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REPORT

Focus Group on Climate Change and Phytosanitary Issues

**Virtual Meeting
25 March 2025**

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 Hannah SERWAA AKOTO NUAMAH (Ghana) as rapporteur of the meeting.

2.2 Adoption of the agenda

- [3] The focus group adopted the agenda (Appendix 1).

3. Administrative matters

- [4] 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.

IPPC Secretariat updates – NAPPO membership and CPM Bureau champion

- [6] The secretariat confirmed that the focus group member from the North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO) had discontinued their membership in the focus group and that an official email to the IPPC official contact point, copied to the secretariat, had been received.
- [7] The secretariat also informed the group of the likelihood of a new CPM Bureau (hereafter referred to as “the bureau”) champion for the focus group, following change of bureau membership and CPM leadership at CPM-19 in March 2025. The outcome of the next bureau champion would be decided either at the next bureau meeting in June 2025 or through an e-decision by the Bureau.

4. CPM-19 feedback

- [8] The focus group member from FAO Office of Climate Change, Biodiversity and Environment (OCB) shared her experience presenting the focus group’s work at CPM-19 (2025) and highlighted the positive feedback received, including requests for an extended presentation. The group’s work, including the development of the 2024 webinar series and the technical resource on climate-change impacts on plant pests, received high recognition from IPPC contracting parties.
- [9] The focus group praised the presentation delivered by the member from FAO OCB and also stressed its gratitude and thanks to Erika MANGILI ANDRÉ and Karen CASTRO for drafting the CPM paper¹.
- [10] The secretariat confirmed the focus group’s mandate until 2026 and a review of a further extension during CPM-20 (2026), as noted in the CPM-19 (2025) intervention by the European Union. The secretariat also confirmed that no further pledges for focus group funding were received.

5. Action item review

- [11] The focus group reviewed the action items from the February FG-CCPI meeting, and outstanding action items from the January FG-CCPI meeting.
- [12] The focus group noted the outstanding action items below:

¹ <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/94231/>

[13] The secretariat had previously 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 action plan item 4.5);
- 2) *reach out* to the wider secretariat team for further information regarding the legal aspects of the interpretation of the role of climate change in PRA;
- 3) *reach out* to their contacts at CGIAR for referrals to pest management experts;
- 4) *gather* further information from FAO Plant Production and Protection Division (NSP) colleagues with regards to the potential webinar element on biocontrol and IPM; and
- 5) *provide* the focus group with a template for factsheet development.

[14] The chairperson had previously agreed to:

- 1) *contact* pest outbreak and response systems (POARS) colleagues regarding programme activities related to surveillance and climate change.

[15] The focus group had previously 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);
- 2) *share* the FAO OCB mapping document of economic loss and damage with the focus group in February/March 2025, once confirmed (to be actioned by the FAO OCB member);
- 3) *discuss* possible factsheets on kudzu and locusts at the next focus group meeting in March;
- 4) *discuss* a possible factsheet on the impacts of climate change on island communities (or countries) at the next focus group meeting in March; and
- 5) *research* potential avenues for outreach among their RPPOs, aligning with action plan item 3.1 (to include the topic of "climate change impacts on plant health" into the agenda of all upcoming RPPO meetings and conferences (including annual workshops).

[16] Regarding completed action items, the chairperson informed the group of his communication with an expert from the International Organization for Biological Control (IOBC) for a potential presentation on biocontrol and climate change during the 2025 webinar series, and wider collaboration with the organization. He further noted communication with a member of the European Food Safety Agency (EFSA) panel to gauge interest in their involvement in the first webinar on pest risk analysis (PRA).

[17] The focus group noted that the factsheet on Banana Fusarium Wilt disease by the NENA region had been shared with the focus group. The focus group also reviewed a pest management decision guide (created by CABI/PlantwisePlus in collaboration with the Rainforest Alliance) on how to effectively include climate change components.^{2,3} The focus group noted that the FAO OCB mapping document would be shared with the focus group at the next focus group meeting in April, once finalized.

[18] The secretariat confirmed that outstanding items under their remit would be actioned within the following weeks.

[19] The chairperson suggested reviewing many of the outstanding action items throughout the agenda of the meeting.

² <https://plantwiseplusknowledgebank.org/doi/epdf/10.1079/pwkb.20147801532>

³ CABI/Plantwise example factsheet:

<https://plantwiseplusknowledgebank.org/doi/epdf/10.1079/pwkb.20147801436>

6. Letter to IC – inclusion of climate-change considerations into IPPC Call for Topics

- [20] The chairperson noted that a letter had been sent to the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC) by the IC lead member for the focus group, requesting that the IC include climate-change considerations into the IPPC Call for Topics. This forms part of the focus group’s wider efforts to support countries in collecting, analysing and using climate change impacts-related information in decision-making.
- [21] The secretariat noted that the IC had confirmed that they would include this in their agenda during their May IC meeting.

