:

- A call for nominations will be published on the IPPC website in April 2021 to allow contracting parties and regional plant protection organizations to nominate their representatives to be part

of the focus group. Each region shall nominate two experts from different disciplines to fit some of the skill sets described under “Membership”.

- The IPPC Secretariat Management Team will review the nominations for focus group members assuring gender and geographical balance and submit them to CPM Bureau for selection. The CPM-Bureau shall select one nominee from each FAO region as the regional representative in the focus group, aiming to cover as many scientific disciplines as possible.
- The CPM-Bureau will select three “expert members” for the focus group from the remaining pool of seven nominees in order to cover scientific disciplines not or poorly covered by the seven regional representatives.

[15] 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 impact 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.

[16] The relevant action plan will be presented to the CPM Bureau and the SPG by December 2021.

[17] A webinar on the impacts of climate change on plant health will be organized by the IPPC Secretariat to present the proposed action plan.

[18] The action plan will be presented to CPM-16 (2022).

6. Funding

[19] 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>).

7. Duration

[20] The focus group will remain effective until CPM-19 (2025).