

REPORT

Focus Group on Climate Change and Phytosanitary Issues

Virtual Meeting

14 March 2024

IPPC Secretariat

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1. Opening of the meeting

1.1 Welcome by the IPPC Secretariat

- [1] The chairperson of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) Focus Group on Climate Change and Phytosanitary Issues opened the meeting and welcomed all participants.

2. Meeting arrangements

2.1 Selection of the rapporteur

- [2] The focus group selected Karen CASTRO (Canada) as rapporteur of the meeting.

2.2 Adoption of the agenda

- [3] The focus group adopted the agenda (Appendix 1) and agreed to review the list of prioritized focus group actions if time allowed.

3. Administrative matters

- [4] The focus group noted the absence of Samuel BISHOP (CPM Bureau “champion” for the focus group) and Hannah SERWAA AKOTO NUAMAH (Ghana). The participant list is presented as Appendix 2 to this report.

- [5] The list of documents had been circulated and is attached to this report as Appendix 3.

4. Updates from members of the focus group

- [6] Members of the focus group gave regional updates of relevance to the focus group.

- [7] **Southwest Pacific.** One focus group member reported on efforts to contain the recent spread of Dutch elm disease making its progress down the North Island of New Zealand, while noting that no native species were affected by it. She also mentioned the trials being carried out to work out how to deal with the ongoing seaweed invasion.

- [8] In addition, the member reported on wallaby management efforts in New Zealand, including the use of microchipped or collared wallabies for tracking purposes.

- [9] **North America.** The group member from the North America region informed the focus group that the updates to the US Department of Agriculture’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Climate Change Adaptation Plan¹ included a reference to the work of this focus group, thereby raising the profile of its recent activities.

- [10] The member shared with the focus group that he had been invited to join a US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Science and Research Strategy team, which counts climate change-related matters among its priorities.

- [11] **Europe.** One focus group member related his experience of holding a workshop on statistically based detection survey planning. He pointed out that, in the European Union, surveys for some pests could not be carried out at random but needed to have well-defined statistical values, such as the confidence level, design prevalence and method’s sensitivity, and inputting this kind of information into RiPEST, the EFSA “Risk-based PEst Survey Tool” required considerable effort.

- [12] The group member emphasized that this was an area where climate change was likely to play an important role, giving as an example the Japanese beetle (*Popillia japonica*). He noted that, for the time being, assessments tended to identify areas prone to pest risk, but he thought that in the future there would be more of a focus on ecoclimactic surveillance.

¹ <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/mrpb/publications/new-employee-onboarding/climate-change-adaptation-plan.pdf>

- [13] The group member from the **Latin America and the Caribbean** region and another member from **North America** had no specific updates related to climate change and phytosanitary issues during the meeting.
- [14] **Southwest Pacific.** The group member from the Southwest Pacific region informed the focus group that discussions were under way to set up another regional group in Australia, and said that he would keep the group updated regarding this possibility.
- [15] The chairperson brought to the focus group's attention an innovative method devised by an independent agricultural and environmental consultancy called ADAS² in the context of a project that set out to assess adaptation measures for climate change in agriculture – some of which were related to pests and diseases – based on how much they cost, how easy it was to implement them and how much of an impact they were likely to have.
- [16] The chairperson noted that national plant protection organizations (NPPOs) stood to benefit from this simple yet effective method, which would complement the advice given in the focus group's technical resource. He requested permission to share the report produced by ADAS with the focus group and was awaiting their response.

