



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



International  
Plant Protection  
Convention

# REPORT

## EIGHTH MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF PLANT HEALTH INTERNATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE

**Rome, Italy**  
**25 May 2020**



INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF  
**PLANT HEALTH**  
2020

[www.fao.org/plant-health-2020](http://www.fao.org/plant-health-2020)  
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PROTECTING PLANTS,  
PROTECTING LIFE



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## 1. Opening of the Meeting

[1] Mr Jingyuan XIA, Secretary of the International Plant Protection Convention, welcomed all participants to the Eight Meeting of the International Steering Committee of the International Year of Plant Health (IYPH ISC). He reported on three major updates:

- Zambia agreed to be the Champion for the establishment of the International Day of Plant Health;
- IYPH Goodwill Ambassadors have been identified and are under assessment; and
- the IYPH Secretariat has made progress on plant health-related publications.

[2] Mr Ralf LOPIAN, Chairperson of the IYPH ISC, thanked Mr XIA, joined him in welcoming all participants and opened the meeting.

## 2. Adoption of the Agenda

[3] The Provisional Agenda was adopted and is attached to this report as [Annex 1](#).

## 3. Background and Reports

[4] The IYPH Secretariat reported that all actions from previous reports have been completed. The Participant List is attached to this report as [Annex 2](#).

## 4. IYPH Legacy

### International Day of Plant Health

[5] The IPPC Secretariat reported on the progress made in establishing the International Day of Plant Health (IDPH), namely that Zambia accepted to champion the process, and that CPM-12 discussed and approved 6 December as a tentative date for the IDPH. The IYPH ISC Chairperson thanked the IPPC Secretariat and reported the interest and support by several countries, especially from the African region.

[6] The IPPC Secretary suggested to promote the IDPH during the first semester of the year while several IYPH ISC member suggested to link the IDPH to standing international meetings or occurrences that can provide a boost to communication without overlapping with other global events or initiatives. He further elaborated that the justification for the suggested period aligns with crop growth and pest occurrences in both hemispheres, which may facilitate field visits and demonstrations during IDPH celebrations nationally, regionally and globally.

[7] The IYPH ISC Chairperson summarised the discussion regarding the most suitable day for the IDPH, also taking account of avoiding clashes with other relevant international occurrences, and identified the 3 April and 12 May as two equally suitable proposals after casting a vote on several dates proposed by the IYPH Secretariat. He suggested to the IYPH ISC to defer the final decision to the coming session of the Bureau of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM Bureau) on 4 June 2020.





The IYPH ISC:

- (1) *Deferred* the final decision to define the proposal for the establishment of the IDPH either on 3 April or 12 May to the CPM Bureau at its next meeting taking place on 4 June 2020.

## 5. IYPH Communication

Update on IYPH communications plan and key communication products

[8] The IYPH Secretariat reported on the progress made on the communication plan and key products that have been completed and are currently under development. The IYPH Secretariat mentioned the establishment of a monthly IYPH newsletter and that all stakeholders may find the relevant information to become IYPH national champions on the IYPH website. The IYPH Secretariat encouraged the IYPH ISC to make broad use of the available tools in their respective constituencies and with all relevant stakeholders.

[9] The IYPH ISC Chairperson asked to share the relevant information regarding the possibility to become national champions through the newsletter. The IYPH Secretariat clarified that the IYPH national champions can be selected and managed by IPPC National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs) or other relevant national authorities, National champions can be plant health experts or national celebrities, while influencers may not possess a plant health expertise or an affiliation to FAO necessarily, but a broad digital public outreach, and will be managed by FAO.

[10] The IYPH ISC:

- (2) *Agreed* that national champions should be appointed by IPPC Contracting Parties or Members of FAO.
- (3) *Asked* the IYPH Secretariat to publish clear indications of the tasks for the role of national champions and divulge this information through the appropriate channels.
- (4) *Asked* the IYPH ISC to propose a list of potential influencers to share with the IYPH Secretariat for further consultation and selection.

Update on IYPH Ambassadors

[11] The IYPH Secretariat reported no updates on Goodwill Ambassadors.

[12] One Member expressed disappointment about the process being further delayed and encouraged the IYPH Secretariat to adopt any measure possible to expedite the process. The IYPH Secretariat explained that the FAO Goodwill Ambassador Programme has been put on hold and this is the reason for some of the delays.

[13] The IYPH ISC Chairperson summarised the discussion and seconded the encouragement to the IYPH Secretariat to adopt all necessary measures to expedite the nominations of IYPH Goodwill Ambassadors.

[14] The IYPH ISC:

- (5) *Encouraged* the IYPH Secretariat to continue taking all necessary initiatives to expedite the nominations of IYPH Goodwill Ambassadors.





## 6. IYPH Action Plan

### 6.1 International Plant Health Conference and IYPH Closing Ceremony

[15] The IYPH ISC Chairperson updated the IYPH ISC regarding the new dates for the International Plant Health Conference, to be selected between 10–13 May and 28 June – 1 July 2021, with the IYPH Closing Ceremony that could be held in the afternoon of the last day, which will also coincide with the high-level segment taking place in the given period.

[16] The IYPH ISC:

- (6) *Agreed* that the IPHC should take place on 28 June – 1 July in Helsinki, Finland, and *asked* the IYPH Secretariat to initiate the planning of the event.
- (7) *Asked* the IYPH Secretariat to submit the selected dates to FAO Director-General.
- (8) *Asked* the IYPH ISC Chairperson to verify the feasibility to hold side events during the IPHC in Helsinki.

