



COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

Sixteenth Session

Virtual Meeting, 5, 7 and 21 April 2022

Update from the CPM Focus Group: Climate Change and Phytosanitary issues

Agenda item 8.8.3

Prepared by the IPPC Secretariat and the FG-CCPI

I. Introduction

1. The Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) Focus Group on Climate Change and Phytosanitary Issues (FG-CCPI) was formally endorsed by the CPM Bureau in July 2021¹, following a recommendation of the Strategic Planning Group² in October 2020 and the subsequent establishment by CPM-15 in April 2021 (Appendix 6 of the CPM-15 Final Report).

2. The Focus Group is composed of ten members with specialized skills and experience in climate change and phytosanitary issues, and knowledge of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and its activities (as specified in the CPM adopted Terms of Reference). 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 FG-CCPI will remain effective until CPM-19 (2025), and its membership list is presented in: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/90486/>.

3. The primary role of the FG-CCPI will be to support the implementation and delivery of the IPPC Action Plan on 'Climate Change Impacts on Plant Health' over the 2022-2025 period (presented in Appendix 1). The key outcomes of the action plan include, but are not limited to:

- 1) Raising awareness of the impacts of climate change on plant health
- 2) Enhancing the evaluation and management of risks of climate change to plant health
- 3) Enhancing the recognition of phytosanitary matters in the international climate change debate

¹ CPM Bureau Report - July 2021: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/90109/>

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/>

4. Noting the extensive list of proposed initiatives and activities over the four years of the action plan, it is recommended that the following actions be prioritized by the IPPC for resourcing, coordination, and implementation for the 2022-2023 period:

- 1) Raising awareness of the impacts of climate change on plant health through increasing CPM wide understanding of how climate change may increase of the potential movement and spread of pests through webinars and special sessions involving CPM, Regional Plant Protection Organizations (RPPOs) and National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs);
- 2) Exploring opportunities to enhance IPPC national and regional reporting systems to identify and share climate change information relating to changes in pest distributions, host range, and adaptability of pests and host plants;
- 3) Developing a ‘Climate Change Impacts on Plant Health’ webpage (landing page) on the International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP) as a repository of all FG-CCPI related materials and resources;
- 4) Enhancing the evaluation and management of risks of climate change to plant health to incorporate climate change factors into the traditional Pest Risk Analysis (PRA) processes, and investigating opportunities to incorporate climate change considerations in existing pest surveillance systems and practices; and
- 5) Developing an IPPC guide to assist NPPOs in identifying, assessing, mitigating and managing ‘Climate Change Impacts on Plant Health’

II. Background

5. Available science suggests that climate change has a significant impact on plant health, through 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. The International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) Strategic Framework 2020-2030³ includes the “Assessment and management of climate change impacts on plant health” as one the eight development agenda items to be addressed by the global plant health community over the current decade.

6. 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 evaluated, especially in relation to pest risk assessment and pest risk management issues, and phytosanitary issues are represented and highlighted within the international climate change debate.

7. Trade offers a way to resolve challenges such as regional food shortages due to climate change impacts. However, climate change impacts on plant pests and pest vectors also threaten the international trading system, as international trade provides a pathway for plant pests and pest vectors to spread into new areas of the world. To reduce potential negative impacts of international agricultural trade it is therefore imperative to strengthen phytosanitary activities with regard to climate change.

8. Since pest and plant distribution, pest epidemiology and pest impacts may change considerably as a result of climate change, robust surveillance and monitoring systems are vital at national, regional and international levels. Knowledge about pests and the potential changes in life cycles, epidemiology and pathogenicity that may be induced by climate change, is essential when undertaking pest risk assessments to determine steps and actions to manage these pest risks effectively and economically.

9. Greater attention must be paid to phytosanitary issues in general policy considerations on climate change. It is essential that phytosanitary policies and strategies are adequately reflected in the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Political influence, resourcing, and

³ Strategic Framework for the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) 2020–2030: <https://www.fao.org/3/cb3995en/cb3995en.pdf>

funding for phytosanitary needs at a national, regional and international level will only be available when phytosanitary issues are recognized as an important component of the climate change debate.

10. The FG-CCPI has discussed and developed a list of practical and relevant activities linked to the three key outcomes of the IPPC Action Plan on ‘Climate Change Impacts on Plant Health’. Recommendations from the “Scientific review of the impact of climate change on plant pests” were also considered in these discussions and activities from individual members were presented, discussed, and prioritized.

