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REPORT

Focus Group on Climate Change and Phytosanitary Issues

**Virtual Meeting
17 August 2022**

IPPC Secretariat

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1. Opening of the meeting

- [1] The IPPC Secretariat (secretariat) opened the meeting and welcomed all participants.

2. Meeting arrangements

- [2] The secretariat said that the Focus Group on Climate Change and Phytosanitary Issues (FG-CCPI) Chairperson, Christopher DALE, was unable to attend the present meeting. FG-CCPI members selected Dominic EYRE to chair the meeting.

2.1 Selection of the rapporteur

- [3] FG-CCPI members selected Glenn FOWLER as rapporteur of the meeting.

2.2 Adoption of the agenda

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

3. Administrative matters

3.1 Participant list

- [5] The secretariat noted that, in addition to Christopher DALE, Samuel BISHOP, Pablo CORTESE, Victoria LAMB, Essia Limem SELLAMI and Runzhi ZHANG were not available to attend the meeting. The participant list is presented in Appendix 2.
- [6] The secretariat invited participants to notify the Secretariat if any changes were needed to the information on the participant list.

4. Outcomes from the Action Plan

- [7] FG-CCPI members provided regional updates on climate change and phytosanitary issues.
- [8] In North America, one member said that they had prepared their presentation, “Plant Health and Climate Change”, for the International Plant Health Conference (IPHC), to be held 21 to 23 September 2022 in London, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The presentation would address the work of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) in that field. The member said that they had also prepared the recording of their presentation to the forthcoming annual meeting of the North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO). Another member said that Canada had also prepared and recorded its presentation for the NAPPO annual meeting. That member said that Canada was preparing its national climate change adaptation strategy. Partner and stakeholder engagement in the strategy had taken place in May 2022, and a paper on the strategy was now available.¹ Canada aimed to release its adaptation strategy in late 2022.
- [9] In Europe and Central Asia, one member noted that Germany would organize an “Adaption to Climate Change” week from 12 to 16 September 2022 with a number of events planned, including activities by the Julius Kühn Institute.² One member said that a new webinar series from the International Pest Risk Research Group may be of interest to FG-CCPI.³ One member said that the recent heat wave and associated wildfires in Europe were likely to increase awareness of climate change issues. The high temperatures were also likely to affect crop yields, potato in particular. One member noted that there

¹ Preparing for Climate Change: Canada’s National Adaptation Strategy (Discussion Paper – May 2022): <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/environment/weather/climatechange/climate-plan/national-adaptation-strategy/preparing-discussion-paper-may-2022.html>

² Julius Kühn Institute: https://twitter.com/JKI_Bund

³ International Pest Risk Research Group Webinar Series: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZMPGDgcMdv0>

would be a side session at the IPHC on “Forest biosecurity in a changing climate – risks, mitigations and tools” led by the University of Birmingham on 22 September 2022.

- [10] In Africa, one member noted that Ghana had approved the environmental and market release of *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) cowpea, the first genetically engineered crop to be approved for use in that country.
- [11] In the Southwest Pacific, the Centre of Excellence for Biosecurity Risk Analysis at the University of Melbourne would hold a webinar entitled “The use of damage functions to estimate consequences from pests, diseases and climate change” on 25 August 2022.⁴
- [12] Action was ongoing within the secretariat to ensure that the work of the group was highlighted at the IPHC through the amendment of published materials related to climate change and phytosanitary issues.

4.1 Activities prioritized for 2022–2023

IPPC guide

- [13] The group reviewed the intersessional contributions to the IPPC guide for the assessment and management of the climate change impacts on plant pests.
- [14] One member said that cost–benefit analysis of pest impacts under climate change could be a useful tool for anticipating future economic losses and thus drive informed decision-making.
- [15] One member noted the importance of style and readability for the guide. Group members were likely used to writing for academia and scientific journals, but the guide’s intended audience would be much larger and would include specialists and generalists working in national plant protection organizations (NPPOs). It would be important to keep that in mind and ensure that the guide remain accessible.
- [16] One member noted the aim of having the guide be approximately 30 pages. It would therefore be important to be mindful of the length of each section.
- [17] One member said that it would be important for the guide to reference the *Scientific review of the impact of climate change on plant pests – A global challenge to prevent and mitigate plant pest risks in agriculture, forestry and ecosystems*.⁵
- [18] One member said that it would be important for the guide to draw attention to the fact that climate change would not happen uniformly all over the world and that some areas may experience little change in overall conditions, but would experience more extreme weather events. The guide should help users recognize the importance of changes in weather patterns.
- [19] A number of members said that climate change would lead to more pest introductions due to range extensions into areas of newly suitable habitat, and because of trade that would both increase and happen in new patterns as crops began to be grown in different areas.
- [20] As regards incorporating climate change considerations into pest risk assessments (PRA), one member noted that NAPPO had arrived at the conclusion that including such considerations may not be necessary, or even recommendable, for all PRAs. That would give countries more leeway in determining the best course of action for their context. In such a case, the decision on whether or not to include climate change considerations in a PRA should be clearly documented.
- [21] As regards time scales for the impact of climate change on plant pests, a number of members noted that the most appropriate scale would depend on the context of what was being considered. For example,

⁴ Centre of Excellence for Biosecurity Risk Analysis: https://www.euphresco.net/media/events/cebra_webinar_07.pdf

⁵ Available at: <https://doi.org/10.4060/cb4769en>

shorter- or medium-term scales may be more appropriate when assessing pest establishment or setting national legislation, while longer-term scales may be more appropriate when assessing plant health.

