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Food and Agriculture
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Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная организация
Объединенных Наций

Organización de las
Naciones Unidas para la
Alimentación y la Agricultura

منظمة
الغذية والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

Sixteenth Session

Virtual Meeting, 5, 7 and 21 April 2022

Update on International Day of Plant Health

Agenda item 15.2

Prepared by the IPPC Secretariat

1. Establishing an International Day of Plant Health (IDPH) is one of the most significant legacies of the International Year of Plant Health (IYPH). With the support of its national plant protection organization (NPPO), the government of Zambia first tabled the proposal at the FAO Committee on Agriculture (COAG) to be observed by the international community on 12 May each year. COAG and the FAO Council endorsed the proposal unanimously in 2020, which was later presented to the FAO Conference in 2021. The proposal was discussed and approved unanimously at the Conference 2021 session¹, mandating the FAO Director-General, Mr QU Dongyu, to inform Mr Antonio GUTERRES, Secretary-General of the United Nations (UN), about the proposal to establish the International Day of Plant Health.

2. The UN Secretary-General received Mr QU Dongyu's request on 14 July 2021 proposing the discussion on the IDPH establishment to the Second Committee of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) at its seventy-sixth session. The Bureau of the UNGA Second Committee decided not to hold a session to assess all proposals for international occurrences, such as the IDPH. The IPPC Secretariat, FAO Plant Protection and Production Division (NSP) and the FAO Liaison Office in New York City (FAOLON) coordinated with Zambia to table the same resolution at the seventy-sixth session of the General Assembly of the United Nations (UNGA) in March 2022. If established, CPM-16 should note that the first IDPH will take place virtually through a high-level event. A draft concept note is attached to this paper as Annex 1. National and Regional Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs and RPPOs) are encouraged to organise suitable events to promote the IDPH in their country and region.

3. The International Steering Committee of the International Year of Plant Health (IYPH) suggested that the former IYPH Technical Advisory Board (TAB) be transformed into the IDPH TAB

¹Paragraph 49, page 11, Report of the forty-second session of the FAO Conference

and be composed of IPPC contracting parties (CPs), FAO Permanent Representatives and stakeholders on a regional basis. Both the IYPH ISC and CPM Bureau noted that the IDPH may become an occasion to continue promoting the IYPH legacies and to sustain the IYPH momentum on plant health dialogues globally. Due to the continuation of the COVID-19 pandemic as well as the timing for its establishment, the creation of the IDPH TAB may be delayed until CPM-17 (2023).

4. The CPM is invited to:

- 1) *Note* the update
- 2) *Agree* to delay the establishment of the Technical Advisory Board of the International Year of Plant Health by one year.

Draft Concept Note

International Day of Plant Health Event

12 May 2022

Plant Health Innovation for Better Production

I. Background

1. Plant health is a key factor in any strategy to eliminate hunger and rural poverty, to ensure livelihoods and protect the environment. The vast increase in the international agricultural trade, combined with the effects of climate change, embodies a dramatic increase in the risk of pest introductions and does present formidable new challenges to plant health. New pathways and disturbed ecological conditions set the perfect conditions for future major pest epidemics in plants.

2. The International Year of Plant Health (IYPH) 2020 championed by Finland successfully raised awareness of the importance and impacts of plant health issues of global importance, including hunger, poverty, threats to the environment and economic development. It especially aimed to address new and emerging plant health challenges, including climate change impacts, the significant increase in international trade, the rapid loss of biological diversity and new pest pathways such as e-commerce by developing more efficient national, regional and global policies, structures and mechanisms.

II. Rationale

3. The Government of Zambia championed the proclamation of the International Day of Plant Health (IDPH) on 12 May every year during the Committee on Agriculture (COAG) and FAO Council in 2020, and the FAO Conference in 2021; the proposal received unanimous support and was tabled at the United Nations General Assembly in March 2022, where the IDPH was officially declared. While least developed and developing countries would benefit most from an International Day of Plant Health because it will enhance their phytosanitary systems, benefits will be for all countries including agricultural to industrialized societies.

