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International
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REPORT

Focus Group on Climate Change and Phytosanitary Issues

**Virtual Meeting
05 December 2024**

IPPC Secretariat

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1. Opening of the meeting

1.1 Welcome by the IPPC Secretariat

- [1] The virtual meeting of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) Focus Group on Climate Change and Phytosanitary Issues (FG-CCPI) was convened by the IPPC Secretariat (hereafter referred to as “the secretariat”).

2. Meeting arrangements

2.1 Election of the rapporteur

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

2.2 Adoption of the agenda

- [3] The focus group adopted the agenda (Appendix 1), noting that agenda item 4 (FG-CCPI member updates) would not be delivered during this meeting. Agenda item 6 (Potential webinar theme 2025) was subsequently discussed during agenda item 5 (the meeting due to time constraints).
- [4] Another item was proposed to be added to the agenda (correspondence to the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC) requesting the incorporation of climate change into IC topics); however, the primary focus group member representing this agenda item was not present. This agenda item will be further discussed via email and will be summarised in the January 2025 meeting.

3. Administrative matters

- [5] The participant list is presented as Appendix 2 to this report.
- [6] The documents list is presented as Appendix 3 to this report.

4. FG-CCPI Member updates

- [7] The focus group did not deliver member updates during this meeting.

5. Continuing discussion of the new action plan

- [8] Focus group members continued to discuss the contents of the action plan, touching first upon the proposed creation of a webinar series listed within the action plan.

Creation of 2025 Webinar Series on Climate Change and Plant Health¹

- [9] The chairperson noted that, given the International Plant Health Conference was not scheduled until 2026, another webinar series could be organized. The topics proposed for this webinar series have been summarised from the results of the survey feedback from the September 2024 Webinar Series of the focus group, which included: pest risk analysis, pest management, surveillance and biocontrol.
- [10] The chairperson called upon the group to discuss priorities that should be focused within the webinars.
- [11] **Pest risk analysis and modelling.** Members discussed how modelling could be integrated under pest risk analysis, with one member promoting the inclusion of the expert, Maria Chiara ROSACE, who co-authored the EPPO paper on including climate change in pest risk assessment.²
- [12] One member also noted that a representative of the IPPC Expert Working Group (EWG) to develop a joint standard on IPSM 2 (*Framework for pest risk analysis*) and ISPM 11 (*Pest risk analysis for quarantine pests*) could participate in the webinar series and provide an update on their progress. The

¹ This relates to action plan item 1.1 (International Plant Health Conference (IPHC) but as the IPHC is not taking place until 2026, the focus group decided to convene a global webinar instead.

² EPPO paper: <https://doi.org/10.1111/epp.12989>

chairperson agreed that this participation would be a good way to connect IPPC activities. The secretariat also praised the idea from the focus group member, and highlighted how it could benefit members working in the plant health community to know of the development of the joint standard.

- [13] **Commodity risk assessment.** One focus group member stressed the importance of commodity risk assessment under the theme of pest risk analysis, notably for plants for planting or consumption.
- [14] **Legal aspects of the interpretation of the role of climate change in pest risk analysis.** A focus group member raised concerns over the legal implications of using climate change projections and perceived future risks to justify the use of bio-sanitary measures by national plant protection organizations (NPPOs), particularly in the context of the World Trade Organization (WTO) dispute settlement. The member stressed how this could be particularly relevant for the development of the joint standard on pest risk analysis.
- [15] **Biocontrol.** One focus group member stressed how biocontrol could be an important topic to discuss during the webinar series, particularly for countries or regions where chemical or pesticide use is restricted or considered.
- [16] **Biocontrol and Integrated Pest Management (IPM).** Another focus group member highlighted the multifaceted nature of integrated pest and disease management, emphasizing the importance of non-chemical approaches such as exclusion and soil solarization, as well as biocontrol.
- [17] In response to this addition, one focus group member also stressed the need to understand the use of biocontrol and biocontrol chemicals within developing and developed countries.
- [18] Another member also proposed to consider how to incorporate climate change into quantitative versus qualitative risk analysis.
- [19] The chairperson queried if the secretariat had the capacity to deliver a 2025 webinar series, similar to the one previously delivered in 2024. To this response, the secretariat confirmed that, in theory, they would have the capacity for this; however, the budget would need to be checked for language interpretation.

