



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



International
Plant Protection
Convention

REPORT

NINTH MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF PLANT HEALTH INTERNATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE

**Rome, Italy
22 June 2020**



INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF
PLANT HEALTH
2020

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PROTECTING PLANTS,
PROTECTING LIFE



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1. Opening of the Meeting

[1] Mr Ralf LOPIAN, Chairperson of the IYPH International Steering Committee, welcomed all participants and gave the floor to Mr Jingyuan XIA, Secretary of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), whom briefed IYPH ISC on five matters:

- the letter from the FAO Director-General (DG) to Ministers of Agriculture of all FAO members was cleared by the Office of the Director-General (ODG) and is currently being translated into FAO official languages;
- the International Plant Health Conference (IPHC) is going to take place in Helsinki from 28 June to 1 July 2021 and the IYPH Closing Ceremony will take place also in Helsinki on 1 July 2021;
- the ODG cleared the proposed IYPH Ambassadors;
- the number of countries issuing IYPH stamps issues raised to eleven and more are expected to issue IYPH stamps during 2020; and
- the CPM Bureau recommended to select a proposed date for the International Day of Plant Health and Zambia, champion of the IDPH, already submitted the proposal to the Committee of Agriculture (COAG).

[2] He thanked all participants for their attention and encouraged everybody to have engaging discussions.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

[3] The Agenda was adopted with two additions to AOB to inform the IYPH ISC about an event organised by the Forestry Department of FAO and to discuss the possibility to invite Zambia as permanent observer to IYPH ISC meetings. The provisional agenda is attached to this report as [Annex 1](#).

3. Background and Reports

[4] The IYPH Secretariat updated the IYPH ISC on the action points emerging from the previous meeting, which have all been carried out.

[5] Several IYPH ISC members underlined the excessive time required to draft and disseminate the letter by the DG to Ministers of Agriculture globally and suggested to verify the memberships of FAO and IPPC to spot potential discrepancies.

4. IYPH Legacy

4.1 International Day of Plant Health

[6] The IYPH Secretariat briefed the IYPH ISC regarding the process that led to Zambia deciding to champion the process for the establishment of the IDPH. The IYPH ISC suggested to prepare a draft budget for the





IDPH and a list of supporting governments taking advantage of the ongoing year and applying the IYPH visual identity to it.

[7] The IYPH Secretariat confirmed that resources are necessary to fund advocacy and communication activities related to the International Day and clarified that said resources for such international initiatives must come from extra-budgetary sources. The IYPH ISC Chairperson suggested to look into the latest proposals of International Days for comparison and in support of drafting the IDPH preliminary budget.

[8] He also informed the IYPH ISC about all the countries that expressed interest to champion the IDPH establishment, namely Zambia, Kenya and China, suggesting to the IYPH Secretariat to approach Kenya and China to probe their support to the process. The IYPH Secretariat underlined the importance to broaden the support and encouraged all IYPH ISC to advocate in favour of the IDPH in their respective constituencies.

[9] The IYPH ISC:

- (1) *Tasked* the IYPH Secretariat to prepare a draft budget for the IDPH based on the ones prepared for the International Bee Day and International Tea Day.
- (2) *Asked* the IYPH Secretariat to approach the governments of Kenya and China to assess their availability to continue supporting the IDPH proclamation.
- (3) *Asked* all IYPH ISC members to actively support the proclamation of the IDPH.
- (4) *Agreed* that the IYPH ISC Chairperson would write a letter to NPPOs to seek their active support to the IDPH proclamation.

5. IYPH Budget and Resource Mobilisation

[10] The IYPH Secretariat introduced the paper on the resource mobilisation, noting the additional pledge of the Republic of Korea of USD 160 000.

[11] One IYPH ISC member asked clarifications regarding the process that led to the decision to cancel the budget allocated to FAO Regional Conferences. The IYPH Secretariat clarified that the consideration to remove the specific budget allocation for FAO regional conferences happened before FAO communicated the decision to hold them anyway and also due travel restrictions, which are still in effect in many countries globally.

[12] The IYPH ISC considered the reasons that led to a rearrangement appropriate but deemed this initiative crucial for the IYPH main objective and asked the IYPH Secretariat to consider alternative ways to keep the regions engaged and involved, for instance advocating for plant health discussions in all those regional conferences where One Health is tabled for discussion.





