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International  
Plant Protection  
Convention

## **REPORT**

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

**Virtual Meeting  
28 September 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] The secretariat introduced Osama EL-LISSY, the Secretary of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC). The secretary offered his thanks to the members of the Focus Group on Climate Change and Phytosanitary Issues (FG-CCPI) for their work and dedication to support the mission of the IPPC, and said that the IPPC community was grateful for the work being done by FG-CCPI. The secretary noted that recent extreme weather events, caused in part by climate change, were having devastating effects on plant health. The work of FG-CCPI was fundamental to a core mission of the IPPC to protect plant resources.
- [3] The secretary said that the International Plant Health Conference (IPHC), held in London, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from 21 to 23 September 2022, had been effective in disseminating the message of the impact of climate change on plant health. The secretary recognized the hard work and dedication of members of FG-CCPI who had contributed to the IPHC.
- [4] The chairperson thanked the secretary for his encouragement and support for the work of FG-CCPI. The chairperson also thanked the secretary for prioritising the work of FG-CCPI as an agenda item at the IPHC, which contributed to the group's action item of raising awareness of the impacts of climate change on plant health.

## **2. Meeting arrangements**

### **2.1 Selection of the rapporteur**

- [5] FG-CCPI members selected Victoria LAMB as rapporteur of the meeting.
- [6] The chairperson said that FG-CCPI meeting reports had been promoted at the IPHC, increasing the visibility of the focus group's work.

### **2.2 Adoption of the agenda**

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

## **3. Administrative matters**

### **3.1 Participant list**

- [8] The secretariat noted that Pablo CORTESE and Runzhi ZHANG were not available to attend the meeting. The participant list is presented in Appendix 2.
- [9] The secretariat invited participants to notify the secretariat if any changes were needed to the information on the participant list.

## **4. FG-CCPI member updates**

### *International Plant Health Conference*

- [10] The Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) Bureau champion for FG-CCPI, Samuel BISHOP, said that he was pleased at the progress of the FG-CCPI Action Plan. He thanked the members of FG-CCPI who had contributed to the IPHC.
- [11] Reporting on the IPHC, one member said that the plenary session, "Climate Change and the Impacts on Plant Health", had been well attended, and included a presentation by FG-CCPI member, Glenn FOWLER. Activities of FG-CCPI were also presented by the Chief Plant Protection Officer of Australia, Gabrielle VIVIAN-SMITH, on behalf of the FG-CCPI chairperson. The side event, "Forest Health in a Changing Climate – risks, mitigations and tools" included an FG-CCPI member, Dominic EYRE, as a panellist. The session included discussion on forestry and the links with climate change, research in the

United Kingdom, climate change work in the United Kingdom Meteorological Office, and research projects in Australia and the United Kingdom studying the long-term impact of high CO<sub>2</sub> levels in forest areas. Noting that forestry issues were well represented in British plans, a representative of the European Union asked for forestry concerns to be considered when planning for the impacts of climate change. It was noted that Bastian HESS provided forestry expertise to FG-CCPI.

- [12] One member noted that there had been a question on the appropriateness for developing countries of costly tools for pest forecasting. The chairperson noted that providing advice on modelling and forecasting tools was an item on the FG-CCPI Action Plan. FG-CCPI could consider engaging with CABI and donors to tailor existing, publicly available tools to consider plant health and phytosanitary issues.
- [13] The secretariat said that it had been contacted at the IPHC by a representative from CABI. A meeting between IPPC and CABI representatives would be scheduled in the forthcoming weeks. The chairperson added that CABI was actively involved in other IPPC working groups to provide specialist technical advice.

