**SPG Discussion paper**

**international day of plant health**

(*Prepared by the Rep. of Korea*)

International Day of Plant Health (IDPH) is the legacy of the 2020 International Year of Plant Health (IYPH) and IPPC has played leading roles for the approval and promotion of these significant events. After 2 years of recognition of IDPH, Rep. of Korea has some observations and suggestions.

Currently the yearly theme is not well communicated with member countries in advance which may cause a low level of preparation and less harmonized messaging. It also seems that the 3 themes (Food security, Environmental protection and Trade facilitation) are rotating which may in time, result in boredom and decreased participation by regions and countries. Additionally, these recurring themes limit the ability to respond to new or emerging issues or developments in plant health that could benefit from more exposure.

To maintain value of IDPH to increase awareness on plant health and ownership and participation of IPPC and NPPOs in IDPH, Rep. of Korea would like to suggest there is thought given both to the process to decide a more specific, interest drawing and current theme for each year, and to provide communication materials for NPPOs in advance in cooperation with FAO. Specific yearly themes may be independent or created as a sub-theme under the 3 major themes.

A possible mechanism and suggested timings for this are;

1. Collection of specific themes from member countries, Bureau, Secretariat and others (-2 years)
2. SPG discussion and recommendation to CPM (-2 years)
3. CPM discussion and selection of a theme or subtheme (as appropriate) for the next year (-1 year)
4. Recommendation and communication with NSP, FAO
5. Announcement to NPPOs on the theme or subtheme for the next year through IPP
6. Preparation of communication materials (concept paper, fact sheets, presentations, and activities etc.) by FAO, the Secretariat and NPPOs etc.
7. Distribution of the communication material to NPPOs (by the end of -1 year)

Recognition of IDPH by FAO, NPPOs and other international organizations using the communication material with harmonized voice.

The SPG is invited to:

1. *discuss* a strategy to maintain the IDPH to increase awareness of plant health and to keep ownership of IPPC and NPPOs.
2. *discuss* possible mechanism to prepare IDPH with cooperation of FAO.
3. *discuss* IDPH preparation for 2024.
4. *Propose* “IT aided trade facilitation” as the subtheme under the already determined theme “Trade facilitation” for 2024.