



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



International  
Plant Protection  
Convention



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

# Plenary Session-Global Perspective on Food Security

Louise Byrne, Chief Plant Health Officer for Ireland

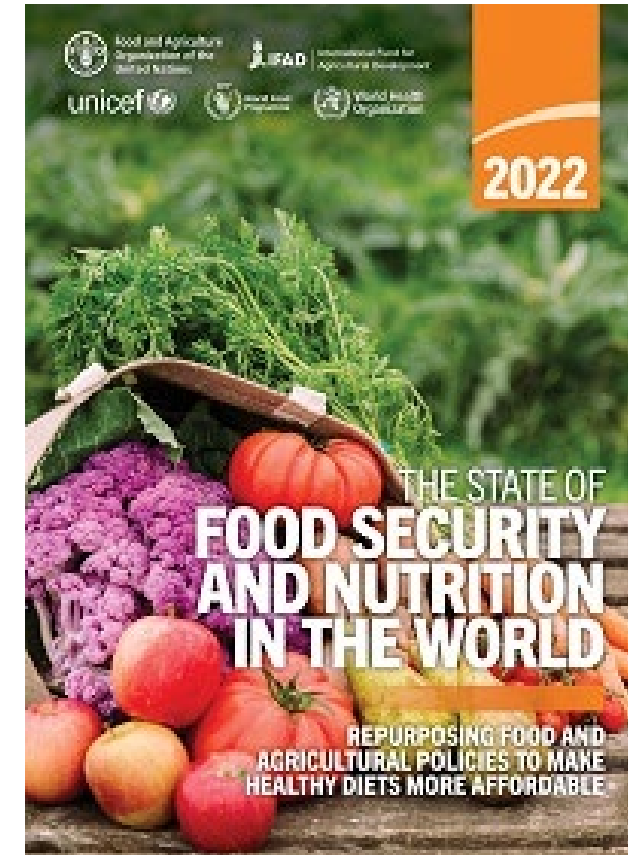
London, 21 – 23 September 2022

## International Plant Health Conference



## Global Food InSecurity

- Global Food Crisis is worsening- driven by Covid 19, conflict and climate change
- In 2021 828 million people (9.8% of global population) were affected by hunger (46 million more than in 2020 and 150 million more than in 2019)
- Projections that nearly 670 million people (8% of the world population) will still be facing hunger in 2030-even if a global economic recovery is taken into consideration
- Ireland is committed to supporting a global transformation to sustainable food systems



## Food Vision 2030

- Food Vision 2030 is the strategy for the sustainable development of the agri-food sector in Ireland.
- Food Vision 2030 sets out four high-level Missions for the sector to work towards:
  - ❖ A Climate Smart, Environmentally Sustainable Agri-Food Sector
  - ❖ Viable and Resilient Primary Producers with Enhanced Well-Being
  - ❖ Food that is Safe, Nutritious And Appealing, Trusted And Valued at Home and Abroad
  - ❖ An Innovative, Competitive and Resilient Agri-Food Sector, Driven by Technology And Talent



## The impact of plant pests on food security

- Potato Blight and The Great Famine in Ireland 1845-1852
  - Population of 8 million people
  - Monoculture and the over-reliance on one variety of potato
  - *Phytophthora infestans* (Potato Blight)
  - 1 million people died from starvation and disease and over 2 million people forced to emigrate
- According to the IPPC
  - Plant pests and diseases are responsible for losses of **20- 40% of global food production**



# Protecting Plant Health

- The International Plant Protection Convention
- Ireland - Member of the European Union and the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organisation, Contracting Party to the International Plant Protection Convention
- The European Union Plant Health Regulatory Framework
- Plant Health & Biosecurity Strategy 2020-2025 underpinned by 3 strategic principles:
  - Risk Anticipation
  - Surveillance
  - Awareness



# Plant Health Challenge- Trade, Travel and Climate Change

- Trade between countries drives economic development, prosperity and higher living standards.
- Global trade offers unprecedented opportunities for plant pests to hitch a ride and potentially invade new areas.
- eCommerce a new challenge for NPPOs.
- Movement of people increasing and with it plant health risk.
- Climate Change impacts on plant health and food security.



# A Call to Action - Protecting Plant Health, Ensuring Food Security

- Raise Awareness
- Build Phytosanitary Capacity
- Surveillance
- Communication and Collaboration - Internationally, Regionally (EPPO), EU level (EFSA, EURLs), Nationally
- Data, IT systems
- Risk Analysis and Risk Management
- Advances in Diagnostics
- Research and Innovation
- Support





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Thank you

**Louise Byrne**

*Chief Plant Health Officer for Ireland*

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