



COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

NINETEENTH SESSION

UPDATES ON THE CPM FOCUS GROUP ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND PHYTOSANITARY ISSUES

AGENDA ITEM 12.6

(Prepared by the CPM Focus Group)

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 CPM 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.
- [2] In June 2024, two new members joined the focus group, one representative from Asia and one from the FAO Office of Climate Change, Environment and Biodiversity (OCB). In August 2024, a representative from the Southwest Pacific withdrew, but the region remains represented by the FG-CCPI member from Cook Islands who is also a member of the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC). In November, a representative from the Near East and North Africa (NENA) region joined the focus group. The current FG-CCPI composition is presented in Table 1.
- [3] Table 1. Composition of the CPM Focus Group on Climate Change and Phytosanitary Issues

	FAO Region	Member	Country
1	Africa	Hannah SERWAA AKOTO NUAMAH	Ghana
2	Asia	Bhakta Raj PALIKHE	Nepal
3	Europe and Central Asia	Dominic EYRE (Chairperson)	United Kingdom
4	Europe and Central Asia	Bastian HESS	Germany
5	Latin America and the Caribbean	Erika MANGILI ANDRÉ	Brazil
6	Near East and North Africa	Ali AL-DAWI	Oman
7	North America	Karen CASTRO	Canada
8	North America	Glenn FOWLER	USA
9	Southwest Pacific IC Member representative	Ngatoko TA NGATOKO (Vice-chairperson)	Cook Islands
10	FAO OCB	Xiaoxiao Wang	China
	CPM Bureau ‘Champion’	Samuel BISHOP	
IPPC Secretariat			
	IST Team Lead IPPC Secretariat	Arop DENG	
	Communications Specialist	Mutya FRIO	

	Report writer	Emma Gibbs	
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- [4] At CPM-18 (2024), CPM endorsed the extension of the focus group’s mandate to CPM-20 (2026). In addition, the United Kingdom confirmed their financial contribution towards the IPPC work on climate change¹ at CPM-18, while Canada and Ireland provided contribution in 2023 and 2024, respectively.
- [5] 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 to support the implementation and delivery of its activities over the years.
- [6] The 2022-2025 action plan was based on the implementation of the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020–2030 development agenda item: “*Assessment and management of climate change impacts on plant health*”. To support the implementation of the action plan, three major action plan outcomes were identified:
- 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.
- [7] The complete list of activities proposed for each outcome of the 2022-2025 action plan can be accessed at: <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/90987/>.
- [8] The FG-CCPI meetings have been virtual since September 2021; the first in-person meeting was held on 7-11 October 2024 in Manaus, Brazil, upon the invitation of the Brazil NPPO during CPM-17 (2023). More information about the FG-CCPI, including the Terms of Reference (ToRs), membership, action plan and meeting reports can be accessed at the FG-CCPI subpage on the International Phytosanitary Portal (IPP): <https://www.ippc.int/en/commission/cpm-focus-group-reports/climate-change-and-phytosanitary-issues/>

2. Progress update on the IPPC Action Plan on Climate Change Impacts on Plant Health

- [9] Noting the extensive list of proposed initiatives and activities over the years of the action plan, five actions were selected to be prioritized by the IPPC for resourcing, coordination and implementation. Financial resources have been provided by the NPPO of Canada to perform the activities 3 and 5.
- [10] (1) Raising awareness of the impacts of climate change on plant health through increasing CPM-wide understanding of how climate change may increase the potential movement and spread of pests through webinars and special sessions involving the CPM, regional plant protection organizations (RPPOs) and national plant protection organizations (NPPOs):
- [11] *Focus group members continue participating in national, regional and international events, including IPPC Regional Workshops, and providing presentations on the impacts of climate change on plant health. Details on each participation can be accessed in the FG-CCPI meeting reports on the IPP focus group subpage.*

¹ CPM-18 report: https://assets.ippc.int/static/media/files/publication/en/2024/05/CPM-18_Report_2024-05-15.pdf