Proposed timeline and schedule of the 2025 Webinar Series

- [20] The chairperson asked the secretariat for a recommended date to launch the proposed webinar series. To this request, the secretariat proposed that July 2025 could be the optimal time to hold the webinar, based on IPPC and FAO staff and resource availability, and the various clearance procedures.
- [21] The focus group discussed potential dates for the webinar series, and suggested an alternative to July 2025, as many members would be on summer vacation. The month of September was discussed as a possibility by both the focus group and the secretariat.
- [22] The chairperson agreed to return to this item in the focus group's next meeting in January 2025.
- [23] The chairperson requested the secretariat to develop a word document titled, "Webinars 2025" to list suggested ideas, themes and proposed speakers. To this request, the secretariat agreed to develop a document to be shared with the focus group and later updated.
- [24] The chairperson asked the group if speakers would require more time to present during the webinars. In response to this, one focus group confirmed that a longer time of 20 minutes could be more appropriate than the 12–15 minutes provided during the 2024 Webinar Series.
- [25] The focus group member also suggested that speakers need not include introductory material in their presentations, to ensure time efficiency and reduce information overlap. This could be communicated to speakers ahead of time.

[26] Members of the focus group then discussed action plan items 1.3, 2.3, 2.4, 3.1, 4.2, 4.3 and 4.5. Item 3.2 will be revisited in April 2025 following CPM-19 (2025) in March. Item 2.5 will be discussed during the January 2025 focus group meeting. Items 4.1 and 4.4 will also be discussed at a later date.

1.3 – Promote the FG-CCPI and its action plan at the 2025 IPPC Plant Health conference and other relevant conferences, workshops and events (2025)

[27] The focus group proposed to make a list of key conferences, workshops and events that could be shared and discussed amongst the group, including key information, potential action items and focus group attendees.

[28] One of the conferences discussed included the World Food Forum (WFF), for which proposals for involvement in the forum would need to be submitted in May 2025. To this point, the secretariat agreed to follow up with the forum coordinators (FAO Office of the Chief Economist and Office of the Chief Scientist) and share subsequent planning details and relevant action items with the focus group.

[29] One focus group member asked if the focus group’s poster could be re-edited and designed to fit the format for a scientific poster. To this point, the secretariat proposed that a general poster could be designed (internally through the secretariat) for focus group members to distribute at various conference, workshops and events – and even to event organizers to display, in the case where no focus group member can travel.

[30] One focus group member proposed that a word document could be made by the secretariat, alongside the proposed themes of the 2025 Webinar Series, with a section on “relevant conferences” within each region, containing the name, date and place. Posters and/or a QR code containing links to FG-CCPI resources could be shared with conference organizers ahead of time. To this point, the chairperson highlighted the “[Awareness Raising](#)” document that already exists within the group’s files and noted how relevant events, conferences, articles and other activities can be uploaded onto the document.

[31] Focus group members agreed to add key conferences and events to the awareness raising document.

2.3 – Develop a ‘climate change impacts on plant pests’ web page on the IPP as a repository of all FG-CCPI related materials and resources (2025)

[32] The secretariat informed the group of updates to the focus group’s web page, including the list of technical resources which is now complete. All requested changes to the [IPPC web page](#) on “The impacts of climate change and plant health”, and the [FG-CCPI web page](#) have been implemented. These include the addition of “Technical resources” and “General resources” to the climate change web page, and also links to the PowerPoint presentations that lead to the FG-CCPI 2024 Webinar Series.

[33] One focus group member praised the new layout of the focus group page and suggested that both missing and odd entries for the group’s meeting reports be updated. To this point, the secretariat agreed to update the entries under the year 2022 and 2023.

[34] The secretariat confirmed that any additional items or resources to be added would need to be sent to the secretariat via email.

[35] A focus group member commented on the IPPC web page on climate change and plant health and proposed to change the central image to an image more closely related to the group’s technical work on plant pests and climate change. The group confirmed the use of the current photo (of the dried out riverbed of the Rio Negro River in Brazil) on the page, with the secretariat to add a relevant caption to the image.

[36] The focus group agreed to update item 2.3 with relevant resources throughout the year.

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)

[37] The focus group noted the completion of the online survey and discussed further instances of possible interaction and engagement, including within meetings and/or webinars.

[38] One focus group member proposed the use of real-time, interactive applications within future webinars, such as [Mentimeter](#). To this point, the chairperson agreed with the potential use of this app, particularly with regards to participant location and visually demonstrating a global audience.

[39] The focus group member also suggested that the 2025 Webinar Series questionnaire be developed in advance of the sessions, so that the questionnaire is shared on time with participants at the end of each session.