- [13] The IYPH Secretariat proposed to set up an e-learning course on plant health to be shared in regional conferences, clarifying that the IPPC Secretariat has been working on some materials, which may avoid aggravating the current IYPH budget deficit.
- [14] Some IYPH ISC members asked to the IYPH Secretariat whether the EU provided any clarifications regarding the co-funding scheme for the IPHC in Helsinki. The IYPH Secretariat reported that it was still unclear whether certain costs might be considered appropriate in the EU co-funding scheme and proposed to reach out to the EU representative in the IYPH ISC for clarifications.
- [15] The IYPH ISC:
- (5) *Decided* that the IYPH Secretariat will monitor the adjustments to FAO Regional Conferences to coordinate with FAO Regional Offices, and plant protection officers in particular, to include plant health in the discussion.
 - (6) *Asked* the IYPH Secretariat to provide an update regarding the EU co-funding arrangements by the next meeting.
 - (7) *Agreed* on the proposal to balance the budget, including the suggested cancellation or reduction of the following costs:
 - cancellation of costs related to the organization of relevant coordination meetings with partners and participation in different events by partners (USD 47 000);
 - reduction of costs currently allocated for IYPH ISC and TAB meetings (USD 20 000);
 - (8) *Noted* that some costs may be shifted to 2021, particularly those associated to the IYPH meetings and events.

6. IYPH Communication

- [16] The IYPH Secretariat informed the IYPH ISC that the Activity Book is ready in English, Spanish and Italian and is being translated into the other FAO official languages and Dutch, and that a one-minute animation will flank it.
- [17] She also mentioned an increased support to promotion on social media, with monthly reports, and that the video on *A Day in the Life of a Plant Health Expert* is currently under production. The IYPH Secretariat also briefed on the extension of photo contest to 15 January 2021, the possibility to join the TED-ED platform and issuance of monthly IYPH newsletters.
- [18] The IYPH ISC:
- (9) *Noted* the update on IYPH communication.

6.1 Update on IYPH Influencers

- [19] The IYPH Secretariat noted that there have been no suggestions for influencers so far but proposals from IYPH ISC members would be welcomed.
- (10) *Noted* the update on IYPH Influencers and *agreed* to share relevant nominations as appropriate.





6.2 Update on IYPH Goodwill Ambassadors

[20] The IYPH Secretariat informed the IYPH ISC that the FAO Director-General cleared the list of ambassadors and the FAO Office for Corporate Communication (OCC) will ask for the support to other IYPH Secretariat members in reaching out to some of the ambassadors.

[21] The IYPH ISC:

(11) *Noted* the update on IYPH Goodwill Ambassadors.

7. IYPH Action Plan

7.1 Planning for the IYPH Closing Ceremony

[22] The IYPH ISC Chairperson introduced the paper on this topic, informing that alternative locations are being considered to host the closing ceremony as it was deemed more appropriate. He mentioned that high-level politicians from Finland and Zambia would be invited as speakers, as host country and IDPH champion respectively, and mentioned the possibility for IYPH donors to invite a high-level figure from their respective governments.

[23] The IYPH ISC discussed the opportunity to send joint invitations for the IYPH Closing Ceremony and asked the IYPH Secretariat to clarify the protocol required for such an occasion. The IYPH ISC agreed that IPHC and the Closing Ceremony are two separate events; the first one will be organized by Finland with the support of the IPPC Secretariat, and the second one will be organized jointly by FAO and Finland.

[24] The IYPH ISC Chairperson clarified that access to the IPHC also provides access to the Closing Ceremony and both events are likely to be webcast.

[25] The IYPH ISC:

(12) *Asked* the IYPH Secretariat to clarify the protocol in view of inviting dignitaries to attend the IYPH Closing Ceremony as quickly as possible.

7.2 Progress with Study on Impact of Climate Change on Plant Health

[26] The IYPH Secretariat confirmed that the lead author of the study on the impact of climate change on plant health will be Prof. Maria Lodovica Gullino of the University of Turin, encouraging IYPH ISC to provide suggestions for co-authors, especially from the Near East and North Africa and Latin America and Caribbean, which were currently not represented in the list of potential co-authors.