- [12] A [paper](#) on the work of the FG-CCPI published in a special issue on climate change of the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO) Bulletin has become publicly available².
- [13] On 24-26 September, the FG-CCPI and the IPPC Secretariat organized a highly successful webinar series, titled “Climate change and phytosanitary measures” which focused on three themes: Webinar 1: Climate change, plants and pests³ which was attended by 432 virtual participants and watched by 308 participants via webcast; Webinar 2: Risk assessment⁴, with 317 virtual attendees and 69 webcast viewers; and Webinar 3: Pathways and risk management⁵ with 283 attendees and 86 webcast viewers. The IPPC Secretariat actively promoted the webinars by creating a [dedicated webpage](#) on the IPPC website and through social media (X/Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn). A survey was sent to participants in October to seek feedback on the webinars and to determine what topics would be of interest for future webinars and/or technical resources.
- [14] (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:
- [15] *As it was explained to the focus group that there is no legal basis for requiring reports on climate change and plant pests by the IPPC, this activity has not yet been implemented.*
- [16] (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:
- [17] *Following the drafting of a new landing page at the face-to-face meeting in Brazil, the new [webpage](#) has been created and is available on the IPP. The new page provides a repository of information and resources on the assessment and management of the impacts of climate change on plant health and is intended to be useful beyond the mandate of the focus group. New materials may be added as they become available. The landing page is separate from the FG-CCPI [subpage](#) which contains information specific to the focus group, including its Terms of Reference, membership list and meeting reports.*
- [18] (4) Enhancing the evaluation and management of risks presented by 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:
- [19] *Following the suggestions sent by the focus group via NPPOs for the new combined International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM) on pest risk analysis (PRA) that will be developed, the possibility was raised during an IPPC Regional Workshop of inviting a member of the FG-CCPI to join the Expert Working Group (EWG) that will draft the ISPM to provide inputs on the impacts of climate change on plant pests to be incorporated into the draft.*
- [20] (5) Developing a document to provide technical guidance to NPPOs and RPPOs in identifying, assessing, mitigating and managing the climate change impacts on plant health:

²Eyre, D., André, E.M., Castro, K., Dale, C., Fowler, G., Hess, B. et al. (2024) International collaboration to assess and manage the impacts of climate change on plant health in the framework of the International Plant Protection Convention. *EPPO Bulletin*, 54(Suppl. 1), 89–91. Available from: <https://doi.org/10.1111/epp.12987>

³ Webinar 1: <https://www.fao.org/webcast/home/en/item/6701/icode/>

⁴ Webinar 2: <https://www.fao.org/webcast/home/en/item/6702/icode/>

⁵ Webinar 3: [Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations - Webcast \(fao.org\)](https://www.fao.org/webcast/home/en/item/6703/icode/)

- [21] *The technical resource titled [“Climate-change impacts on plant pests: a technical resource to support national and regional plant protection organizations”](#) was published on 24 September 2024 in interactive digital and PDF formats. The document aims to provide practical and relevant advice to NPPOs and RPPOs on how to strengthen both national and regional phytosanitary systems to better assess and manage the pest risk that is a consequence of climate change. The launch was timed during the first day of the webinar series to maximize its reach. It was also published on the IPPC website, on IPPC social media, the IPPC newsletter (September 2024) and disseminated to the IPPC community through mass email and the FAO Plant Production and Protection Division (NSP).*
- [22] Given the extension of the group’s mandate, the FG-CCPI updated its action plan for 2025-2026 during its face-to-face meeting in Brazil. The action plan was presented to the CPM Bureau for review and approval in its virtual meeting in December 2024 (see Appendix 1).
- [23] The group also discussed the feedback from the webinar series, the progress achieved by the group in 2024 and the development of new materials. As part of the meeting agenda, the FG-CCPI visited the [AmazonFACE program](#), an innovative project which serves as an open-air laboratory to understand how the Amazon Rainforest can respond to climate change.
- [24] Following the previous years, updates on the activities of the FG-CCPI have been presented to the [Strategic Planning Group \(SPG\)](#), [Technical Consultation among Regional Plant Protection Organizations \(TC-RPPOs\)](#) and CPM Bureau.
- [25] The focus group would like to thank Canada, Ireland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain for their financial support to the IPPC’s work on assessing and managing the impacts of climate change to plant pests.