#### *Regional updates*

- [14] In Europe and Central Asia, one member noted that Germany had organized an “Adaption to Climate Change” week from 12 to 16 September 2022, including activities by the Julius Kühn Institute,<sup>1</sup> to raise public awareness of the topic.
- [15] In North America, one member said that they would present at the forthcoming annual meeting of the North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO) in October 2022.<sup>2</sup> One member said that Hurricane Fiona had caused extensive damage in eastern Canada and a state of emergency had been declared.
- [16] In the Southwest Pacific, one member said that there had been unprecedented flooding in Australia, which underscored the importance of work across the multilateral system on preparedness and emergency response to extreme weather events associated with climate change. One member said that they were working on a project for New Zealand farmers and growers to adapt to climate change. The project had received additional funding and included work on the impact of climate change on plant health for both food crops and indigenous species. The member said that climate change impacts were already being noticed in local plants. Foot and mouth disease continued to be a significant, ongoing concern in New Zealand and Australia. The chairperson noted that the IPPC Regional Workshop for the Southwest Pacific had been recently held and had generated considerable interest on work in climate change, which was seen as a priority for the region. The head of the FAO Subregional Office for the Pacific Islands had visited Australia to discuss food security, resilience, adaptation and participatory action through the lens of climate change. The chairperson noted that there were opportunities to expand FG-CCPI advocacy to FAO regional and subregional offices, plant protection officers and other key stakeholders.
- [17] The chairperson said that they had presented the work of FG-CCPI at the Technical Consultations among Regional Plant Protection Organizations (TC-RPPO) in September 2022.<sup>3</sup> The TC-RPPO represented a critical opportunity to advocate and promote the group’s work. The presentation had received positive feedback from regions; participants from African and Asian RPPOs requested copies of the presentation to promote climate change and plant health themes to their constituent members. That contributed to Action Plan Outcome 1: “Awareness on the impacts of climate change on plant health is improved”. The chairperson said that the Asia and Pacific Plant Protection Commission (APPPC) wanted to engage

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<sup>1</sup> Julius Kühn Institute: [https://twitter.com/JKI\\_Bund](https://twitter.com/JKI_Bund)

<sup>2</sup> Forty-fifth NAPPO Annual Meeting: <https://www.nappoannualmeeting2022.com/>

<sup>3</sup> Thirty-fourth TC-RPPO: <https://www.ippc.int/en/news/34th-meeting-of-the-technical-consultation-among-regional-plant-protection-organizations-tc-rppo/>

with FG-CCPI on projects to support member countries, which had the potential to generate funding opportunities on a regional level for FG-CCPI work.

- [18] The chairperson said that the representative from the Cook Islands had provided a passionate perspective on the impact of climate change on plant health in vulnerable countries in the plenary session – Day 2 of the IPHC. Along with other interventions at the IPHC, there would hopefully be interest from donor agencies and from other multilateral partners to work together on climate change and plant health issues.
- [19] In Africa, one member said that a two-year project had been launched between the United Kingdom, Ghana and Kenya on gender and information ecosystems for climate change adaptation. The project would gather and analyse information on how information on climate change adaptation was being delivered to women in rural communities. In Ghana, the information was used to develop a guideline for communities that had not been involved in the initial project. Guidelines for best practices in East and West African countries would be developed for use over the next five years. The member said they would ask project stakeholders if the guidelines could be shared on the [FG-CCPI webpage](#) on the International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP).
- [20] In the Near East and North Africa, one member reported that there was a new project starting on the role of organic farming in dealing with climate change, which would consider aspects of plant health.

## 5. Outcomes from the Action Plan

### 5.1 Activities prioritized for 2022–2023

#### *IPPC guide*

- [21] The group reviewed the intersessional contributions to the IPPC guide for the assessment and management of the climate change impacts on plant pests.
- [22] The secretariat suggested dividing the responsibility for drafting specific sections of the IPPC guide among focus group members. The chairperson said that the focus should be on areas of individual expertise; any remaining gaps could then be assigned to the member best placed to provide the appropriate information. Group members agreed to the approach.
- [23] The chairperson said that once the guide had been sufficiently completed, it would go through a review process to ensure coherence, consistency and alignment with FAO standards. The review process generally took a number of months.
- [24] The chairperson said that it would be important to provide the appropriate level of detail in the guide; too much detail could be difficult to refine. Guides that were overly technical risked being off-putting and thus poorly used. The chairperson said it would be important to find the correct balance, as the guide was intended for all 184 contracting parties to the IPPC; it would need to be sufficiently robust for developed countries with advanced economies but also practical enough for less developed countries with fewer resources.
- [25] The chairperson said that the guide's intended audience was national plant protection organizations (NPPOs). Materials being developed by FG-CCPI were intended to support contracting parties to prevent, prepare for, respond to and manage the impact of climate change on plant health. The aim was to produce a practical and useful guide that plant protection officers could use to deal with the impacts of climate change on plant health in their countries. The guide was intended as a core resource, upon which other resources and activities, such as webinars, could expand.
- [26] On the question of who could contribute to the guide, the chairperson said that group members, as representatives of their NPPOs, were encouraged to seek input, feedback and relevant expertise from within their countries, while noting that any contributions would be subject to editorial needs.
- [27] The chairperson said it would be up to group members to decide on the appropriate level of validation and scrutiny to prepare the guide. One possibility was to use the IPPC Online Comment System (OCS)

