**FOCUS GROUP ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND PHYTOSANITARY ISSUES UPDATE**

*(Prepared by the FG Chairperson and the LAC representative)*

**1. Introduction**

1. The Focus Group on Climate Change and Phytosanitary Issues (FG-CCPI) was established by the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures in 2021 (CPM-15). It is composed of ten members representing the seven FAO regions with specialized skills and experience in climate change and phytosanitary issues, and knowledge of the IPPC and its activities. The FG-CCPI also includes a Bureau representative (‘Champion’). Currently, the FG-CCPI does not have a representative from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), after the previous representative resigned. The FG-CCPI will remain effective until CPM-19 (2025), and its composition is presented in Annex 1.
2. The primary role of the FG-CCPI is to coordinate the development of the “IPPC Action Plan on Climate Change Impacts on Plant Health” and support the implementation and delivery of its activities over the next four years (2022-2025). The key outcomes of the action plan include but are not limited to:
* Raising awareness of the impacts of climate change on plant health;
* Enhancing the evaluation and management of risks of climate change to plant health; and
* Enhancing the recognition of phytosanitary matters in the international climate change debate

**2. Progress update**

1. The IPPC Secretariat has been coordinating the preparation of FG-CCPI meetings. In the meetings held from September 2021 until the CPM-16 in April 2022 the FG-CCPI members discussed the results and recommendations of the [*Scientific review of the impact of climate change on plant pests*](https://www.fao.org/3/cb4769en/online/cb4769en.html), the implementation of the DAI *``Assessment and management of climate change impacts on plant health”* of the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020-2030, and drafted the 2022-2025 IPPC Action Plan on the impacts of Climate Change on Plant Health. The meetings so far have been virtual, but an in-person meeting is being planned for 2024 in Brazil.
2. In October 2021, a summary paper[[1]](#footnote-2) on the FG-CCPI update was presented to the Strategic Planning Group (SPG). The SPG welcomed and supported the main outcomes of the FG-CCPI with a view to presenting the action plan to CPM-16 (2022), as one of the FG-CCPI functions[[2]](#footnote-3).
3. In January 2022, an update on the FG-CCPI work and priorities were presented to the CPM Bureau[[3]](#footnote-4). The CPM Bureau suggested including a CPM-16 decision point regarding the budget and resources necessary for the proposed activities by the FG-CCPI.
4. In October 2022, an update on the FG-CCPI activities was presented to the Strategic Planning Group (SPG)[[4]](#footnote-5) and to the Bureau[[5]](#footnote-6).

**2.1. IPPC Action Plan on Climate Change Impacts on Plant Health**

1. This action plan[[6]](#footnote-7) is based on the implementation of the development agenda item (DAI) “Assessment and management of climate change impacts on plant health” of the [*IPPC Strategic Framework 2020-2030*.](https://www.fao.org/3/cb3995en/cb3995en.pdf) 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;
* Facilitate, promote, and support phytosanitary issues - related policy dialogue at the global level.
1. The complete list of activities proposed for each outcome of the action plan can be consulted at: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/90987/>
2. Noting the extensive list of proposed initiatives and activities over the four years of the action plan, the following five actions were selected to 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);

* *FG-CCPI members have been participating in a series of events, providing speeches on the impacts of climate change on plant health. The first* [*International Plant Health Conference*](https://www.agiitoevents.com/event/a6e37cb4-c5a0-4a97-bafe-82a7d6ee4bd5/websitePage%3A6ae89261-908e-42d0-afb4-4dca755369f4) *(IPHC) held in London, UK, from 21 to 23 September 2022, as well as events organized by the IPPC and RPPOs (e.g. Regional Workshops) had specific sessions or speeches on the topic.*
* *Panel members have submitted a draft paper on the work of the panel to the EPPO secretariat for publication in the EPPO Bulletin in a special issue on climate change. The panel have also contributed to one another manuscript written for the same edition of the bulletin.*

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;

