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## **REPORT**

# **Focus Group on Climate Change and Phytosanitary Issues**

**Virtual Meeting  
02 September 2021**

**IPPC Secretariat**

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## 1. Opening of the Meeting

- [1] The IPPC Secretariat (Secretariat) opened the meeting and welcomed all participants.
- [2] The Acting IPPC Officer-in-Charge for daily matters, Avetik NERSISYAN, wished the Group success in its work on an interesting, important and challenging topic. The Focus Group on Climate Change and Phytosanitary Issues (FG-CCPI) was created following the Fifteenth Session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM-15) (2021) to develop clear recommendations to implement the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) Strategic Framework 2020–2030<sup>1</sup> development agenda item No.6, “*Assessment and management of climate change impacts on plant health*”. Mr NERSISYAN noted that, if no action were taken on the topic, one day it might no longer be possible to grow crops in the open.
- [3] The Focus Group would build on work carried out for the International Year of Plant Health (IYPH) and the “Scientific review of the impact of climate change on plant pests”. The Secretariat would provide any support needed to facilitate the work of the Focus Group.
- [4] The Integration and Support Team (IST) Lead, Arop DENG, welcomed the participants to the first meeting of the FGCCPI, and congratulated the Focus Group members for winning the trust of their nominating partners. The Lead also welcomed members of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) Bureau who were contributing to the important work of FG-CCPI.
- [5] The rationale behind setting a priority on the assessment and management of the impact of climate change on plant health for the decade 2020–2030 was that pest distribution and impact had the potential to evolve considerably as a result of climate change.
- [6] The desired outcome of the Strategic Framework 2020–2030 development agenda item on climate change was that, by 2030, the impact of climate change on plant health and the safe trade of plants and plant products was evaluated – especially in relation to best risk assessment and best risk management issues – and that phytosanitary issues are adequately reflected in the international debate on climate change and at the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Better knowledge about pests and the potential changes in life cycle, epidemiology and pathogenicity that may be induced by climate change was essential when undertaking pest risk assessment to determine the steps and actions to manage pest risk effectively and economically.
- [7] The Scientific review of the impact of climate change on plant pests was a key legacy of the IYPH and would serve to inform future action by the IPPC Community on assessing and managing the impact of climate change on plant health. Ms Maria Ludovica GULLINO, one of the key authors of the Scientific review, would present her work and provide insight and guidance to the group.

## 2. Meeting Arrangements

### 2.1 Election of the Rapporteur

- [8] The Secretariat explained the role of the rapporteur in ensuring the accuracy of the meeting reports that would be prepared by the Secretariat after each meeting. FG-CCPI members elected Ms Hannah SERWAA AKOTO NUAMAH as Rapporteur of the meeting.

### 2.2 Adoption of the agenda

- [9] FG-CCPI members adopted the agenda as presented in Appendix 1 to the present report.

## 3. Administrative matters

### 3.1 Document list

- [10] FG-CCPI members took note of the documents on the document list as presented in Appendix 2.

### 3.2 Participant list

- [11] The Secretariat introduced the participants list (Appendix 3).
- [12] The Secretariat invited the participants to notify the Secretariat if any changes were needed to the information on the participant list.

## 4. General presentations

### 4.1 CPM FG-CCPI members

- [13] The participants gave a brief self-introduction focused on their professional background.
- [14] One member noted that the group would benefit from the inclusion of a member from a meteorology background. Another member also noted that it would be beneficial to include a member from the biodiversity community.

### 4.2 IPPC community, governance, Strategic Framework 2020 – 2030

- [15] The IST Lead gave an introduction of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), its history, core activities, governance and strategy (IPPC Secretariat and structure, governance meetings, CPM15 decisions, including the establishment of FG-CCPI), future plans and the Strategic Framework 2020–2030 (mission, vision, goals, strategic objectives, eight development agenda items).