to collect feedback from all contracting parties. Other, less formal review and feedback processes were also possible.

[28] As regards the timeline to prepare the guide, the chairperson said that the intent was to present the guide at the forthcoming International Day of Plant Health on 12 May 2023. To that end, the draft guide should be completed by the end of 2022 to allow IPPC bodies and committees sufficient time to review and provide feedback on the guide. An update on the guide could be presented to CPM-17 in 2023. CPM-17 also represented an opportunity to engage with contracting parties and seek contributions to translate and publish the guide. The chairperson said that translation would be particularly important to produce a resource that would be globally impactful.

#### *Fact sheet*

[29] The chairperson thanked the secretariat for its work on the fact sheet.

[30] The secretariat said that an existing resource had been updated<sup>4</sup> with content about FG-CCPI and its work. When additional resources became available, a new fact sheet could be developed. The chairperson said that it would be beneficial to have a fact sheet that could be distributed to stakeholders during the International Day of Plant Health (12 May 2023).

[31] One member said that the United Kingdom Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) had pest fact sheets that could be useful resources for FG-CCPI.<sup>5</sup> The chairperson said that the Pacific Plant Protection Organisation (PPPO) had developed fact sheets on safe food and humanitarian aid, which could also serve as examples for the group.

[32] The chairperson said that FG-CCPI could develop multiple fact sheets aimed and targeted a various stakeholders, the only limit was resources. A fact sheet in PDF form was often more accessible than a printed document for distribution and promotion. The chairperson encouraged group members to present ideas for future fact sheets, which could possibly be developed in partnership with specific stakeholders or donors.

[33] The chairperson noted that FG-CCPI could partner with the Focus Group on Communication (FG-COM) to promote the fact sheet.

[34] The CPM Focus Group on Climate Change and Phytosanitary Issues:

- (1) *asked* the secretariat to prepare a table with key categories and subheadings from the guide for members to identify their areas of contribution;
- (2) *asked* members to identify their areas of contribution on the table prepared by the secretariat in advance of the next meeting and contribute intersessionally to the areas of the IPPC guide that they identified.

## **6. Any other business**

[35] No other business was raised.

## **7. Date and arrangements of the next meeting**

[36] FG-CCPI members agreed to hold the following virtual meeting on 27 October 2022 at 11:00 to 13:00 CET.

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<sup>4</sup> Plant health and climate change factsheets. Available at: <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/cb3764en>

<sup>5</sup> Pest and disease factsheets. Available at: <https://planthealthportal.defra.gov.uk/pests-and-diseases/pest-and-disease-factsheets/>