2.5 – Include the ‘climate change impacts on plant pests’ topic into the agenda of all IPPC meetings (SPG and Bureau) to raise awareness (2025)

[40] The chairperson mentioned that this item would be communicated with the relevant focus group member, and will be reviewed at the beginning of the focus group’s January 2025 meeting.

3.1 – Include ‘climate change impacts on plant health’ topic into the agenda of all upcoming RPPO meetings and conferences (2025)

[41] The secretariat confirmed that the PowerPoint template for the IPPC Regional Workshops (July 2025) and the Technical Consultation among Regional Plant Protection Organizations (TC-RPPO) (September 2025) would be conceptualised soon with the internal IPPC designer, and then sent onto the focus group for review.

Reflections from COP-29 (2024) and participation in SJWA June workshop

[42] Noting the relevance of the topic, the chairperson gave the floor to focus group member for the Near East and North Africa (NENA), Ali Obaid AL-ADAWI, to reflect on his experience from the Twentieth Conference of the Parties (COP-29) in Azerbaijan in November 2024.

[43] The focus group member from NENA highlighted the discussion from COP-29 regarding the development of the Sharm el-Sheikh joint work on implementation of climate action on agriculture and food security (SJWA),³ and the further development of the Sharm el-Sheikh online portal.⁴ The portal will welcome information on projects, initiatives and policies for increasing opportunities for the implementation of climate action to address issues related to agriculture and food security. Submissions can be made by UN bodies, other intergovernmental organizations (IGOs), non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and Non-admitted entities (NAEs). Two hybrid workshops will be held during June and November 2025, with bodies invited to submit suggestions for presentation titles and presenters.

[44] The focus group member called upon the focus group to participate in the upcoming hybrid workshop 12–13 June 2025, held in Bonn, Germany, and present on the impact of climate change and plant health. To this point, the chairperson suggested the possible attendance of focus group member, Bastian HESS (Germany).

[45] The focus group member from the FAO Office of Climate Change, Environment and Biodiversity (OCB) highlighted the office’s long-standing support to the Sharm el-Sheikh negotiations on agriculture, alongside the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). She discussed how “mini-COPs” occur every June at the working-level, ahead of the major COP at the end

³ <https://unfccc.int/documents/643702>

⁴ <https://unfccc.int/topics/land-use/workstreams/agriculture/sharm-el-sheikh-online-portal>

of the year, and highlighted the importance of the Sharm el-Sheikh joint work.⁵ The member suggested that any proposals from the focus group could be submitted through FAO OCB.

- [46] Focus group members also provided background information on the joint work, including the development of the roadmap in June 2024, which included plans for the workshops and a report from the UNFCCC related to the impact of climate change on agriculture. Work until March 2025 will be focused on the portal and awaiting feedback from bodies regarding participation, presentation titles and presenters.
- [47] To this point on work related to the impacts of climate change, one focus group member stressed the importance of highlighting the vulnerability of the South Asia region to climate change impacts that were discussed at COP-29 (2024). Notable impacts include the shrinking of the Himalayan glaciers, risks to agriculture across Bhutan and droughts in Afghanistan. South Asian countries also raised the demands for climate finance based on principles of justice, fairness and equity, and promoted wider cooperation amongst Least Development Countries (LDCs).
- [48] The chairperson proposed to begin a process for the timeline of the June 2025 hybrid event, particularly regarding deadlines for expressing interest, and agreed to confirm details in later meetings. To this point, the focus group member from FAO OCB agreed to clarify submission deadlines and details (including proposed topics and countries for collaboration).

4.2 – 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 (2025)

- [49] The chairperson confirmed that this item will be acted on during the 2025 Webinar Series but opened the floor for further discussion.
- [50] One focus group member suggested that the group could collect further relevant case studies, or review papers on best practices for modelling approaches for plant pests. To this point, the chairperson confirmed these could be linked on the IPPC climate change website.

4.3 – 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)

- [51] The chairperson proposed for the focus group to decide what crops or pests the group is interested in working on.
- [52] The secretariat re-shared the FAO feature story on the “[Five ways climate change is intensifying the threats to plant health](#)”, including the five increasingly dangerous plant diseases of potato late blight, coffee leaf rust, banana *Fusarium* wilt, *Xylella fastidiosa* and grape downy mildew. The secretariat also drew attention to the IPPC video that was created on the detection of *Xylella fastidiosa* in Puglia, Italy.⁶
- [53] Proposals for pests and diseases from the focus group included: Colorado potato beetle; late blight disease (tomato and potato); *Fusarium* race 1 and TR4; early blight disease (potato and tomato); and grape downy mildew. Another focus group member also suggested to include invasive plant species, such as kudzu (*Pueraria montana*).
- [54] One focus group suggested the development of a factsheet template to ensure consistency across the documents. To this point, the secretariat confirmed the existence of brochure templates which could be used; however, it was agreed that the focus group should decide on the contents of the brochure/factsheet first, for example, whether to include a brief “Introduction” section, “Impacts” or “Mechanism of”, “Endemic in”, etc. Word counts for each section should also be confirmed to the