11. The FG-CCPI presented a summary paper to the Strategic Planning Group (SPG) in October 2021 (<https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/90267/>). The SPG welcomed and supported the main outcomes of the FG-CCPI with a view to presenting the action plan to CPM-16 (2022)⁴, as one of the FG-CCPI functions.

III. IPPC Action Plan on Climate Change Impacts on Plant Health (2022-2025)

This action plan is based on the implementation of the development agenda item “Assessment and management of climate change impacts on plant health”. To support the implementation of the action plan, three major action plan outcomes were identified:

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

Core action areas:

- Convene and participate in meetings and side events related to the impacts of climate change on plant health;
- Raise awareness on the impacts of climate change on plant health;
- Facilitate discussions within IPPC subsidiary bodies, regional workshops as well as other IPPC technical groups;
- Assist Contracting Parties (CPs) to meet their national reporting obligations established by IPPC;

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

Core action areas:

- Support countries to collect, analyse and use climate change impacts-related information in decision-making;
- Support countries in building capacity to help mitigate the impacts of climate change on plant health.

Outcome 3: Enhanced recognition of phytosanitary matters in the international climate change debate

Core action areas:

- Strengthen collaboration with relevant international, regional and national organizations;

⁴ Strategic Planning Group meeting report – October 2021:
https://assets.ippc.int/static/media/files/publication/en/2021/12/FINAL_SPG_Oct_Report_2021-12-07.pdf

- Facilitate, promote and support phytosanitary issues - related policy dialogue at the global level.

IV. Implementation Mechanisms

12. The action plan is to be implemented between 2022 and 2025. IPPC will implement this action plan within its Strategic Framework 2020-2030 at the global, regional and national levels. IPPC CPs, RPPOs, relevant international organizations, and major donors are expected to be called, to actively contribute to the resourcing, planning and implementation of the action plan. Coordination and alignment of this work with that of the other relevant international organizations, as well as collaboration with other relevant public and private sector institutions and organizations will be critical.

13. The implementation of the action plan will be monitored against its key performance indicators and deliverables through IPPC monitoring and evaluation processes. This action plan is intended to strengthen the work of IPPC and its partners, in consultation with NPPOs and RPPOs, to the assessment and management of climate change impacts on plant health. It is not and does not constitute a basis for policy convergence processes. The actions and outcomes included in the action plan should not be understood as instruments endorsed by CPs who do not request their implementation in their national jurisdiction.

V. Budget and Resourcing Considerations

An in-kind contribution from the NPPO of Brazil providing one officer to support the IPPC work is the currently available resource towards this development agenda item. Resourcing to support the development of guidance materials, webpages, communication resources, workshop initiatives and other activities need to be mobilised in order to deliver the action plan in its entirety. The IPPC CPs and RPPOs will be required to actively mobilise funding and technical resources throughout the four years of the action plan to successfully support its implementation.

VI. Recommendations

14. The CPM is invited to:
- 1) *note* this update;
 - 2) *consider* the funding and resource implications necessary to deliver the action plan noting the current budget and resources available;
 - 3) *approve* the 2022-2025 Action Plan for the implementation of the development agenda item “Assessment and Management of Climate Change Impacts on Plant Health”.

Appendix 1. Core action areas, key activities, tentative delivery dates and priority levels of the 2022-25 Action Plan for the implementation of the development agenda item “Assessment and management of climate change impacts on plant health”.

Core action areas	Key activities	Tentative delivery dates	Priority
Outcome 1: Awareness on the impacts of climate change on plant health is improved			
Convene and participate in meetings and side events related to the impacts of climate change on plant health	Convene a global Level Webinar (to CPs) on the impacts of climate change on plant health	Feb – May 2022	HIGH
	Convene a regional Level Webinar series (to RPPOs and NPPOs) on the impacts of climate change on plant health (targeted to regional priorities)	Feb – May 2022	HIGH
	Give the presentation titled “Initiatives to Address the Increasing Risk to Plant Health from Plant Pests Due to Climate Change” at the 2021 North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO) annual meeting	November 3, 2021	HIGH
	Promote the FG-CCPI and its action plan at the 2022 IPPC Plant Health conferences	2022	HIGH
	Investigate opportunities to raise awareness on the impacts of climate change on plant health at the next UN Climate Change Conference Forums	2022 - 2025	MEDIUM
Raise awareness on the impacts of climate change on plant health	Investigate opportunities to raise awareness of the impacts of climate change on plant health, including cultural and social impacts (e.g., radio talk shows, social media, poster and flyers, digital platforms, etc.)	2022 - 2025	MEDIUM
	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	2022 - 2023	HIGH
	Engage stakeholders at different levels (Online survey and in-person and telephone interactions) to gather information on climate change impacts on plant health (potential Implementation Review and Support System (IRSS) survey)	2022	HIGH/ MEDIUM
Facilitate discussions within IPPC subsidiary bodies, regional workshops as well as other IPPC technical groups and CPM	Include the ‘climate change impacts on plant health’ topic into the agenda of all upcoming IPPC IC, SC and Bureau meetings to raise awareness and investigate opportunities for collaboration	2022 – 2023	HIGH
	Include the ‘climate change impacts on plant health’ topic into the agenda of all upcoming IPPC Fall Armyworm (FAW) and Fusarium Tropical Race 4 (TR4) meetings to raise awareness and investigate opportunities for collaboration	2022 – 2023	HIGH
	Include the ‘climate change impacts on plant health’ topic into the agenda of all upcoming IPPC Communications FG meetings to raise awareness and investigate opportunities for collaboration	2022 – 2023	HIGH
	Include ‘climate change impacts on plant health’ topic into the agenda of all upcoming RPPO meetings and conferences (including annual workshops)	2022 - 2023	HIGH
	Include side session into the CPM agenda	April 5, 7 2022	HIGH