7. Continuing discussion on 2025 webinar topics

- [22] The focus group continued discussions on the selected topics for the 2025 Webinar Series: PRA, and biocontrol and integrated pest management (IPM). Themes would potentially include climate change in pest risk assessment, PRA and modelling, commodity risk assessment, and the legal aspects of the interpretation of the role of climate change in PRA; and pest surveillance methods and reporting of surveillance data (to be confirmed), pest management and biocontrol.
- [23] The focus group noted that several experts had been contacted to deliver a presentation during the webinar series and confirmed that focus group members and the secretariat would continue reaching out to their contacts for further discussion.
- [24] The focus group discussed the potential of including speakers working on the IPPC joint standard of ISPM 2 (*Framework for pest risk analysis*) and ISPM 11 (*Pest risk analysis for quarantine pests*), regarding the legal aspects of the interpretation of the role of climate change in PRA.
- [25] The focus group stressed the need for the webinar series (and speakers) to strongly tie in themes of climate change with phytosanitary issues.
- [26] The secretariat proposed to create a webpage for the 2025 webinar series, similar to the webpage on the 2024 webinar series, to share the objectives of the webinar and the intended audience, along with speaker profiles.⁴
- [27] The focus group confirmed Wednesday 1 October and Thursday 2 October 2025 as potential dates for the webinar series, and noted that the timing would be determined once speaker confirmations had been received (noting potential time zone limitations).

Related action points for agenda item 7

- [28] The focus group agreed to:
- 1) *contact* an EPPO expert as a potential speaker the first webinar, under the theme of “climate change in pest risk assessment” (for the action of the focus group member from the North America region);
 - 2) *contact* an international expert as a potential speaker for the first webinar, under the theme of “PRA and modelling” (for the action of the focus group member from the Europe region);
 - 3) *contact* IPPC colleagues for speaker nominations for the first webinar, under the theme of “legal aspects of the...role of climate change in PRA” (for the action of the focus group member from the Latin America and the Caribbean region); and
 - 4) *contact* a CABI expert as a potential speaker for the second webinar, under the theme of “biocontrol” (for the action of the focus group member from the Africa region).
- [29] The secretariat agreed to:

⁴ <https://www.ippc.int/en/events/webinars/webinar-on-climate-change-and-phytosanitary-measures/>

- 5) *reach out* to their contacts at CGIAR for speaker nominations for the second webinar, under the theme of “pest management and climate change”;
- 6) *reach out* to colleagues within FAO’s Plant Production and Protection Division for speaker nominations for the second webinar, under the theme of “biocontrol and IPM”; and
- 7) *develop* a webpage for the 2025 webinar series.

8. Continuing discussion on factsheets

- [30] The focus group continued discussions on the production of five (5) proposed factsheets to be developed within the focus group. The focus group noted that three factsheets had been drafted so far: *Xylella fastidiosa* and climate change; Kudzu (*Pueraria montana* var. *lobata*) and climate change; and Fall Armyworm (*Spodoptera frugiperda*) and climate change. Further development of factsheets on coffee rust, Banana Fusarium Wilt, guava fruit fly, locusts, and the potential drafting of a factsheet on the impacts of climate change and plant health in relation to island communities or Small Island Developing States (SIDS)⁵, were discussed.
- [31] The focus group reviewed the draft factsheet on Fall Armyworm (*Spodoptera frugiperda*) (FAW) and provided comments on the sections: the pest; origin and distribution; the distribution and impact of the pest affected by weather and climate; how climate change is altering the distribution and impact of the pest in the future; and what national plant protection organizations (NPPOs) can do to reduce future impacts.
- [32] One focus group member suggested to include wider weather and climate impacts related to the distribution and impact of the pest, including: humidity, carbon dioxide, oxygen concentration, wind currents and annual average precipitation. The member stressed the need to consider the impacts of environmental conditions on parasite predators as well as the insect itself. The member also stressed the importance of the NPPO action section within the factsheets, and the need to promote “climate smart agriculture” as a key responsibility.
- [33] The focus group discussed including wider bioclimatic variables within the factsheets, where relevant, under the section on the distribution and impact of the pest affected by weather and climate, and noted that relevant annexes to the FAW (*Spodoptera frugiperda*) factsheet could be included.
- [34] The chairperson suggested to share a study from CABI (in collaboration with the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland’s Met Office) with the focus group regarding the impact of wind on Fall Armyworm risks in China.
- [35] The secretariat suggested for all factsheets to include the same subheadings and section prompts as the FAW factsheet, to ensure consistency among the package of factsheet publications. The secretariat also praised the use of FAO/UN maps within the factsheets, and proposed to include additional maps within the factsheets, ensuring that the source and link are provided.
- [36] The secretariat also suggested to develop an overall title for the factsheet series, for example, “Profile of pests”, notifying readers to other factsheets in the series.

