



REPORT

Focus Group on Climate Change and Phytosanitary Issues

Virtual Meeting 14 January 2025

IPPC Secretariat

Required citation:

IPPC Secretariat. 2025. Report of the meeting of the Focus Group on Climate Change and Phytosanitary Issues, 14 January 2025. Rome. Published by FAO on behalf of the Secretariat of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC).

The designations employed and the presentation of material in this information product do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) concerning the legal or development status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The mention of specific companies or products of manufacturers, whether or not these have been patented, does not imply that these have been endorsed or recommended by FAO in preference to others of a similar nature that are not mentioned.

The views expressed in this information product are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of FAO.

© FAO, 2025



Some rights reserved. This work is made available under the Creative Commons Attribution- 4.0 International licence (CC BY 4.0: https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/legalcode.en).

Under the terms of this licence, this work may be copied, redistributed and adapted, provided that the work is appropriately cited. In any use of this work, there should be no suggestion that FAO endorses any specific organization, products or services. The use of the FAO logo is not permitted. If a translation of this work is created, it must include the following disclaimer along with the required citation: "This translation was not created by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). FAO is not responsible for the content or accuracy of this translation. The original English edition shall be the authoritative edition."

Any dispute arising under this licence that cannot be settled amicably shall be referred to arbitration in accordance with the Arbitration Rules of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL). The parties shall be bound by any arbitration award rendered as a result of such arbitration as the final adjudication of such a dispute.

Third-party materials. This Creative Commons licence CC BY 4.0 does not apply to non-FAO copyright materials included in this publication. Users wishing to reuse material from this work that is attributed to a third party, such as tables, figures or images, are responsible for determining whether permission is needed for that reuse and for obtaining permission from the copyright holder. The risk of claims resulting from infringement of any third-party-owned component in the work rests solely with the user.

FAO photographs. FAO photographs that may appear in this work are not subject to the above-mentioned Creative Commons licence. Queries for the use of any FAO photographs should be submitted to: photo-library@fao.org.

Sales, rights and licensing. FAO information products are available on the FAO website (www.fao.org/publications) and print copies can be purchased through the distributors listed there. For general enquiries about FAO publications please contact: publications@fao.org. Queries regarding rights and licensing of publications should be submitted to: copyright@fao.org.

CONTENTS

1.	Opening of the meeting	4
	1.1 Welcome by the IPPC Secretariat	
2.	Meeting arrangements	
	2.1 Election of the rapporteur	4
	2.2 Adoption of the agenda	4
3.	Administrative matters	4
4.	FG-CCPI Member updates	4
5.	Continuing discussion of the new action plan	
6.	2025 webinar topics	
7.	Discussion on factsheets	9
9.	Date and arrangement of the next meeting	10
10.	Close of the meeting	
App	endix 1: Agenda	11
App	pendix 2: Participants List	12
	pendix 3: Documents List	

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 Glenn Fowler (North America) as rapporteur of the meeting.

2.2 Adoption of the agenda

- [3] The focus group adopted the agenda (Appendix 1).
- [4] For all future focus group meetings, "FG-CCPI member updates" will be moved to the end of the agenda to ensure time efficiency within the meetings.

3. Administrative matters

The participant list is presented as Appendix 2 to this report.