Assist contracting parties (CPs) to meet their national reporting obligations (NRO) established by IPPC	Explore how the IPPC NRO system, which combines official reporting by contracting parties with other available and published information, may be enhanced to further share information on changes to pest distributions, host range, and adaptability of pests and host plants	2022 - 2023	HIGH
Outcome 2: Risks of climate change to plant health are evaluated and managed			
Support countries to collect, analyse and use climate change impacts-related information in decision-making	Review existing NPPO approaches to incorporating climate change considerations in pest risk analysis (PRA) and surveillance (e.g., questionnaire)	2022	HIGH
	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 (webinars / guides/ e-learning courses)	2022 - 2025	LOW
	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	2022 - 2025	LOW
	Provide advice on developing tools or link to tools that will help phytosanitary risk assessments for climate change and pest issues	2022 - 2025	MEDIUM
	Recommend the use 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 report on climate change impacts on plant pests	2022 - 2025	MEDIUM/LOW
	Recommend 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 damage	2022 - 2025	MEDIUM/LOW
	Review and recommend the use of predictive models for plant pests that incorporate the effects of climate change to inform strategic planning and improve pest management which supports the increased capacity building recommendation in the FAO report on climate change impacts on plant pests	2022 - 2025	MEDIUM/LOW
	Provide recommendation on the most appropriate means of incorporating climate change considerations into PRA and surveillance, whether through the development of recommendations, guidelines (e.g., IPPC Guide), and/or the creation or modification of ISPMs ¹	2022 - 2023	HIGH
	Include a 'climate change impacts on plant health' criteria (similar to the 'potential implementation issues' criteria) into the template for draft 'standard' specifications, draft guidance material specifications, and into the assessment criteria for the upcoming IPPC Call for topics	2022 - 2023	MEDIUM
Review linkages and opportunities to support the CPM Recommendation on "Safe provision of food and other humanitarian aid to prevent the introduction of plant pests during an emergency situation ² "	2022 - 2025	MEDIUM	

¹ For PRA, information on these topics can be found in the NAPPO discussion document, "[Climate Change and Pest Risk Analysis](#)", and the associated [technical summary](#).

² Safe provision of food and other humanitarian aid to prevent the introduction of plant pests during an emergency situation: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/89786/>

Support countries in building capacity on the impacts of climate change on plant health	Develop, review and promote tools to enhance the preparedness and response of Agricultural Extension Agents, farmers and other relevant stakeholders on the impacts of climate change on plant health	2022 - 2025	MEDIUM
	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' references and technical resources	2022 - 2025	MEDIUM
	Develop an IPPC guide to assist in identifying cultural and social impacts of climate change on plant health, including island communities under threat of sea level rise ³ .	2022 - 2025	MEDIUM
Outcome 3: Enhanced recognition of phytosanitary matters in the international climate change debate			
Strengthen collaboration with relevant organizations	Cooperate and exchange information on climate change and plant health matters with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and other international and regional organisations (e.g., International Pest Research Group, Centre for Agriculture and Bioscience International (CABI))	2022 - 2025	HIGH
	Liaise with other relevant entities that deal with climate change such as the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)	2022 - 2025	HIGH
Facilitate, promote and support phytosanitary issues -related policy dialogue at the global level	Mainstream phytosanitary policies into the climate change debate	2022 - 2025	MEDIUM

³ Cultural and social significance of plants in many communities is high and is an aspect often overlooked in risk and impact assessments.