- [22] A number of members said that it would be helpful for the guide to have case studies to illustrate the sections of the guide.
- [23] A number of members said that processes to include climate change in risk assessments were in their infancy. It was an emerging and evolving field and advice thereon was likely to be multifaceted and broad-based.
- [24] One member drew the group's attention to a report by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) that was highlighted by the representative of the European Union at the Sixteenth Session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM-16, 2022) on their initiative to incorporate climate change considerations when conducting PRA. The secretariat would share the updated version of the report with the group.
- [25] As regards legal considerations when including climate change in PRA, one member mentioned that it would be important for the guide to highlight that any resulting phytosanitary measures would have to be based on scientific evidence and be in line with requirements set out in international agreements, such as the World Trade Organization Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (WTO SPS Agreement). The work of FG-CCPI to formalize the inclusion of climate change considerations in PRA may have a positive impact on such legal concerns.
- [26] One member said that the guide should touch on the idea of horizon-scanning to determine the appropriate pests or commodities on which to carry out a risk assessment.
- [27] One member noted that there were many different types of pest risk assessment – organism risk assessments, commodity risk assessments, pathway analysis, etc. – and it would be important for the guide to provide information on identifying priorities for risk assessment. One member said that commodity-specific standards might merit special mention in the guide, and the secretariat noted that the CPM had established a new focus group on the topic.
- [28] FG-CCPI members agreed to continue contributing intersessionally to those sections of the guide where they had subject-matter expertise.

Fact sheet

- [29] Discussion on the fact sheet was deferred to the forthcoming FG-CCPI meeting.

5. Any other business

- [30] No other business was raised.

6. Date and arrangements of the next meeting

- [31] The secretariat would send a poll to FG-CCPI members to find a suitable time for the group's forthcoming meeting.

7. Close of the meeting

- [32] The chairperson thanked the participants for their contributions and the secretariat closed the meeting.

Appendix 1: Agenda

**COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES
FOCUS GROUP ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND PHYTOSANITARY ISSUES
VIRTUAL MEETING**

	Agenda Item	Document No.	Presenter
1.	Opening of the meeting	–	IPPC Secretariat / Chairperson
2.	Meeting arrangements		
2.1	Selection of the rapporteur	–	Chairperson
2.2	Adoption of the agenda	01_FG_CCPI_2022_Aug	Chairperson
3.	Administrative matters		
3.1	Participant list	02_FG_CCPI_2022_Aug	IPPC Secretariat
4.	Outcomes from the Action Plan		
4.1	Activities prioritized for 2022–2023 - IPPC guide - Fact sheet	–	Chairperson / All
5.	Any other business		Chairperson
6.	Date and arrangement of the next meeting		IPPC Secretariat / Chairperson
7.	Close of the meeting	–	Chairperson

Appendix 2: Participant list

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

	FAO Region	Name, Organization, Address, Telephone	e-mail account
FG-CCPI members			
✓	Africa	Ms Hannah SERWAA AKOTO NUAMAH Assistant Director, Plant Protection and Regulatory Services Directorate, Ministry of Food and Agriculture Accra, Ghana	hsnuamah@gmail.com hsakoto@st.ug.edu.gh
✓	Europe and Central Asia	Mr Dominic EYRE Senior Plant Health Scientist Department for Environment, Farming and Rural Affairs, York, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	dominic.eyre@defra.gov.uk
	Asia	Mr Runzhi ZHANG Professor, Institute of Zoology Chinese Academy of Sciences Beijing, China	zhangrz@ioz.ac.cn
✓	North America	Ms Karen CASTRO Senior Risk Assessor - Botany Canadian Food Inspection Agency Ottawa, Canada	Karen.Castro@inspection.gc.ca
✓	North America	Mr Glenn FOWLER Risk Analyst USDA APHIS Plant Protection and Quarantine Sacramento, United States of America	glenn.fowler@usda.gov
	Southwest Pacific	Ms Victoria LAMB Co-Lead, HE Waka Eke Noa Climate Change Programme Extension Ministry for Primary Industries Wellington, New Zealand	Victoria.Lamb@mpi.govt.nz
	Southwest Pacific (Chairperson)	Mr Christopher DALE Biosecurity Specialist Agricultural Development and Food Security Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Climate Integration and Programming Branch Climate Change and Sustainability Division Canberra, Australia	Chris.Dale@agriculture.gov.au
	Latin America and the Caribbean	Mr Pablo CORTESE Director of Strategic Phytosanitary Information Servicio Nacional de Sanidad y Calidad Agroalimentaria (SENASA) Buenos Aires, Argentina	pcortese@senasa.gob.ar

	Near East and North Africa	Ms Essia Limem SELLAMI Head of the Entomology Department Ministry of Agriculture Tunis, Tunisia	essialimem@yahoo.fr
✓	Europe and Central Asia	Mr Bastian HESS Research assistant Julius Kühn-Institute, Federal Research Centre for Cultivated Plants (Institute for National and International Plant Health) Braunschweig, Germany	bastian.hess@julius-kuehn.de
Other participants			
	CPM Bureau champion for the FG-CCPI	Mr Samuel BISHOP Plant Health Policy team Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs National Agri-Food Innovation Campus Sand Hutton York, North Yorkshire, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	sam.bishop@defra.gov.uk

IPPC Secretariat

		Name	Email address
✓	IPPC Secretariat (Lead)	Ms Erika MANGILI ANDRE Standard Setting Specialist	Erika.mangiliandre@fao.org
✓	IPPC Secretariat (Support)	Ms Maki IIZUKA Agricultural Officer	Maki.lizuka@fao.org