4. The first ever IDPH wishes to build on the IYPH momentum while linking to the annual theme of FAO Plant Production and Protection Division (NSP), highlighting also the 70th Anniversary of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC).

III. Objectives

5. The IDPH aims to continue raising awareness on the importance of plant health for food security, environmental protection and trade facilitation, with the following six specific objectives:

- 3) Increasing the awareness among public and policy makers of the importance to keep plants healthy to achieve Zero Hunger and the Sustainable Development Goals;
- 4) Campaigning to minimize the risk of spreading plant pests through trade and travel;
- 5) Triggering higher compliance with international plant health standards;
- 6) Keeping plants healthy while protecting the environment through integrated pest management;
- 7) Promoting investment in plant health capacity development, research and outreach; and
- 8) Strengthening monitoring and early warning systems to protect plants and plant health.

IV. Expected Outcomes

6. The IDPH aims to raise awareness on plant health in the international community, among the public as well as policy makers. The IDPH is also expected to generate renewed interest from academia, civil society and private sector on plant health-related activities, specifically on matters linking to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the role of FAO and the IPPC. The IDPH also aims to support National Plant Protection Organizations in promoting prevention in plant health through the implementation of international phytosanitary standards for trade. Additionally, the IDPH aims to attract new investments and capacity development programmes in plant health and promoting good practices and international standards such as integrated pest management and International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures.

I. Key actions

- Knowledge creation: evidence and data will be gathered on the importance of plant health, and this will be used for awareness raising campaigns.
- Social media campaigns to raise awareness of the role of plant health.
- Outreach and advocacy activities to promote the significant role of plant health as described above.
- Content creation: factsheet, video and news items on plant health to highlight the IDPH theme.

Draft Agenda

Time	Agenda Item and Presenter
<i>12:30 to 13:20 pm - Section A: Opening Ceremony and Keynote Speeches</i> <i>Moderator: Beth BECHDOL, FAO Deputy Director-General</i>	
12:30–12:40	Qu Dongyu Director-General Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) (tbc)
12:40–12:50	Reuben Mtolo Phiri Minister of Agriculture Republic of Zambia (tbc)
12:50–13:00	Jari Leppä Minister of Agriculture and Forestry Republic of Finland (tbc)
13:00–13:10	George Eustice Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (tbc)
13:10–13:20	Lucien Konan Kouamé Chairperson of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures International Plant Protection
<i>13:20 to 14:30 pm – Section B: Presentations and Conclusions</i> <i>Moderator: Mr Jingyuan XIA, NSP Director</i>	
13:20–14:00	Plant Health Innovation for Food Security Nicola SPENCE Chief Plant Health Officer Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (United Kingdom) (tbc)
13:20–13:30	System approaches in Plant Health Anna Maria D’Onghia (tbc)
13:30–13:40	Remote Sensing in Plant Health

	Panelist from Euphresco/European Space Agency/Eurisy (tbc)
13:40–13:50	Electronic Phytosanitary Certifications NPPO of New Zealand (tbc)
13:50–14:00	Plant Health and the SDGs ISF Speaker (tbc)
14:00–14:25	Q&A Session
14:25–14:30	Closing Remarks by the IPPC Secretary

Tentative Budget (Sample)

ACTIVITIES	APPROX. COST (USD)
Event costs: Simultaneous Interpretation of event (USD 10 680 for all six UN languages). Web-streaming of the event (USD 450 by Web-Services), AV support (USD 200), and USD 50 for social media streaming).	11 380
Update and Translation of communication materials: IDPH news, press release, video and factsheet	4 000
New communication materials and tools: Video and factsheet	5 000
TOTAL	USD 20 000

Funding source: IPPC Multi-Donor Trust Fund