Recommendations

- [26] The CPM is invited to:
- (1) *note* the updates from the focus group.

Appendix 1. Workplan 2025-2026 - CPM Focus Group on Climate Change and Phytosanitary Issues

Core action areas	Key activities	Tentative delivery dates	Priority	FG Lead
Outcome 1: Awareness on the impacts of climate change on plant health is improved				
1. Convene and participate in meetings and side events related to the impacts of climate change on plant health	1.1. Participate in the next International Plant Health Conference (side session), in person or hybrid	2026	HIGH	
	1.2. Participate in regional level webinars or workshops on the impacts of climate change on plant health (targeted to regional priorities)	2025	HIGH	
	1.3. Promote the FG-CCPI and its action plan at the 2025 IPPC Plant Health conference and other relevant conferences, workshops and events, FAO events (e.g. World Food Forum) and UN International Days	2025	HIGH	
2. Raise awareness on the impacts of climate change on plant health	2.1. Investigate opportunities to raise awareness on the impacts of climate change on plant health at the next UN Climate Change Conference Forums (COP30 in Brazil)	2025	HIGH	
	2.2. Investigate opportunities to raise awareness of the impacts of climate change on plant health, including cultural and social impacts (e.g., radio talk shows, social media, poster and flyers, videos, digital platforms, etc.)			
	2.3. Develop a 'climate change impacts on plant pests' webpage (landing page) on the IPP as a repository of all FG-CCPI related materials and resources (including links to tools	2025	HIGH	
	2.4. Identify and engage stakeholders at different levels (Online survey, in-person or telephone interactions) to gather information on climate change impacts on plant health	2025	MEDIUM	
	2.5. Include the 'climate change impacts on plant pests' topic into the agenda of all IPPC meetings (SPG and Bureau) to raise awareness 2.5.1. Develop the update papers for respective SPG and Bureau meetings (September, December for Bureau (new action plan))	2025	HIGH	

3. Facilitate discussions within IPPC subsidiary bodies, regional workshops as well as other IPPC technical groups and CPM	3.1. Include 'climate change impacts on plant health' topic into the agenda of all upcoming RPPO meetings and conferences (including annual workshops)	2025	HIGH	
	3.2. Include side session into the CPM-20 agenda 3.2.1.Revisit in April 2025 after CPM-19	2026	HIGH	
Outcome 2: Risks of climate change to plant health are evaluated and managed				
4. Support countries to collect, analyze and use climate change impacts-related information in decision-making	4.1. Incorporate climate change considerations in the new pest risk analysis (PRA) standard to be developed by the IPPC Expert Working Group			
	4.2. Include in the letter to SC			
	4.3. Continue to provide advice on the use of climate change models e.g., pros and cons of different models (e.g. predictive models for plant pests), time period to use, uncertainties, geographical and temporal scale (webinars/ publications and other materials).	2025	LOW	
	4.4. Provide advice on how to assess the impact of climate change on individual pests, the suite of pests on an individual crop and pest management.	2025	LOW	
	4.5. Suggest to IPPC Call for Topics group to include climate change considerations into the criteria for decision-making on the topics.	2025	MEDIUM	
	4.6. Review and promote tools to enhance the preparedness and response of Agricultural Extension Agents, community-based organizations (CBOs), farmers and other relevant stakeholders on the impacts of climate change on plant health	2025	MEDIUM	
Outcome 3: Enhanced recognition of phytosanitary matters in the international climate change debate				

<p>5. Strengthen collaboration with relevant organizations</p>	<p>5.1. Cooperate and exchange information on climate change and plant health matters with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and other international and regional organizations (e.g., International Pest Research Group, Centre for Agriculture and Bioscience International (CABI), FAO Office of Climate Change and Biodiversity (OCB), IPBES</p>	<p>2025</p>	<p>HIGH</p>	
	<p>5.2. Collaborate with FAO OCB in identifying cultural and social impacts of climate change on plant health, including island communities under threat of sea level rise.</p>	<p>2025-2026</p>	<p>MEDIUM</p>	