⁵ Further information on SJWA: <https://www.fao.org/climate-change/action-areas/climate-negotiations/sharm-el-sheikh-joint-work/en>

⁶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SsgFvAc7Etk>

secretariat to ensure uniformity amongst the factsheets. Depending on the content, 2–4 pages could be developed, with a maximum of 2-pages of text (Times Roman type 12, single-spaced) with the other pages incorporating images and figures. The chairperson proposed for the group to work on a template at the next FG-CCPI meeting in January 2025.

[55] The secretariat asked the focus group to determine a date for the publishing of these factsheets. To this point, the focus group collectively confirmed that these should be published ahead of the 2025 Webinar Series in September (date to be decided at the January 2025 FG-CCPI meeting).

[56] The secretariat confirmed that they would verify the process for factsheet approval, which may include a review by the CPM Bureau at their meeting in June 2025 (ahead of publication).

4.5 – 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)

[57] The focus group briefly discussed linking the work of the focus group with the work of FAO Partnerships and UN Collaboration Division (PSU) on Farmer Field Schools, including guides and e-learning course modules through the [FAO elearning Academy](#).

[58] The chairperson asked the focus group member from FAO OCB to share with the group any materials of particular relevance and importance, which could benefit from the addition of the impacts of climate change on plant health and the wider work of the focus group.

[59] The focus group agreed to return to the item in the group’s January 2025 meeting.

Next steps for the 2025-2026 Action plan

[60] The secretariat informed members that the focus group’s revised action plan for 2025–2026 will be presented to the bureau for review and feedback at the next CPM Bureau meeting on the 10 and 12 December 2024, as substantial insights were not provided during the Strategic Planning Group (SPG) meeting in October 2024.

[61] The focus group will continue with the outstanding items (4.5, 5.1 and 5.2) on the action plan for 2025-2026, and return to the item that was skipped (2.5) at the January 2025 meeting.

[62] **The secretariat agreed to:**

- 1) *create* a word document titled “Webinars 2025” with proposed themes, ideas and suggested speakers;
- 2) *follow up* with WFF coordinators and share subsequent planning details with the focus group;
- 3) *develop* a generic poster based on the focus group’s technical paper, in the same fashion as the IPPC brochure on [Plant health and climate change](#);
- 4) *update* the missing 2022 and 2023 meeting report entries, and insert a caption for the main photo, on the IPPC climate change and plant health web page;
- 5) *finalise* the PowerPoint template (climate change impacts on plant health) for IPPC Regional Workshops 2025 and the TC-RPPO 2025 meeting, and share with the focus group when ready;
- 6) *create* a word document for the development of pest and disease factsheets;
- 7) *share* a brochure template with the group for the purpose of factsheet development; and
- 8) *confirm* the process for factsheet approval (CPM Bureau or otherwise).

[63] **The focus group agreed to:**

- 1) *update* the “Webinars 2025” document when created, with proposed themes and speakers for the 2025 Webinar Series;
- 2) *update* the “Awareness Raising” document with relevant conferences, meetings and events for the focus group and its work throughout the year;
- 3) *update* the IPPC climate change and plant health web page (action plan item 2.3) throughout the year with regular, relevant resources;
- 4) *confirm* the agenda for the el-Sheikh joint work workshop in June 2025 and update the group with next steps and possible participation (to be actioned by focus group member for FAO OCB);
- 5) *collect* relevant case studies or review papers on best practices for modelling approaches for plant pests (action plan item 4.2);
- 6) *develop* a template for the factsheets in the FG-CCPI meeting in January 2025; and
- 7) *share* relevant materials of particular relevance and importance regarding tools to enhance preparedness and response (action plan item 4.5 - to be actioned by focus group member for FAO OCB).

6. Potential webinar theme 2025

[64] This item was addressed under agenda item 5.

7. Any other business

[65] No other business was discussed.

8. Date and arrangement of the next meeting

[66] The focus group agreed to hold their next meeting in virtual mode on **14 January 2025**, from 17:00 to 19:00 CET (UTC +1).