**8. Close of the meeting**

[37] 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**

	<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Document No.</b>	<b>Presenter</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>Opening of the meeting</b>	–	IPPC Secretariat / Chairperson
<b>2.</b>	<b>Meeting arrangements</b>		
2.1	Election of the rapporteur	–	Chairperson
2.2	Adoption of the agenda	01_FG_CCPI_2022_Sep	Chairperson
<b>3.</b>	<b>Administrative matters</b>		
3.1	Participant list	02_FG_CCPI_2022_Sep	IPPC Secretariat
<b>4.</b>	<b>FG-CCPI member updates</b>	–	Chairperson / All
<b>5.</b>	<b>Outcomes from the Action Plan</b>		
5.1	Activities prioritized for 2022–2023 - IPPC guide - Fact sheet	–	Chairperson / All
<b>6.</b>	<b>Any other business</b>		Chairperson
<b>7.</b>	<b>Date and arrangement of the next meeting</b>		IPPC Secretariat / Chairperson
<b>8.</b>	<b>Close of the meeting</b>	–	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
<b>FG-CCPI members</b>			
✓	Africa	<b>Ms Hannah SERWAA AKOTO NUAMAH</b> Assistant Director, Plant Protection and Regulatory Services Directorate, Ministry of Food and Agriculture Accra, Ghana	<a href="mailto:hsnuamah@gmail.com">hsnuamah@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:hsakoto@st.ug.edu.gh">hsakoto@st.ug.edu.gh</a>
✓	Europe and Central Asia	<b>Mr Dominic EYRE</b> Senior Plant Health Scientist Department for Environment, Farming and Rural Affairs, York, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	<a href="mailto:dominic.eyre@defra.gov.uk">dominic.eyre@defra.gov.uk</a>
	Asia	<b>Mr Runzhi ZHANG</b> Professor, Institute of Zoology Chinese Academy of Sciences Beijing, China	<a href="mailto:zhangrz@ioz.ac.cn">zhangrz@ioz.ac.cn</a>
✓	North America	<b>Ms Karen CASTRO</b> Senior Risk Assessor – Botany Canadian Food Inspection Agency Ottawa, Canada	<a href="mailto:Karen.Castro@inspection.gc.ca">Karen.Castro@inspection.gc.ca</a>
✓	North America	<b>Mr Glenn FOWLER</b> Risk Analyst USDA APHIS Plant Protection and Quarantine Sacramento, United States of America	<a href="mailto:glenn.fowler@usda.gov">glenn.fowler@usda.gov</a>
✓	Southwest Pacific	<b>Ms Victoria LAMB</b> Co-Lead, HE Waka Eke Noa Climate Change Programme Extension Ministry for Primary Industries Wellington, New Zealand	<a href="mailto:Victoria.Lamb@mpi.govt.nz">Victoria.Lamb@mpi.govt.nz</a>
✓	Southwest Pacific (Chairperson)	<b>Mr Christopher DALE</b> 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	<a href="mailto:Chris.Dale@agriculture.gov.au">Chris.Dale@agriculture.gov.au</a>
	Latin America and the Caribbean	<b>Mr Pablo CORTESE</b> Director of Strategic Phytosanitary Information Servicio Nacional de Sanidad y Calidad Agroalimentaria (SENASA) Buenos Aires, Argentina	<a href="mailto:pcortese@senasa.gob.ar">pcortese@senasa.gob.ar</a>

✓	Near East and North Africa	<b>Ms Essia Limem SELLAMI</b> Head of the Entomology Department Ministry of Agriculture Tunis, Tunisia	<a href="mailto:essialimem@yahoo.fr">essialimem@yahoo.fr</a>
✓	Europe and Central Asia	<b>Mr Bastian HESS</b> Research assistant Julius Kühn-Institute, Federal Research Centre for Cultivated Plants (Institute for National and International Plant Health) Braunschweig, Germany	<a href="mailto:bastian.hess@julius-kuehn.de">bastian.hess@julius-kuehn.de</a>
<b>Other participants</b>			
✓	CPM Bureau champion for the FG-CCPI	<b>Mr Samuel BISHOP</b> 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	<a href="mailto:sam.bishop@defra.gov.uk">sam.bishop@defra.gov.uk</a>

***IPPC Secretariat***

		<b>Name</b>	<b>Email address</b>
✓	IPPC Secretariat (Lead)	<b>Ms Erika MANGILI ANDRE</b> Standard Setting Specialist	<a href="mailto:Erika.mangiliandre@fao.org">Erika.mangiliandre@fao.org</a>
✓	IPPC Secretariat (Support)	<b>Ms Maki IIZUKA</b> Agricultural Officer	<a href="mailto:Maki.lizuka@fao.org">Maki.lizuka@fao.org</a>
✓	IPPC Secretariat	<b>Mr Osama EL-LISSY</b> Secretary	<a href="mailto:Osama.Ellissy@fao.org">Osama.Ellissy@fao.org</a>
✓	IPPC Secretariat	<b>Mr Daniel MCKINNON</b> Report Writer	<a href="mailto:danielmckinnon@yahoo.com">danielmckinnon@yahoo.com</a>