4. FG-CCPI Member updates

- [6] **Africa.** The focus group member from the region informed the focus group of several significant drought-related fires as a result of prolonged dry periods. She also informed the group of presidential changes within the country, as she awaits further divisional instructions and directions.
- Asia. The focus group member from the region informed the group of a recent presentation of a working paper on the impacts of hydropower projects, conducted by the University of Nepal and organized by the International Water Management Institute. Notable concerns regarding the project include threats to aquatic ecosystems, deprivation of local farmers' irrigation facilities, and threats to cultural and spiritual life as a result of reduced river flow. Further environmental health concerns include rising drought, flooding, plant production yield and impacts on food security, and changes to the introduction, transport, establishment and spread of pest populations.
- Europe. The focus group member from the region informed the group of an e-learning course they had discovered by the United Nations titled, "Becoming a Climate Champion". He noted that modules cover aspects of leadership, project management, resource mobilization, "leave no one behind" and communications. He observed that the course seemed to be focused toward youth but could be beneficial to the group members and wider networks, particularly those aiming to address climate change in their roles or project work.
- Near East and North Africa (NENA). The focus group member from the region informed the group of a recent workshop for nursery specialists and individuals working in plant protection, which promoted the importance of clean plant materials, and highlighted issues with imported seedlings and serious disease through imported plant materials. The workshop was attended by 120 participants, including visitors from the Foundation Plant Services from the University of California, USA. The member noted it was a good opportunity to stress the severity of introducing external plant materials that bring disease, and stress the importance of rapid identification for disease and quarantine services.
- [10] The member also noted one of the major plans of the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources in Oman to mitigate emissions of the agricultural sector in 2025, which account for 1.4 million tonnes from the sector alone. The member also informed the group of the ongoing development

-

¹ https://unccelearn.org/course/view.php?id=201&page=overview

of extension materials for serious disease that can be a threat to agricultural – notably *Xylella fastidiosa*. These will be available in Arabic and will be distributed as widely as possible.

- [11] One focus group member asked if the *Xylella fastidiosa* extension materials can be shared to the focus group. In response, the focus group member from the NENA region confirmed this request and also proposed to share the national quarantine list, containing diseases which can threaten major crops in Oman through the introduction of external plant materials.
- [12] One focus group member queried the kind of emissions the NENA region produced through their agricultural sector, and the types of mitigation procedures adopted to minimise this. To this point, the focus group member from the NENA region clarified that animal sectors (1.2 percent) and land use make up the total emissions produced under the agriculture sector. Plans to mitigate emissions of this sector include attempts of carbon sequestration by expanding plantation of economic crops. One such programme includes the distribution of wild tree seedlings for farmers through interested communities. The member also informed the group of plans to install solar panels in farms that can generate electricity for powering greenhouses and power generators across farmlands.
- [13] The chairperson commented on the agricultural emissions figure from Oman and remarked that in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, emissions from agriculture form a much higher proportion of overall greenhouse gas emissions (12 percent in 2022).
- [14] **North America.** A focus group member from the region informed the group of an expected change in government leader over the coming months, following the resignation of her country's current prime minister.
- [15] Another focus group member from the region informed the group of his recent appointment as the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Climate Change Lead, in addition to his current responsibilities with Plant Protection and Quarantine.

Related action points for agenda item 4

- [16] The focus group agreed to:
 - 1) *share* the *Xylella fastidiosa* extension materials produced by the NENA region among focus group members, in addition to Oman's quarantine list (to be actioned by the focus member from the NENA region).

5. Continuing discussion of the new action plan

- [17] Members continued to discuss the contents of the action plan, including discussions under item 2.5 (item was skipped in the December 2024 meeting), 4.4 (item was previously skipped) and finalising discussions under 4.5, 5.1 and 5.2.
 - 2.5 Include the 'climate change impacts on plant pests' topic into the agenda of all IPPC meetings (SPG and Bureau) to raise awareness
- [18] The secretariat confirmed the intention to stress the wider theme of climate change (as it relates to plant pests and plant health) across all IPPC meetings, Strategic Planning Group (SPG) meetings and CPM Bureau meetings, and, through the group's update papers, highlight the work of the focus group through the delivery of engaging presentations and discussions.
- [19] One focus group member asked if there could be a chance to propose a CPM side session on the work of the group. To this request, the secretariat confirmed an intention to propose a side session into the CPM-20 (2026) agenda but not for CPM-19 (2025).