[67] The focus group confirmed the next meeting would take place for **two hours**.

[68] The focus group also confirmed dates for the subsequent meetings of the focus group: **Tuesday 11 February 2025** and **Tuesday 25 March 2025**.

9. Close of the meeting

[69] The chairperson thanked the participants for their contributions and closed the meeting.

Appendix 1: Agenda

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

(Prepared by the IPPC Secretariat)

5 December 2024, 17:00 – 19:00 (Rome time)

| | 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_December_Agenda | Chairperson |
| 3. | Administrative matters | | IPPC Secretariat |
| 3.1 | Participants list | 02_FG_CCPI_2024_December_Participants_List | |
| 3.2 | Documents list | 03_FG_CCPI_2024_December_DocumentsList | |
| 4. | FG-CCPI member updates | -- | Chairperson/All |
| 5. | Continuing discussion of the new action plan | 04_FG_CCPI Action plan 2025-2026 detailed 29 OCTOBER | |
| 6. | Potential webinar theme 2025 | Team Channel - 04_Summary results_Feedback Survey.pdf - All Documents | Chairperson/All |
| 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***(Prepared by the IPPC Secretariat)***5 December 2024, 17:00 – 19:00 (Rome time)****PARTICIPANTS LIST**

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

| | FAO Region | Name, Organization, Country | |
|---|---------------------------------|---|---|
| 1 | Africa | Ms Hannah SERWAA AKOTO NUAMAH Assistant Director, Plant Protection and Regulatory Services Directorate, Ministry of Food and Agriculture Accra, Ghana | |
| 2 | Asia | Mr Bhakta Raj PALIKHE Plant Protection Adviser Nepal Plant Disease and Agro Associates (NPDA) Kathmandu, Nepal | ✓ |
| 3 | Europe (Chairperson) | Mr Dominic EYRE Senior Plant Health Scientist Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) York, UK | ✓ |
| 4 | Europe | Mr Bastian HESS Research Assistant Julius Kühn-Institute, Federal Research Centre for Cultivated Plants (Institute for National and International Plant Health) Braunschweig, Germany | ✓ |
| 5 | Latin America and the Caribbean | Ms Erika MANGILI ANDRÉ Agricultural Inspector Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Brasilia, Brazil | |
| 6 | Near East and North Africa | Mr Ali Obaid AL-ADAWI Director of Agriculture Research in North Al Batinah Governorate Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources, Plant Protection Department Muscat, Oman | ✓ |
| 7 | North America | Ms Karen CASTRO Senior Risk Assessor – Botany Canadian Food Inspection Agency Ottawa, Canada | ✓ |

| | | | |
|----|---|--|---|
| 8 | North America | Mr Glenn FOWLER Risk Analyst USDA APHIS Plant Protection and Quarantine Sacramento, USA | ✓ |
| 9 | Southwest Pacific (Vice-Chairperson and IC representative for FG-CCPI) | Mr Ngatoko NGATOKO Director, Biosecurity Service Ministry of Agriculture Rarotonga, Cook Islands | |
| 10 | FAO Office of Climate Change, Environment and Biodiversity (OCB) | Ms Xiaoxiao WANG Natural Resources Officer FAO Office of Climate Change, Environment and Biodiversity Rome, Italy | ✓ |
| 11 | 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, North Yorkshire, UK | |

IPPC Secretariat

| Name | |
|--|---|
| Mr Arop DENG Integration and Support Team Lead | |
| Ms Mutya FRIO Communications Specialist | ✓ |
| Ms Emma GIBBS Copy-Editor and Report Writer | ✓ |

Appendix 3: Documents List**CPM FOCUS GROUP ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND PHYTOSANITARY ISSUES****5 December 2024, 17:00–19:00 (Rome time)****Virtual meeting****DOCUMENTS LIST**

| DOCUMENT NO. | AGENDA ITEM | DOCUMENT TITLE | DATE POSTED / DISTRIBUTED |
|---|-------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 01_FG_CCPI_2024_December_Agenda | 2.2 | Provisional agenda | 2024-12-2 |
| 02_FG_CCPI_2024_December_Participants_List | 3.1 | Participants list | 2024-12-2 |
| 03_FG_CCPI_2024_December_Documents_List | 3.2 | Documents list | 2024-12-2 |
| 04_FG_CCPI Action plan 2025-2026 detailed 29 OCTOBER.docx | 5 | Action plan 2024-2026 | 2024-12-2 |
| Team Channel - 04 Summary results Feedback Survey.pdf - All Documents | 6 | Summary of results survey | 2024-12-2 |