5. Planned webinars

- [17] The focus group discussed arrangements for the series of three online *Climate change and phytosanitary measures global webinars*, including the dates and the times. The chairperson gave and elicited updates from focus group members who had been assigned to contact the proposed speakers. He discussed with the focus group the order of the presentations, bearing in mind the time zones of the different speakers, and endeavoured to fill any remaining gaps in the programme.
- [18] The focus group further discussed the proposed webinar programmes, and agreed on the following:

Seminar 1: Climate change, plants and pests
Proposed date and time: 24 September; 10 am CET
Facilitator (5 min): Dominic

Talk title	Potential speakers / organisation	mins	Panel member contacting speaker	Contacted / agreed to speak
1. Current understanding of climate change science	UK Met Office – Debbie Hemming	10	Dominic	Agreed
2. Horizon scanning	Mark Kenis,	15	Hannah	
3. Climate impacts on pests	Sandra Skendžić, University of Zagreb, Croatia	15	Dominic	Email sent [no reply as of 6 March]
4. Case study – cc in Pacific	Ngatoko Ngatoko, Cook Islands	12		agreed

² <https://adas.co.uk>

Seminar 2: Risk assessment**Proposed date and time: 25 September, 3pm CET****Facilitator: Karen**

Talk title	Potential speakers / organisation	Mins	Panel member contacting speaker	
1. Climate data and climate models for plant pests	Chris Randle	13	Glenn	contacted
2. Pest risk assessment	Ghana NPPO or university	13	Hannah	
3. Climate impacts on agriculture, forests and other plants	Racquel Ghini, Embrapa, Brazil	13	Erika	
4. Climate change 'guide'	Someone from CC focus group? Glenn	13		

Seminar 3: Pathways and risk management**Proposed date and time: 26 September, 10 am CET****Facilitator: to be determined**

Talk title	Potential speakers / organisation	mins	Panel member contacting speaker	
1. Pest reporting, surveillance and monitoring	Sybrn Vos - EFSA	13	Bastian	Agreed to speak
2. Climate change and pest management	Sonja Gvozdenac, Institute of Field and Vegetable Crops, Serbia	13	Dominic	
3. International co-operation and POARS	Eunice Ringera, Kephis, Kenya	13	Dominic	Contacted and agreed to do talk
4. Culturally significant plant species and indigenous peoples	Speaker from NZ,	13	Victoria	contacted

[19] One group member proposed that the face-to-face meeting in Brazil discussed under agenda item 6 and the webinar series take place on separate occasions, given that the seminars would be held online, and pointed out that the focus group's time together might be better spent working on other activities.

[20] The IPPC Secretariat (hereafter referred to as the "secretariat") suggested that the three webinars be scheduled close together as this limited the rounds of preparation and facilitated administrative/logistical arrangements. The secretariat explained that FAO webinars were confined to an hour because of certain limitations imposed by the live interpretation; FAO interpreters did not generally work beyond that time span.

[21] In response to a group member's query, the secretariat specified that it was possible to make a recording directly in the interpreted language, and seized this opportunity to ask the focus group in what languages they thought the webinars should be interpreted.

[22] One group member suggested that, given the time limitations, the questions and answers could appear in the comment section of the recording as an alternative to having a live discussion following the talks. The secretariat said that it would be possible to activate the question and answer chat in the Zoom call,

although the response would not be a verbal but a written one. Regarding the format of the publication, the secretariat confirmed that the webinars would be featured as a Zoom recording on the IPPC website.