[27] The IYPH ISC:

(13) *Noted* the update on the study on impact of plant health and climate change.

(14) *Agreed* to provide nominations of potential co-authors as to ensure wide geographical representation of experts.





7.3 Proposals for IYPH events/initiatives in 2020/2021

- [28] The IYPH Secretariat proposed to explore the possibility to create sanitary masks with the IYPH visual identity and to arrange for a light show on the Empire State Building in New York City (USA) on 3 November 2020.
- [29] The IYPH ISC agreed to analyse the proposal at the next meeting and asked the IYPH Secretariat to present more details on the cost for IYPH sanitary masks and a structured proposal for the light show in New York City (USA).
- [30] The IYPH ISC:
- (15) *Asked* the IYPH Secretariat to present more details on the cost for IYPH sanitary masks and a structured proposal for the light show in New York City (USA).

8. Any Other Business

- [31] The representative of the FAO Forestry Department informed about an IYPH-related event entitled “Forest Invasive Species – the next Global Pandemic?” taking place on 29 July 2020 with the participation of coordinators and members of forest invasive species networks.
- [32] The IYPH ISC agreed to the IYPH ISC Chairperson’s proposal to invite Zambia as permanent observer to the IYPH ISC, in recognition of its role as Champion of the IDPH.
- [33] The IYPH ISC:
- (16) *Agreed* to include Zambia as permanent observer to the IYPH ISC and *asked* the IYPH Secretariat to take all necessary steps to include Zambia in the IYPH ISC List of Participants.

9. Next Meeting

- [34] The IYPH ISC Chairperson asked the IYPH Secretariat to share a survey amongst the IYPH ISC members and observers to determine the best date for the next IYPH ISC meeting, which should occur towards the end of August 2020.

10. Close of the Meeting

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



Annex 1 – Agenda

AGENDA ITEM		DOCUMENT NO.	PRESENTER
1	Opening of the Meeting		Mr Jingyuan XIA (IPPC Secretary) / Mr Ralf LOPIAN (ISC Chairperson)
2	Adoption of the Agenda	01_IYPH-ISC_2020-05	Mr Ralf LOPIAN
3	Background and Reports	Link to report of eighth IYPH ISC meeting	Mr Arop DENG (IYPH Secretariat)
4	IYPH Legacy	--	
4.1	International Day of Plant Health	--	Mr Arop DENG
5	IYPH Budget and Resource Mobilization	02_IYPH-ISC_2020-05	Mr Mirko MONTUORI (IYPH Secretariat)
6	IYPH Communication		
6.1	Update on IYPH Influencers	--	Ms Berlant QABEEL (IYPH Secretariat)
6.2	Update on IYPH Goodwill Ambassadors	--	Ms Berlant QABEEL
7	IYPH Action Plan		
7.1	Planning for the IYPH Closing Ceremony	03_IYPH-ISC_2020-06	Mr Ralf LOPIAN
7.2	Progress with Study on Impact of Climate Change on Plant Health	--	Ms Viivi KUVAJA (IYPH Secretariat)
7.3	Proposals for IYPH events/initiatives in 2020/2021	--	ISC members
8	Any Other Business	--	Mr Ralf LOPIAN
9	Next Meeting	--	Mr Ralf LOPIAN
10	Close of the Meeting	--	Mr Ralf LOPIAN