- 4.4 Suggest to IPPC Call for Topics group to include climate change considerations into the criteria for decision-making on the topics
- [20] The secretariat confirmed that this agenda action item specifically relates to the email to be sent to the IPPC Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC) for the Call for Topics that is developed biennially.
- [21] The chairperson confirmed that he would write to the IC representative for FG-CCPI, Ngatoko NGATOKO, to help leverage support for the inclusion of "climate change impacts on plant pests" into the 2025 Call for Topics.
 - 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
- [22] Following earlier discussions of this action plan item in the December 2024 FG-CCPI meeting, the chairperson suggested to link this item to the factsheets that are in the early stages of development.
- One focus group member proposed to hold a meeting with FAO Partnerships and UN Collaboration Division (PSU) to receive updates on their progress and work planning for the year, information on the production of knowledge products of papers, and any potential areas of synergy and opportunity for collaboration.
- The focus group agreed to hold an initial, separate meeting with FAO PSU before inviting them to present during the next FG-CCPI monthly meeting for a potential brainstorming discussion.
- [25] Following these discussions, the secretariat volunteered to organize an initial meeting with FAO PSU, including the focus group chairperson to chair and lead the initial meeting, and the focus group member from the FAO Office of Climate Change and Biodiversity (OCB).
- [26] The chairperson proposed to share the meeting details with the focus group once confirmed, in order for other members to join if they wish.
 - 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 organisations (e.g., International Pest Research Group, Centre for Agriculture and Bioscience International (CABI), FAO Office of Climate Change and Biodiversity (OCB), IPBES
- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Regarding the focus group's desire to enhance recognition of phytosanitary matters in the international climate change debate, the focus group member from FAO OCB informed the group of her ongoing plans to source an expert within the IPCC, and provide expertise to the focus group and ongoing collaboration through her OCB contacts. It is hoped that the expert would join at least one of the FG-CCPI monthly meetings, to initiate continued collaboration. Further updates on this may be delivered at the end of February 2025, following the Sixty-second Session of the IPCC (IPCC P-62) in Hangzhou, China.
- [28] International Pest Risk Research Group (IPRRG). The focus group discussed potential contributions to the next IPRRG meeting in 2025 (date to be confirmed).
- [29] Climate change inclusion in CABI and EPPO. The focus group members from the Europe region agreed to promote the inclusion of climate change aspects in upcoming European Plant Protection Organization (EPPO) meetings.
- [30] Regarding the promotion of climate change in the Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International (CABI) factsheets, a focus group member from the Africa region proposed to review CABI factsheet examples in an upcoming FG-CCPI monthly meeting, to identify how climate change components can be highlighted and improved.

- [31] The chairperson confirmed that following this review, action items could be proposed to contact CABI staff to begin discussions on factsheet design and considerations for a stronger climate change focus.
- [32] One focus group member noted how several CABI factsheet formats could exist, noting the various compendiums within the organization (including Invasive Species and Crop Protection). He also noted the importance of providing CABI with a clear structure of climate change inputs to be added to the revised template.
- [33] The focus group also proposed to invite a representative from CABI to one of the FG-CCPI monthly meetings (or to hold a separate meeting) to discuss the potential revision to CABI knowledge products.
 - 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
- The focus group member from FAO OCB informed the group of updates to the Loss and Damage Assessment portfolio, which is a key focus of Small Island Developing States (SIDS). This portfolio includes the development of national loss and damage strategies (country-by-country), and the development of methodologies which includes economic rights and non-economic rights (including cultural heritage, indigenous knowledge and social impact).
- The focus group member discussed the mapping report for economic loss and damage, which includes the use of old methodologies, which can be used to develop a framework on developing the economic loss and damage from a slow-onset event. This includes crop losses, fishery, livestock and forestry, and also relates to PRA. She informed the group that the document is currently being shared internally and, following confirmation, could be shared with the focus group in due course. Mapping for non-economic loss and damage is also scheduled for future undertaking.

Related action points

- [36] The focus group agreed to:
 - 1) *promote* the inclusion of climate change at EPPO meetings (action plan item 5.1 to be actioned by members from the Europe region);
 - 2) *review* CABI knowledge products (including factsheets) for the inclusion of climate change components (item 5.1- to be actioned by the focus member from the Africa region); and
 - 3) *share* the FAO OCB mapping document of economic loss and damage with the focus group in February/March 2025, once confirmed (item 5.2 to be actioned by the FAO OCB member).
- [37] The secretariat agreed to:
 - 1) *organize* an initial meeting with FAO PSU, FG-CCPI chair and focus group member from FAO OCB, to determine potential synergies and opportunities for collaboration and support (related to item 4.5).
- [38] The chairperson agreed to:
 - 1) write an email to the IC representative for FG-CCPI, Ngatoko NGATOKO, to leverage support for the inclusion of "climate change impacts on plant pests" into the 2025 Call for Topics (related to item 4.4).