- [23] The secretariat added that speakers were expected to share their PowerPoint presentations a week before the scheduled seminar to facilitate the work of interpreters.
- [24] As a solution to the time-zone issues arising from a webinar being held live in different countries around the globe, one focus group member tentatively proposed that the speakers be grouped according to the time zones instead of the agreed themes (Seminar 1: “Climate Change, Plants and Pests”; Seminar 2: “Risk Assessment”; and Seminar 3: “Pathways and Risk Management”). Another member suggested that some of the talks could be recorded rather than given live but the secretariat explained that they tried to discourage that practice since it puts participants off.
- [25] On the question of the role of the chairperson or “facilitator”, the secretariat noted that they opened the webinar, welcomed everybody, introduced the speakers, invited participants to ask questions as well as prompting speakers to reply to the ones intended for them, and closed the seminar.
- [26] The secretariat went on to explain some of the standard procedures and basic guidelines followed in the case of FAO-led webinars, namely a practice run held one hour ahead of the actual event, using the same Zoom link as the one that the facilitator and the speakers had been provided to ensure that the audio-visual equipment and the connection are working as they should.
- [27] The secretariat further emphasized that, the webinars being open events, the group members should feel free to invite anyone interested in climate change to participate. As regards the promotion of the webinar series, the secretariat said that such events were usually featured in the newsletter and the announcement section on the IPPC website, and disseminated through FAO’s networks. Once all the speakers had been confirmed, the relevant information and the Zoom link would be posted on the IPPC website. Further down the line, the speakers would be asked to provide their photo along with a short biography for promotional purposes.
- [28] The CPM Focus Group on Climate Change and Phytosanitary Issues:
- (1) *agreed* that the webinar series would be held on three consecutive days, from 24 to 26 September 2024.

6. Face-to-face meeting of the group in Brazil (2024)

- [29] The focus group discussed arrangements for their face-to-face meeting in Manaus, Brazil, tentatively scheduled for the week beginning 7 October 2024.
- [30] The chairperson enquired about the individual focus group members’ availabilities, their preferred dates and whether they could secure funding for the trip. One member pointed out that a justification for holding the meeting, such as a draft programme, would be needed to persuade employers of its benefits. The chairperson noted that a reasonable core of attendees would be required to justify the meeting taking place as planned.
- [31] Regarding possible activities the focus group could engage in during their face-to-face meeting in Brazil, one member drew the group’s attention to the “core action areas” and “outcomes” listed in the Appendix to the CPM-14 (2022) document that had been jointly prepared by the secretariat and the FG-CCPI,³ suggesting that these could be used as prompts.
- [32] Based on the ideas put forward by focus group members, the chairperson outlined three possible areas that the group could work on: an annex or CPM recommendations to the combined to Pest Risk Analysis (PRA) standard that is currently under revision and that might involve horizon scanning and modelling; less technical and more practical advice having to do with surveillance and pest management for farmers

³ https://assets.ippc.int/static/media/files/publication/en/2022/04/14_CPM_2022_FG_CCPI_Update-2022-01-31.pdf

and growers than that contained in the FG CCPI technical resource; and work related to the cultural and social impacts of climate change on plant health, including in the island communities of the Southwest Pacific region faced with the threat of rising sea levels. The group also discussed finding more concrete ways to link with the IPCC, CABI and/or CBD as a possible area to work on.

- [33] The secretariat suggested that the group consider developing a final report wrapping up its work, like the one published by the Sea Containers Task Force (SCTF),⁴ during the workshop in Brazil.

7. Any other business

- [34] A focus group member queried the fact that the FG CCPI's CPM paper mentioned that the NPPO of Canada provided funding specifically for developing the homepage and the guide. He suggested that the landing page, which at present simply lists reports and other documents, could be made more interactive, modelled on the surveillance story maps of the European Food Surveillance Authority (EFSA) (see [EFSA Pest Survey Cards](#) and [EFSA Statistical Tools for surveillance](#) (i.a. RiPEST))The secretariat said that adding a new webpage on the IPPC site should be easy enough – it would be a matter of collecting all the contents – but pointed out that, in the case of resources that were not IPPC or FAO publications, only links would be provided. The chairperson then invited members of the focus group to start collectively designing the new webpage.
- [35] The secretariat noted that the CPM representative or “champion” in each focus group usually presents the updates related to the activities of the focus group at the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) session, and noted that the CPM Bureau champion for the FG-CCPI, had not been attending the focus group meetings since December. The secretariat requested the chairperson to ask Mr Samuel BISHOP if he will be presenting the focus group's paper, as was customary, and inform him that the paper he is meant to be presenting can already be found on the IPPC website.
- [36] The chairperson had no further updates regarding the *EPPO Bulletin*.
- ## 8. Date and arrangement of the next meeting
- [37] The focus group agreed to hold their next meeting in virtual mode on 23 April 2024 from 22.00 to 24.00 CET (UTC +1).
- ## 9. Close of the meeting
- [38] The chairperson thanked the participants for their contributions and closed the meeting.