Annex 2 – Participants List

	Region	Name	Email address	Status
✓	Africa	Ms Elsa SIMOES Deputy Permanent Representative to FAO, IFAD and WFP CABO VERDE	elsa.simoese@ambcapoverde.com	Africa Member
	Africa	Ms Phyllis MENDS Deputy Representative of Ghana to FAO GHANA	phyllismends@yahoo.co.uk	Africa Alternate
✓	Asia	Mr B. RAJENDER Minister (Agriculture) at Embassy of India to Italy INDIA	agri.rome@mea.gov.in	Asia Member
	Asia	Mr MUHAMMAD SUHAIL MUHAMMAD Agriculture Attaché Office Embassy of Malaysia MALASYA	aaa.rome@ambasciatamalaysia.it	Asia Alternate
✓	Europe	Ms Aulikki HULMI Deputy Permanent Representative of Finland to FAO FINLAND	aulikki.hulmi@formin.fi	Europe Member
✓	Europe	Mr Sam BISHOP Lead for the International Plant Health Policy Team at DEFRA UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND	sam.bishop@defra.gov.uk	Europe Alternate
✓	Latin America and Caribbean	Mr Gustavo MOSTAJO Permanent Representation of Peru to Rome-based Agencies PERU	gmostajo555@gmail.com	Latin America and Caribbean Member
✓	Latin America and Caribbean	Ms Rebeca CUTIE CANCINO Consejera a cargo de Asuntos Multilaterales, Embassy of Cuba to Italy CUBA	ofimultilateral@ecuitalia.it	Latin America and Caribbean Alternate
✓	Latin America and Caribbean	Mr Junior ESCOBAR F. Alternate Permanent Representative of Nicaragua to FAO, IFAD and WFP Embassy of the Republic of Nicaragua to FAO, IFAD and WFP NICARAGUA	embanicitalia@gmail.com	Latin America and Caribbean Observer
✓	North America	Ms Jennifer FELLOWS Agricultural Counsellor, Embassy of Canada to Italy CANADA	Jennifer.Fellows@international.gc.ca	North America Member
	North America	Mr Sean COX Alternate Permanent Representative, US Mission to the UN Agencies in Rome UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	CoxS2@state.gov	North America Alternate
	North America	Ms Maria Adelaide D'ARCANGELO Alternate Permanent Representative, US Mission to the UN Agencies in Rome UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	MariaAdelaide.DArcangelo@fas.usda.gov	North America Alternate



✓	Southwest Pacific	Ms Ruth MALLET Agriculture Adviser, Australian Embassy in Rome AUSTRALIA	ruth.mallett@dfat.gov.au	Southwest Pacific Member
	Southwest Pacific	Mr Don SYME Deputy Permanent Representative New Zealand Embassy in Rome NEW ZEALAND	Don.Syme@mfat.govt.nz	Southwest Pacific Alternate
✓	IYPH Technical Advisory Board	Mr Ralf LOPIAN Senior Advisor International Affairs IPPC Official Contact Point Food Department / Animal and Plant Health Unit Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry Mariankatu 11, Helsinki Phone: (+358) 295 162329 FINLAND	ralf.lopian@mmm.fi	IYPH Technical Advisory Board Member
✓	IYPH Technical Advisory Board	Ms Kyu-ock YIM Senior Researcher Department of Plant Quarantine, Animal and Plant Quarantine Agency Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs 177, Hyeoksin 8-ro, Gimcheon-si Republic of Korea Phone: (+82) 549120627 REPUBLIC OF KOREA	koyim@korea.kr	IYPH Technical Advisory Board Member
✓	Academia and Research	Ms Anna Maria D'ONGHIA Principal Administrator - Head of the Knowledge Unit on Precision Crop Protection CENTRE INTERNATIONAL DE HAUTES ETUDES AGRONOMIQUES MEDITERRANEENNES (CIHEAM)	donghia@iamb.it	Academia and Research Representative
✓	Civil Society and Farmers Organization	Mr Pedro Ignacio GALLARDO BARRENA Chair of Copa-Cogeca Working Party on phytosanitary issues COPA-COGECA	pgallardo@asajacadiz.org pitgallardo@hotmail.com	Civil Society and Farmers Organization Representative
✓	Industry and Private Sector	Mr Michael KELLER Secretary-General INTERNATIONAL SEED FEDERATION (ISF)	M.Keller@worldseed.org	Industry and Private Sector Representative
✓	International Organization	Mr Rolando ALCALA SPS Section Agriculture and Commodities Division World Trade Organization Rue de Lausanne 154 1211 Geneva 21, Switzerland Tel: +41 22/ 739 65 83 Fax +41 22/ 739 57 60 WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION (WTO)	Rolando.Alcala@wto.org	International Organizations Representative
	Regional Group	Mr Roman VAGNER Administrator, DG SANTE, Plant Health Unit – European Commission Rue Froissart 101 Brussels, Belgium EUROPEAN UNION	Roman.VAGNER@ec.europa.eu	Regional Groups Representative