### 4.3 CPM FG-CCPI Terms of Reference

- [16] The Secretariat explained that the Focus Group's mandate came from the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020–2030 development agenda item to assess and manage the impact of climate change on plant health over the forthcoming decade. The specific objectives of that development agenda item were to ensure, by 2030, that the impact of climate change on plant health was evaluated and that phytosanitary issues were better incorporated in international debates on climate change, particularly at IPCC. Participants in the FG-CCPI were endorsed by the CPM Bureau based on relevant expertise and to ensure representative geographic distribution across all FAO regions. One member was an independent expert on climate change. The Terms of Reference (ToR) provide for the Focus Group to develop overall guidance and lead the formulation of future climate change responses for the IPPC Community as regards the impact of climate change on plant health, raising awareness, managing risks and supporting advocacy.
- [17] Specifically, the FG-CCPI should first conduct an analysis of CPM responsibilities with regard to climate change and plant health policies. Based on that analysis and the findings and recommendations of the FAO Scientific review on the impact of climate change on plant pests, the Focus Group should develop a draft IPPC climate change action plan with a schedule to be presented to CPM-16 (2022) for consideration.
- [18] The action plan could, in the immediate term, include recommendations with regard to climate change and plant health and associated guidelines for pest risk analysis and surveillance. It should also advance the mainstreaming of phytosanitary conditions in the global climate change debate, as well as liaise with other relevant entities dealing with climate change such as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity and other biodiversity-related conventions and organizations. In the longer term, it would be important for FG-CCPI to support and oversee the implementation of the action plan at global, regional and national levels, and to call on relevant partners to support the planning, implementation and funding of the action plan.
- [19] The Secretariat noted that there had been a delay in convening the Focus Group, which made for a pressing timeline if the group were to present the action plan to the CPM Bureau for comment in December 2020 before it was presented to CPM-16 in March or April 2022. It may also be advisable to circulate the draft action plan among Contracting Parties to get their views prior to the CPM Bureau meeting.

- [20] The frequency of FG-CCPI meetings was a matter for the members to decide in order to achieve their objectives. The Focus Group would remain effective until at least CPM-19, which was scheduled to take place in 2025.
- [21] One member asked about the role of the Implementation and Capacity Development (IC) Committee and other IPPC divisions in implementing the action plan. The Secretariat explained that if the action plan contained a specific recommendation for a division to take action, the Secretariat would take measures to carry out the recommendation. Action plan recommendations should be in line with the Strategic Framework 2020–2030 and would go to CPM for approval.

## **5. Results and recommendations of the FAO Scientific review on the impact of climate change on plant pests**

- [22] The FAO Scientific review on the impact of climate change on plant pests was commissioned by the International Steering Committee of the International Year of Plant Health as one of the Year's key legacies. The lead author, Ms Maria Lodovica GULLINO worked with 10 co-authors to prepare the review. The review's findings and recommendations would provide an important scientific basis for assessing and managing the impact of climate change for the global plant health community.
- [23] Ms GULLINO thanked FAO and the IPPC Secretariat for their support in preparing the review and wished the Focus Group success in its future work. She explained that the authors had come from a very wide range of backgrounds to offer their expertise on the topic. Climate change was already increasing pest risk globally; warmer temperatures and changing climate and atmospheric conditions had direct and indirect effects on pests and would lead to changes in the geographical distribution of pests, changes in their seasonal phenology and changes in their population dynamics. The review considered the effects of climate change on a number of case study pests. All important life cycle stages of pests were directly influenced by temperature and climate conditions; warmer conditions could lead to earlier and more numerous plant pest outbreaks. She said that climate change would also have an effect on food security, with the worst impacts expected for wheat, rice and maize in tropical and subtropical areas. Climate change facilitated pest dispersal both through natural processes, as pest ranges expanded into new, previously unsuitable areas, and human-mediated pathways via trade, tourism, traffic and transportation, which was a particularly important area for the Focus Group to address.
- [24] The results of the review showed that climate change would result in increasing plant health problems in managed, semi-managed and unmanaged ecosystems, and that adjustments in phytosanitary policies and plant protection strategies were already necessary at present, and would be even more crucial in the future. The review recommended increased international and regional cooperation, better exchange of information on trade flows, pest occurrences and pest interceptions, the establishment of a global mechanism for research coordination, multidisciplinary collaboration, coordination and knowledge exchange in climate-change biology research, particularly to close knowledge gaps, increased investments to strengthen national phytosanitary systems, and intensification of pest risk analysis and surveillance and monitoring activities.
- [25] One FG-CCPI member asked if there were any quantitative assessments of climate change on pest movements. Ms GULLINO explained that there were some examples, notably for seeds that were produced in warm climates then distributed to growing areas with pest that were more likely to survive in warmer, previously unsuitable areas. It was difficult, however, to separate the effect of climate change from the effect of increased global trade, as the two always interacted.
- [26] In explaining the methodologies used to prepare the review, Ms GULLINO said that a combination of monitoring, practical studies and scenarios informed the preparation of the review, which allowed for better forecasting.
- [27] With scarce resources and funding, one FG-CCPI member asked what the key recommendation was and what the priorities for the Focus Group should be. Ms GULLINO said that, while it was difficult to prioritize, phytosanitary services should better explain their role and importance, and ask for increased

levels of support. Capacity-building for diagnostic laboratories was also important, and that connections among laboratories should be more robust. It was also important to focus on pathways, and to find practical ways to improve plant health at production level. It was also important to increase awareness of ecosystem services, particularly for unmanaged ecosystems, as issues there were interconnected with issues in agricultural ecosystems.