### 6.2 Update on study on impact of Climate Change and Plant Health

[17] The IYPH Secretariat updated the IYPH ISC on the current situation on the study on the impact of Climate Change on Plant Health.

[18] The IYPH ISC:

- (9) *Noted* the proposal on the next steps.
- (10) *Asked* that IYPH Secretariat to select the lead author, who would be responsible to select co-authors, based on relevant expertise and secure the involvement of relevant FAO divisions through various steps of the process.

### 6.3 Proposals for IYPH events/initiatives in 2020/2021

[19] This item was deferred to the next meeting due to time constraints.

## 7. Any Other Business

[20] One member of the IYPH Secretariat reported that there is going to be a workshop on Invasive Alien Species (IAS) with approximately 90 countries participating from Africa, Europe, Near East and Asia and promised to share more information as soon as it becomes available.

[21] Another member raised the issue of writing to Ministries of Agriculture worldwide, and noted the importance to involve plant health institutes in the IYPH programme at the national level.

[22] The IYPH ISC:

- (11) *Asked* the IYPH Secretariat to draft a letter to Ministers of Agriculture aiming to increase involvement in IYPH-related activities and initiatives at the national level.





## 8. Next Meeting

- [23] The IYPH ISC agreed to hold its next meeting 22 June 2020 at 1:00 – 3:00 pm (CEST) and focus on finances, information on the IYPH Goodwill Ambassadors, planning for the closing ceremony and influencers.

## 9. Close of the Meeting

- [24] The IYPH ISC Chairperson thanked all participants and closed the meeting.





## Annex 1 – Agenda

AGENDA ITEM		DOCUMENT NO.	PRESENTER
1	<b>Opening of the Meeting</b>		Mr Jingyuan XIA (IPPC Secretary) / Mr Ralf LOPIAN (ISC Chairperson)
2	<b>Adoption of the Agenda</b>	01_IYPH-ISC_2020-01	Mr Ralf LOPIAN
3	<b>Background and Reports</b>	Link to report of seventh IYPH ISC meeting	Mr Arop DENG (IYPH Secretariat)
4	<b>IYPH Legacy</b>	--	
4.1	International Day of Plant Health	--	Mr Arop DENG
5	<b>IYPH Communication</b>		
5.1	Update on IYPH communications plan and key communication products	--	Ms Berlant QABEEL (IYPH Secretariat)
5.2	Update on IYPH Ambassadors	--	Ms Berlant QABEEL
6	<b>IYPH Action Plan</b>		
6.1	International Plant Health Conference and IYPH Closing Ceremony	--	Mr Ralf LOPIAN
6.2	Update on study on impact of Climate Change and Plant Health	02_IYPH-ISC_2020-01	Ms Viivi KUVAJA (IYPH Secretariat)
6.3	Proposals for IYPH events/initiatives in 2020/2021	--	ISC members
7	<b>Any Other Business</b>	--	Mr Ralf LOPIAN
8	<b>Next Meeting</b>	--	Mr Ralf LOPIAN
9	<b>Close of the Meeting</b>	--	Mr Ralf LOPIAN

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## Annex 2 – Participants List

	Region	Name	Email address	Status
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✓	Asia	<b>Mr B. RAJENDER</b> Minister (Agriculture) at Embassy of India to Italy <b>INDIA</b>	<a href="mailto:agri.rome@mea.gov.in">agri.rome@mea.gov.in</a>	Asia Member
	Asia	<b>Mr MUHAMMAD SUHAIL MUHAMMAD</b> Agriculture Attaché Office Embassy of Malaysia <b>MALASYA</b>	<a href="mailto:aaa.rome@ambasciatamalaysia.it">aaa.rome@ambasciatamalaysia.it</a>	Asia Alternate
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	Europe	<b>Mr Sam BISHOP</b> Lead for the International Plant Health Policy Team at DEFRA <b>UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND</b>	<a href="mailto:sam.bishop@defra.gov.uk">sam.bishop@defra.gov.uk</a>	Europe Alternate
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### Annex 3 – Action List

N.	Action	Lead	Deadline
1	Define the proposal for the establishment of the IDPH either on 3 April or 12 May to the CPM Bureau at its next meeting	IYPH Secretariat CPM Bureau	4 June 2020
2	Publish clear indications of the tasks for the role of IYPH national champions and divulge this information through the appropriate channels	IYPH Secretariat	5 June 2020
3	Propose a list of potential influencers to share with the IYPH Secretariat for further consultation and selection	IYPH ISC	5 June 2020
4	Initiate the planning of the IPHC in Helsinki on 28 June – 1 July 2021, jointly with the IYPH closing ceremony, and inform FAO DG.	IYPH Secretariat	22 June 2020
5	Verify the feasibility to hold side events during the IPHC in Helsinki	IYPH ISC Chairperson	22 June 2020
6	Select the lead author for the study on Climate Change based on relevant expertise and secure the involvement of relevant FAO divisions through various steps of the process	IYPH Secretariat	22 June 2020
7	Draft a letter to Ministers of Agriculture aiming to increase involvement in IYPH-related activities and initiatives at the national level	IYPH Secretariat	22 June 2020