6. 2025 webinar topics

- The focus group discussed proposed topics for the 2025 Webinar Series.
- [40] **Pest risk analysis (PRA).** The focus group agreed on the proposed structure of the 2025 Webinar Series, with the first webinar to focus heavily on PRA (modelling, commodity risk assessment and legal aspects of climate change interpretation), as well as surveillance (methods and reporting of data); the second webinar will focus on pest management and biocontrol.

- [41] Regarding the legal aspects of the interpretation of the role of climate change in PRA, the secretariat agreed to follow up with the secretariat for further information.
- Surveillance. One focus group member highlighted the work of the IPPC Pest Outbreak and Alert System (POARS), as part of the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020-2030, and proposed to contact the programme for activities related to climate change and surveillance. In response, the chairperson confirmed that he would reach out to his POARS colleague to identify any relevant activities for the webinar series.
- [43] The secretariat proposed to revisit surveillance ideas for the webinar series in the focus group's February meeting.
- **Pest management**. The focus group discussed the identification of priority crops and related pest management practices, which included suggestions for maize, wheat and rice.
- [45] The focus group suggested to contact CIGAR or the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT). In response to this, the secretariat proposed contacting their CGIAR contacts and colleagues within the IPPC Implementation and Facilitation Unit (IFU) with CGIAR connections, to identify pest management experts.
- [46] **Biocontrol.** The chairperson suggested to explore links with the International Organisation for Biological Control (IOBC) and examine the connection between climate change and biological control agents. He suggested to contact an expert at the IOBC to present during the webinar series, and establish a broader connection to the organization.
- [47] A focus group member suggested for the group to conduct a literature review of each proposed subject to identify relevant experts. In response to this suggestion, the chairperson suggested the Centre for Agriculture and Bioscience International (CABI) as a potential resource for subject area expertise.
 - Proposed structure and timing of webinar sessions
- [48] The chairperson proposed fewer speakers per hour, noting how the 2024 Webinar Series had seemed rushed in nature.
- [49] To address focus group concerns regarding audience engagement, the group proposed sessions of 1.5 hours. This would include 20-minute presentations by the speakers, an introduction, and enough time for participant feedback at the end of the session.
- [50] Another member raised the issue of interpreter fatigue, to which the secretariat clarified the usual process of two interpreters per language for an allotted two hours.
 - Next steps for the webinar series and related action points
- [51] The chairperson confirmed the development of the Webinar Series for September 2025, with the accompanying factsheets to be published and distributed beforehand.
- [52] The secretariat confirmed to the group that an email will be sent out to members for their further inputs related to webinar themes, ideas and notably speakers related to each proposed webinar topics.
- [53] The secretariat agreed to:
 - 1) *distribute* an email to the focus group requesting further inputs (notably speakers) to the proposed webinar topics in the "Webinars 2025" word document;
 - 2) reach out to the secretariat for further information regarding the legal aspects of the interpretation of the role of climate change in PRA; and
 - 3) reach out to their contacts at CGIAR for referrals to pest management experts.
- [54] The focus group agreed to:

- 1) *provide* further input to the "Webinars 2025" document regarding ideas and speakers under each proposed topic.
- [55] The chairperson agreed to:
 - 1) *contact* the IOBC for a potential presentation on biocontrol and climate change during the 2025 Webinar Series, and wider collaboration with the organization; and
 - 2) *contact* colleagues in POARS regarding programme activities related to surveillance and climate change.