- [28] When protection systems were not strong, it was important to have advanced diagnostic tools and to use them at the site of production. That would mitigate many plant health control issues down the line.

## **6. General discussion**

### **6.1. Timeline**

- [29] The Secretariat noted the tight timelines needed to present to CPM-16 in 2022, for which it was advisable to present something to the Strategic Planning Group (SPG) in October 2021. Papers for SPG consideration had to be submitted by the end of September. The submission to SPG did not need to be a finalized document; it could be a short document outlining initial FG-CCPI discussions on what to include in the action plan. SPG was a good bellwether of the Contracting Parties, and would offer valuable feedback on the action plan.
- [30] Given the tight timelines involved, FG-CCPI might wish to consider focusing its attention on the first two functions set out in the Terms of Reference, namely to conduct an analysis of the CPM responsibilities on climate change issues as appropriate, with a view on their effect on plant health policies, and to develop a draft IPPC climate change action plan based on the analysis and findings of the Scientific review on the impact of climate change on plant pests.
- [31] It was agreed that the Secretariat would prepare a paper to facilitate discussion and support the Focus Group's work to build the action plan.

### **6.2 CPM FG-CCPI Expected output**

- [32] The Terms of Reference for the Group, along with the recommendations contained in the FAO Scientific review on the impact of climate change on plant pests would serve as a framework of the goals to be achieved and timelines for the action plan. The paper to be submitted to SPG for consideration would be a precursor to the action plan outlining the Group's initial thoughts thereon.
- [33] One FG-CCPI member said it would be important to separate issues that were specific to climate change from issues that were not. It was important to establish what was within the purview of the Focus Group, what its objectives were and how that differed from and worked together with other groups working on the topic.
- [34] Another member said that it was also important to understand expectations around FG-CCPI engagement with regional plant protection organizations (RPPOs) and national plant protection organizations (NPPOs).
- [35] It was agreed that the Secretariat would circulate examples of action plans from other groups to inform the work of FG-CCPI.

### **6.3 Selection of a Chairperson at the next meeting**

- [36] The Secretariat explained that the Chairperson for the Group would be chosen at the forthcoming meeting of FG-CCPI. That would give members the opportunity to get to know each other better, see if there were any volunteers to take on the role, and to discuss among themselves.

## **7. Any other business**

- [37] No other business was raised.

## **8. Date and arrangement of the next meeting**

- [38] FG-CCPI members agreed to hold its forthcoming virtual meeting on 21 September 2021 at 11:30 to 13:30 CET.
- [39] FG-CCPI members agreed to hold the following virtual meeting on 23 September 2021 at 11:30 to 13:30 CET.
- [40] Members noted the international distribution of the Focus Group membership lent itself to rotating the timing of future meetings in order to give all members the opportunity to have meetings scheduled during normal working hours.

## **9. Close of the Meeting**

- [41] The Secretariat thanked the participants for their work on this important topic, and invited Focus Group members to interact further with one another. The Secretariat said that the meeting's objectives had been met, and closed the meeting.



**Appendix 1: Agenda****2021 VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE  
FOCUS GROUP ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND PHYTOSANITARY ISSUES****02 September 2021**

	<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Document No.</b>	<b>Presenter</b>
1.	<b>Opening of the Meeting</b>	--	IPPC Secretary (O-I-C) Arop DENG
2.	<b>Meeting Arrangements</b>		
2.1.	Election of the Rapporteur	--	Erika MANGILI
2.2.	Adoption of the Agenda	01_FG_CCPI_2021_Sep	Erika MANGILI
3.	<b>Administrative Matters</b>		
3.1.	Document list	02_FG_CCPI_2021_Sep	Erika MANGILI
3.2.	Participant list	03_FG_CCPI_2021_Sep	Erika MANGILI
4.	<b>General presentations</b>		
4.1.	CPM FG-CCPI members	--	Erika MANGILI FG members
4.2.	IPPC community, governance, strategic framework 2020-2030	---	Arop DENG
4.3.	CPM FG-CCPI Terms of Reference	04_FG_CCPI_2021_Sep	Viivi KUVAJA
5.	<b>Results and recommendations of the FAO scientific review on the impact of climate change on plant pests</b>	---	Maria Lodovica GULLINO (University of Turin)
6.	<b>General discussion</b>		
6.1.	Timeline	--	Erika MANGILI
6.1.	CPM FG-CCPI Expected output	--	FG members
6.3.	Selection of a Chairperson at the next meeting	--	Erika MANGILI
7.	<b>Any other business</b>	--	Erika MANGILI
8.	<b>Date and arrangement of the Next Meeting</b>	--	Erika MANGILI
9.	<b>Close of the Meeting</b>	--	Arop DENG