⁴ www.ippc.int/en/news/final-report-of-the-sea-containers-task-force-now-available

Appendix 1: Agenda

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

14 March 2024, 22.00 CET (UTC +1)
Virtual meeting

Last update: 2024-03-11

	Agenda Item	Document no.	Presenter
1.	Opening of the meeting	--	Chairperson
2.	Meeting arrangements		
2.1.	Election of the rapporteur	--	Chairperson
2.2.	Adoption of the agenda	01_FG_CCPI_2024_March_Agenda	Chairperson
3.	Administrative matters		
3.1	Participants list	02_FG_CCPI_2024_March_Participants_List	IPPC Secretariat
3.2	Documents list	03_FG_CCPI_2024_March_Documents_List	IPPC Secretariat
4.	FG-CCPI member updates	--	Chairperson/All
5.	Planned webinars	--	Chairperson
6.	Face-to-face meeting of the group in Brazil		Erika MANGILI ANDRÉ, FG-CPPI Member/NPPO Brazil
7.	Any other business	--	Chairperson/IPPC Secretariat
8.	Date and arrangement of the next meeting	--	Chairperson/IPPC Secretariat
9.	Close of the meeting	-	Chairperson

Appendix 2. Participants list**CPM FOCUS GROUP ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND PHYTOSANITARY ISSUES****14 March 2024****PARTICIPANTS LIST**

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

	FAO region	Name, organization, country	email account
	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
	Asia	VACANT	
✓	Europe (Chairperson)	Mr Dominic EYRE Senior Plant Health Scientist Department for Environment, Farming and Rural Affairs York, United Kingdom	dominic.eyre@defra.gov.uk
✓	Europe	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
✓	Latin America and the Caribbean	Ms Erika MANGILI ANDRÉ Agricultural Officer International Affairs, Ministry of Rural Development and Family Farming Brasilia, Brazil	erika.mangili@agro.gov.br
	Near East and North Africa	VACANT	
✓	North America	Ms Karen CASTRO Senior Risk Assessor – Botany Canadian Food Inspection Agency Ottawa, Canada	Karen.Castro@inspection.gc.ca

	FAO region	Name, organization, country	email account
✓	North America	Mr Glenn FOWLER Risk Analyst USDA APHIS Plant Protection and Quarantine Sacramento, United States	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 (Vice-Chairperson and IC representative for FG-CCPI)	Mr Ngatoko NGATOKO Director, Biosecurity Service, Ministry of Agriculture, Rarotonga, Cook Islands	ngatoko.ngatoko@cookislands.gov.ck ngatoko@gmail.com
	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, United Kingdom	sam.bishop@defra.gov.uk

IPPC Secretariat

		Name	Email address
✓	IPPC Secretariat	Ms Mutya FRIO Communications Specialist	Mutya.frio@fao.org
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✓	IPPC Secretariat	Ms Agnieszka Gratza Report writer/Copyeditor	a.gratza@gmail.com

Appendix 3. Documents list**CPM FOCUS GROUP ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND PHYTOSANITARY ISSUES****14 March 2024, 22.00 CET (UTC +1)****Virtual meeting****DOCUMENTS LIST***(Last update: 2024-03-11)*

DOCUMENT NO.	AGENDA ITEM	DOCUMENT TITLE	DATE POSTED/ DISTRIBUTED
Administrative Documents			
01_FG_CCPI_2024_March_Agenda	2.2	Provisional agenda	2024-03-11
02_FG_CCPI_2024_March_Participants_List	3.1	Participants list	2024-03-11
03_FG_CCPI_2024_March_Documents_List	3.2	Documents list	2024-03-11