	Resource Organization	Mr Shane SELA Senior Trade Facilitation Specialist WORLD BANK	ssele@worldbank.org	Resource Organizations Representative
✓	Regional Plant Protection Organization	Mr Camilo BELTRAN MONTOYA Responsable de Sanidad Vegetal COMUNIDAD ANDINA	cbeltran@comunidadandina.org	RPPO Representative
✓	Regional Plant Protection Organization	Ms Juliet GOLDSMITH Plant Health Specialist Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency (CAHNSA)	juliet.goldsmith@cahnsa.org	RPPO Representative

Observers:

✓	FAO Regional Office for Africa	Mr Jean BAHAMA Plant Production and Protection Officer FAO RAF, Accra	Jean.Bahama@fao.org	FAO Regional Office Representative
	FAO Regional Office for Asia and Pacific	Mr Yubak GC Senior Agricultural Officer FAO RAP, Bangkok	Yubak.GC@fao.org	FAO Regional Office Representative
✓	FAO Regional Office for Europe	Mr Piotr WLODARCZYK Agricultural Officer FAO Regional Office, Budapest	Piotr.wlodarczyk@fao.org	FAO Regional Office Representative
✓	FAO Regional Office for Europe / FAO Forestry Department	Ms Shiroma SATHYAPALA Forestry Officer FAO REU, Budapest	Shiroma.Sathyapala@fao.org	FAO Forestry Department Representative
✓	FAO Regional Office for Latin America and Caribbean	Ms Raixa LAUGER Agricultural Officer FAO Subregional Office for Mesoamerica (SLM) for FAO RLC, Santiago	Raixa.Llauger@fao.org	FAO Regional Office Representative
✓	FAO Regional Office for Near East	Mr Thaer YASEEN Plant Protection Officer FAO Regional Office, Cairo	Thaer.Yaseen@fao.org	FAO Regional Office Representative

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Annex 3 – Action List

N.	Action	Lead	Deadline
1	Prepare a draft budget for the IDPH based on the ones prepared for the International Bee Day and International Tea Day.	IYPH Secretariat	Next IYPH ISC meeting
2	Approach the governments of Kenya and China to assess their availability to continue supporting the IDPH proclamation.	IYPH Secretariat	Next IYPH ISC meeting
3	Write a letter to NPPOs to seek their active support to the IDPH proclamation.	IYPH Chairperson	Next IYPH ISC meeting
4	Actively support the proclamation of the IDPH.	IYPH ISC member	Ongoing
5	Monitor the adjustments to FAO Regional Conferences to coordinate with FAO Regional Offices, and plant protection officers in particular, to include plant health in the discussion.	IYPH Secretariat	Ongoing
6	Provide an update regarding the EU co-funding arrangements.	IYPH Secretariat	Next IYPH ISC meeting
7	Update the IYPH budget taking into account the cancellation of costs related to the organization of relevant coordination meetings with partners and participation in different events by partners (USD 47 000) and the reduction of costs currently allocated for IYPH ISC and TAB meetings (USD 20 000), as well as the shifting of some costs to 2021, particularly those associated to the IYPH meetings and events.	IYPH Secretariat	Next IYPH ISC meeting
8	Send the IYPH Secretariat proposals for IYPH Influencers.	IYPH ISC members	Next IYPH ISC meeting
9	Clarify the protocol in view of inviting dignitaries to attend the IYPH Closing Ceremony as quickly as possible.	IYPH Secretariat	Next IYPH ISC meeting
10	Provide nominations of potential co-authors as to ensure wide geographical representation of experts.	IYPH ISC members	Next IYPH ISC meeting
11	Present more details on the cost for IYPH sanitary masks and a structured proposal for the light show in New York City (USA).	IYPH Secretariat	Next IYPH ISC meeting
12	Take all necessary steps to include Zambia in the IYPH ISC List of Participants.	IYPH Secretariat	Next IYPH ISC meeting
13	Share a survey amongst the IYPH ISC members and observers to determine the best date for the next IYPH ISC meeting, which should occur towards the end of August 2020.	IYPH Secretariat	As soon as possible