* *In September 2023, Ahmed Abdellah, from the IC Team on National Reporting Obligations (NRO) joined the focus group to talk about the possibilities of including climate change issues in the NRO. He explained that there is no legal basis for requiring reports on climate change and pests, but there could be an option for a reference to climate change in pest alerts. This will be explored further.*

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;

* *An* [*IPPC subpage*](https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/governance/cpm/cpm-focus-group-reports/climate-change-and-phytosanitary-issues/) *has been created in 2022. For the landing page, additional resources have to be implemented by the IT team of IPPC. Financial resources have been provided by the NPPO of Canada to perform this activity, as well as to publish the FG-CCPI guide, renamed as FG-CCPI report.*

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

* *Focus group members have discussed potential edits to the new combined ISPM for pest risk analysis. They have fed suggestions for edits to the IPPC contact points in their NPPOs to be submitted to the IPPC until 30 September, when the consultation period for draft ISPMs closes.[[7]](#footnote-8)*

5) Developing an IPPC guide to assist NPPOs in identifying, assessing, mitigating, and managing the climate change impacts on plant health.

* *The guide on the “Climate Change Impacts on Plant Pests” was initiated to be drafted after the CPM-16 (2022) approval on the action plan. In August 2023 the draft guide, renamed as a draft report, was submitted to the online consultation period for NPPOs and RPPOs to review and submit comments.[[8]](#footnote-9) At the request of the IC Chair and the CPM Chair, the online consultation period has been extended until* ***9 October*** *and so the report cannot be submitted for SPG inputs this year.*
1. More information about the FG-CCPI, including the ToRs, membership, action plan and meeting reports can be assessed at the FG-CCPI subpage on IPP: <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/governance/cpm/cpm-focus-group-reports/climate-change-and-phytosanitary-issues/>
2. The SPG is invited to:
3. *note* this update;
4. *provide* guidance on strategic direction.

**Annex 1.** Composition of the CPM Focus Group on Climate Change and Phytosanitary Issues.

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| **FAO regions** | **Members** |
| Southwest Pacific | Australia | Mr Ngatoko Ta Ngatoko - Vice-Chairperson |
| New Zealand | Ms Victoria LAMB  |
| Near East and North Africa | Tunisia | Ms Essia Limem SELLAMI |
| Africa | Ghana | Ms Hannah SERWAA AKOTO NUAMAH  |
| Europe | United Kingdom | Mr Dominic EYRE - Chairperson |
| Germany  | Mr Bastian HESS |
| Asia | China | *Vacant* |
| North America | Canada | Ms Karen CASTRO  |
| United States of America | Mr Glenn FOWLER  |
| Latin America and the Caribbean | Brazil | Ms Erika MANGILI ANDRÉ |
|  | **Other participants** |
|  | Mr Samuel BISHOP | Bureau representative (‘Champion’) |
|  | Ms Mutya FRIO | IPPC Secretariat support (lead) |
|  | Ms Anita TIBASAAGA | IPPC Secretariat support |

1. Climate Change and Phytosanitary Issues: update on the Study on the Impact of Climate Change on Plant Pests: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/90267/> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Report of the Tenth Session of the Strategic Planning Group Meeting: <https://assets.ippc.int/static/media/files/publication/en/2021/12/FINAL_SPG_Oct_Report_2021-12-07.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. CPM Bureau report - January 2022: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/90803/> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. SPG report: <https://assets.ippc.int/static/media/files/publication/en/2022/12/SPG_Oct_Report_2022.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. Bureau report: <https://assets.ippc.int/static/media/files/publication/en/2022/11/Report_Bureau-2022-Oct.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
6. Update from the CPM Focus Group: Climate Change and Phytosanitary issues: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/90659/> [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
7. 2023 First consultation: Reorganization and revision of pest risk analysis standards (2020-001): <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/92364/> [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
8. Link to submit comments to the draft report on the impacts of climate change on plant pests: <https://www.ippc.int/en/news/still-open-for-consultation-report-on-the-assessment-and-management-of-climate-change-impacts-on-plant-pests/> [↑](#footnote-ref-9)