7. Discussion on factsheets

- [56] The focus group continued discussions on the production of five (5) proposed fact sheets to be developed within the focus group.
- [57] Following discussions from the December 2024 FG-CCPI meeting, the secretariat re-shared FAO's 2022 feature story on "Five ways climate change is intensifying the threats to plant health", noting the five most intensive plant diseases: potato late blight, coffee leaf rust, Banana *Fusarium* wilt, *Xylella fastidiosa* and grape downy mildew.
- [58] The chairperson stressed the need for a factsheet template, noting previous suggestions of a 2-page document of text. The chairperson also shared their factsheet draft for the plant disease, *Xylella fastidiosa*.³
- One focus member recommended the use of infographics within the factsheet and virtually shared their factsheet (in Arabic) on *Xylella fastidiosa* as an example.
- [60] The chairperson asked the secretariat if infographics could be created for the factsheets. In response, the secretariat confirmed that infographics could be designed (along with the general use of images and maps), and the factsheets styled with the help of internal IPPC graphic designers.
- [61] One member suggested using the Bugwood website as a source for related pest images.⁴
- [62] Suggestions from the focus group regarding specific pests and diseases for the factsheets included: Fall Armyworm (noting the Global Action for Fall Armyworm control⁵ and ongoing IPPC diagnostic protocol work), *Fusarium* Tropical Race 4 (TR4), coffee leaf rust, locusts and fruit fly⁶.
- [63] The chairperson stressed the importance of focusing on climate change within the factsheets.
- [64] The secretariat agreed to:
 - 1) *create* a word document "Factsheet ideas" detailing all proposed ideas for factsheet development.
- [65] The focus group agreed to:
 - 1) *provide* further input to the "Factsheet ideas" document regarding ideas and speakers under each proposed topic.

² https://www.fao.org/newsroom/story/Five-ways-climate-change-is-intensifying-the-threats-to-plant-health/en

³ Available in the focus group's shared drive.

⁴ https://www.bugwood.org/programs_services.cfm

⁵ https://www.fao.org/fall-armyworm/en/

⁶ The impact of climate change on fruit flies has been studied as part of a recent European Union project and includes planned publications: https://fruitflies-ipm.eu/

⁷ This has now been created and can be viewed at the hyperlink or within the shared drive located here: CPM FG on CC and PI<12_Factsheet development<Factsheet idea.docx

9. Date and arrangement of the next meeting

- [66] The focus group agreed to hold their next meeting in virtual mode on **11 February 2025**, from 17:00 to 19:00 CET (UTC +1).
- [67] The focus group confirmed the next meeting would take place for **one and a half hours**.
- [68] The focus group has also previously confirmed dates for the subsequent meeting of the focus group: **Tuesday 25 March 2025**.

10. 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)

14 January 2025, 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_2025_January_2025_ Agenda	Chairperson	
3.	Administrative matters		IPPC Secretariat	
3.1	Participants list	02_FG_CCPI_2025_January_2025_ Participants_List	Chairperson	
3.2	Documents list	03_FG_CCPI_2025_January_2025_ Documents_List	Chairperson	
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	Chairperson	
6.	2025 webinar topics	05_Team Channel - 04_Summary results Feedback Survey.pdf - All Documents	Chairperson	
7.	Discussion on factsheets		Chairperson	
8.	Any other business		Chairperson/IPPC Secretariat	
9.	Date and arrangement of the next meeting		Chairperson/IPPC Secretariat	
10.	Close of the meeting		Chairperson	

Appendix 2: Participants List

CPM FOCUS GROUP ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND PHYTOSANITARY ISSUES

(Prepared by the IPPC Secretariat)

14 January 2025, 17:00 – 19:00 (Rome time)

PARTICIPANTS LIST

A check (\checkmark) 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

14 January 2025, 17:00–19:00 (Rome time)

Virtual meeting

DOCUMENTS LIST

DOCUMENT NO.	AGENDA ITEM	DOCUMENT TITLE	DATE POSTED / DISTRIBUTED
01_FG_CCPI_2025_January_Agenda	2.2	Provisional agenda	2025-01-10
02_FG_CCPI_2025_ January _Participants_List	3.1	Participants list	2025-01-10
03_FG_CCPI_2025_ January _Documents_List	3.2	Documents list	2025-01-10
04 FG CCPI Action plan 2025- 2026 detailed 29 OCTOBER.docx	5	Action plan 2024–2026	2025-01-10
05 Team Channel - 04 Summary results Feedback Survey.pdf - All Documents	6	Summary of results survey	2025-01-10