**Appendix 2: Documents list**

DOCUMENT NO.	AGENDA ITEM	DOCUMENT TITLE	DATE POSTED / DISTRIBUTED
<b>Administrative Documents</b>			
01_FG_CCPI_2021_Sep	2.2	Provisional agenda	2021-08-11
02_FG_CCPI_2021_Sep	3.1	Documents list	2021-08-11
03_FG_CCPI_2021_Sep	3.2	Participants list	2021-08-11
04_FG_CCPI_2021_Sep	4.3	CPM FG-CCPI Terms of Reference	2021-08-11

IPP LINKS:	Agenda item
<a href="#">High-Level Launch Event of the 'Study on the Impact of Climate Change on Plant Pests: a Global Challenge to Prevent and Mitigate Plant-pest Risks in Agriculture, Forestry and Ecosystems</a>	---
<a href="#">IYPH Webinar on Climate Change, Plant Health and Biodiversity</a>	---
<a href="#">Strategic Framework for the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) 2020–2030</a>	---

### Appendix 3: Participants list

A check (✓) in column 1 indicates confirmed attendance at the meeting.

	Organization	Name, Organization, Address, Telephone	e-mail account
<b>FG-CCPI Members</b>			
▪	NPPO of Tunisia	Mr Adel JAMAZI Director, Plant Protection Ministry of Agriculture, Tunisia	<a href="mailto:adeljemmazi@yahoo.fr">adeljemmazi@yahoo.fr</a> ;
✓▪	NPPO of Ghana	Ms Hannah SERWAA AKOTO NUAMAH Assistant Director, Plant Protection and Regulatory Services Directorate, Ministry of Food and Agriculture	<a href="mailto:hsnuamah@gmail.com">hsnuamah@gmail.com</a> ; <a href="mailto:hsakoto@st.ug.edu.gh">hsakoto@st.ug.edu.gh</a> ;
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✓▪	NPPO of the USA	Mr Glenn FOWLER Risk Analyst USDA APHIS Plant Protection and Quarantine	<a href="mailto:glenn.fowler@usda.gov">glenn.fowler@usda.gov</a> ;
✓▪	NPPO of New Zealand	Ms Victoria LAMB Co-Lead, HE Waka Eke Noa Climate Change Programme Extension Ministry for Primary Industries, New Zealand	<a href="mailto:Victoria.Lamb@mpi.govt.nz">Victoria.Lamb@mpi.govt.nz</a> ;
✓▪	NPPO of Australia	Mr Christopher DALE Assistant Director, Plant Health Surveillance and Diagnostics; Program Manager, International Plant Health Surveillance Program Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment, Australia	<a href="mailto:Chris.Dale@agriculture.gov.au">Chris.Dale@agriculture.gov.au</a> ;
✓▪	NPPO of Argentina	Mr Pablo CORTESE Director of Strategic Phytosanitary Information Servicio Nacional de Sanidad y Calidad Agroalimentaria (SENASA)	<a href="mailto:pcortese@senasa.gob.ar">pcortese@senasa.gob.ar</a> ;
▪	NPPO of Zimbabwe	Mr Godfrey Pasurai CHIKWENHERE Deputy Director, Department of Research and Specialist Services Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Water and Rural Resettlement, Zimbabwe	<a href="mailto:chikwenherepasu@gmail.com">chikwenherepasu@gmail.com</a> ;
✓▪	Independent expert on Climate Change	Mr Josef SETTELE Head of the Department of Conservation Biology & Social-Ecological Systems Helmholtz-Centre for Environmental Research, Germany	<a href="mailto:Josef.Settele@ufz.de">Josef.Settele@ufz.de</a> ;

<b>Other participants</b>			
✓•	University of Turin, Italy	Mr Andrea MASINO	<a href="mailto:andrea.masino@unito.it">andrea.masino@unito.it</a>
✓•	University of Turin, Italy	Ms Maria Lodovica GULLINO	<a href="mailto:marialodovica.gullino@unito.it">marialodovica.gullino@unito.it</a>
✓•	CPM Chairperson	Mr Lucien KOUAM KONAN	<a href="mailto:l_kouame@yahoo.fr">l_kouame@yahoo.fr</a>

### *IPPC Secretariat*

	<b>Region / Role</b>	<b>Name, mailing, address, telephone</b>	<b>Email address</b>
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