Related action points for agenda item 8

- [37] The focus group agreed to:

- 8) *provide* further comments on the draft factsheets developed so far.

- [38] The chairperson agreed to:

- 9) *share* the study from CABI on Fall Armyworm risks in China with the focus group.

⁵ https://assets.ippc.int/static/media/files/publication/en/2024/12/Ngatoko_24_September-Case_Study_on_the_Impact_of_Climate_Change_-_Pacific_Region_.pdf

9. FG-CCPI member updates

[39] As a result of time limitations, no member updates were provided during this meeting.

10. Any other business

[40] The secretariat requested that any concerns from the focus group members should be made through official communication channels, i.e. email to the IPPC Secretariat, so these can be properly actioned by the secretariat.

11. Date and arrangement of the next meeting

[41] The focus group agreed to hold their next meeting in virtual mode on **Tuesday 29 April 2025**, from 17:00 to 19:00 CET (UTC +1).

12. Close of the meeting

[42] 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)

25 March 2025, 17:00–19:00 (Rome time)

(Last updated 17.03.2025)

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_March_2025_Agenda	Chairperson
3. Administrative matters		IPPC Secretariat
3.1. Participants list	02_FG_CCPI_2025_March_2025_Participants_List	Chairperson
3.2. Documents list	03_FG_CCPI_2025_March_2025_Documents_List	Chairperson
3.3. IPPC Secretariat updates – NAPPO membership and CPM Bureau champion	--	IPPC Secretariat
4. CPM-19 feedback	--	WANG, IPPC Secretariat
5. Action item review	Action items from CPM FG-CCPI February meeting.docx	Chairperson
6. Letter to IC – inclusion of climate change considerations into IPPC Call for Topics	04 Letter to IPPC Secretariat IC Lead	Secretariat/NGATOKO
7. Continuing discussion on 2025 webinar topics	05 Team Channel – 06 Webinar ideas 2025	Chairperson
8. Continuing discussion on factsheets	06 Team Channel – 12 Factsheet ideas	Chairperson
9. FG-CCPI member updates		Chairperson/All
10. Any other business	--	Chairperson/IPPC Secretariat
11. Date and arrangement of the next meeting	--	Chairperson/IPPC Secretariat
12. Close of the meeting	--	Chairperson

Appendix 2: Participants List**CPM FOCUS GROUP ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND PHYTOSANITARY ISSUES***(Prepared by the IPPC Secretariat)***25 March 2025, 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	Southwest Pacific (Vice-Chairperson and IC	Mr Ngatoko NGATOKO Director, Biosecurity Service Ministry of Agriculture	

	representative for FG-CCPI)	Rarotonga, Cook Islands	
9	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	✓
10	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 Avetik NERSISYAN IPPC Officer-in-Charge for daily matters	
Ms Mutya FRIO Communications Specialist	✓
Ms Emma GIBBS Copy-Editor and Report Writer	
Mr Levon RUKAVISHNIKOV Standard Setting Unit Intern	✓

Appendix 3: Documents List**CPM FOCUS GROUP ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND PHYTOSANITARY ISSUES****11 February 2025, 17:00–19:00 (Rome time)****Virtual meeting****DOCUMENTS LIST***(Last updated 17.03.2025)*

DOCUMENT NO.	AGENDA ITEM	DOCUMENT TITLE	DATE POSTED / DISTRIBUTED
01_FG_CCPI_2025_March_Agenda	2.2	Provisional agenda	2025-03-13
02_FG_CCPI_2025_March_Participants_List	3.1	Participants list	2025-03-13
03_FG_CCPI_2025_March_Documents_List	3.2	Documents list	2025-03-13
Action items from CPM FG-CCPI February meeting.docx	5	Action items	
04_Letter to IPPC Secretariat IC Lead	6	Action Plan 2025–2026	2025-03-12
05_Team Channel – 06 Webinar ideas 2025	7	Webinar Ideas 2025	2025-03-12
06_Team Channel – 12 Factsheet ideas	8	Factsheet Ideas	2025-03-12