



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



International
Plant Protection
Convention

REPORT

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

Rome, Italy
31 August 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 Jingyuan XIA, newly appointed Director of the FAO Plant Production and Protection Division (NSP) and Officer in Charge of the Secretariat of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), welcomed all participants to the Tenth Meeting of the International Steering Committee of the International Year of Plant Health (IYPH ISC). In his opening remarks he also reported on the recent organizational changes at FAO. The exact positioning of the IPPC Secretariat is currently the object of further discussions, and three proposals will be tabled at the upcoming CPM Bureau meeting for their consideration for action in view of the next FAO Council meeting, aimed at ensuring the enhancement of the IPPC visibility and role in the new FAO structure. Mr XIA thanked the participants for the well-functioning cooperation throughout the previous years.
- [2] Mr Ralf LOPIAN, Chairperson of the IYPH ISC, thanked Mr. XIA for the update, and joined him in welcoming all the 41 participants to the meeting. With Mr. LOPIAN's lead, the IYPH ISC congratulated Mr. XIA on his promotion and thought it would be beneficial to receive a written information about the possible positioning of the IPPC Secretariat with FAO.
- [3] The IYPH ISC:
- (1) *asked* the Secretariat to prepare a one-pager on the possible IPPC positioning options in the new FAO structure to be circulated to the IYPH ISC members and observers by 7 September 2020.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

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

3. Participants list

- [5] The IYPH ISC welcomed the presence of Mr. Martin KABEMBA (Zambia) as an observer to the IYPH ISC, and the participation of Ms. Kershia Cavele (WTO) as an observer in addition to the WTO member. The participants list is attached to this report as [Annex 2](#).

4. Background and Reports

- [6] The IYPH Secretariat reported that all actions from previous reports have been completed or well in progress.

5. IYPH Legacy

5.1 International Day of Plant Health

- [7] The IPPC Secretariat reported on the progress made in establishing the International Day of Plant Health (IDPH). Mr Arop DENG presented the initial draft budget (USD 126 142 per year) for the IDPH, which included costs on the personnel, communications and possible virtual events.
- [8] The IYPH ISC:
- (2) *reviewed* the budget, which would be applicable for 2022.
 - (3) *endorsed* it as the possible future budget for the IDPH.

6. IYPH Budget and Resource Mobilization

- [9] The IPPC Secretariat presented an update on the IYPH budget. The overall IYPH budget for 2020 is set at USD 1 220 909: USD 857 000 originally foreseen in the IPPC Secretariat work plan and budget for 2020, plus additional costs to cover additional activities including increased costs for the International Plant Health Conference, the IYPH Ambassadors and the development of three studies.





- [10] The European Commission confirmed their pledge to support the Plant Health Conference in Helsinki, and will start working on specifications. Co-funding remains necessary at an equal share with other contributions. The European Commission will clarify which costs need to be co-funded. Overall, the IYPH budget remains well balanced.
- [11] The IYPH ISC:
- (4) *noted* the report on the current IYPH financial situation.
 - (5) *approved* the revised budget, while noting that some pledged contributions were not transferred yet, and some costs would be shifted to 2021 due to the current pandemic.
 - (6) *agreed* to share and advocate for donations in respective constituencies as deemed relevant.

7. IYPH Communication

7.1 Update on IYPH communications

- [12] The IYPH Secretariat reported on the progress made on the communication plan and key products that have been completed and are currently under development. A new children’s video animation on the IYPH was recently published on the IYPH website, and has immediately gained popularity among viewers. The children’s activity book is now available in all six UN languages, and also in Dutch and Italian. A TED-Ed video focusing on a quarantine pest and the importance of protecting plants from pests will be launched by the end of the year.
- [13] The IYPH Secretariat also updated that already 15 countries have launched an IYPH postage stamp, with two more countries joining soon. Three countries – Belgium, Italy and Mexico - have minted an IYPH coin.
- [14] The IYPH ISC:
- (7) *noted* the update on IYPH communications.
 - (8) *asked* the Secretariat to follow up whether the Vatican Radio interview could be translated into French, Spanish and Portuguese in order to have its contents distributed as wide and far as possible.

7.2 Update on the IYPH Influencers and social media

- [15] The IYPH Secretariat informed the participants that the social media remains active: for instance in July 2020, nearly 100 IYPH items were posted by FAO and the IPPC Secretariat, in addition to IYPH being mentioned over 1420 times from other social media accounts, with an overall viewing potential of over 35 million social media users. For example the main IYPH promotional video has already received over 2.7 million views, while the IYPH video animation has received approximately 100 000 accumulative views, and the video on the “Day in the life of a plant professional” has received approximately 5 000 views.
- [16] One member of the IYPH ISC inquired whether the Secretariat had information on how far the IYPH communications on social media are reaching in terms of regions, and that how effectively the messages are being communicated to certain regions. The IYPH Secretariat agreed to look into this and include it in the next update.
- [17] The IYPH Secretariat also informed that to date, over 668 plant health related posts were shared via FAO’s multilingual social media accounts. The Organization was mentioned over 14 651 times from other social media accounts and had the opportunity to be seen by over 184 million social media users in their feed. In the month of August, the IYPH website had 8 751 users and 20 788 page views. An average of 02:40 minutes were spent on the IYPH website.
- [18] The IYPH Secretariat informed that one IYPH influencer is now confirmed, with key messages and videos currently work-in-progress, and expected to be launched in few weeks. One IYPH ISC member reiterated that the influencers should be locally recruited and speak the local languages. The member emphasized that influencing the political level is important, otherwise technical level would suffer as well.
- [19] The IYPH ISC:





(9) *noted* the update on IYPH influencers and social media.

(10) *asked* the IYPH Secretariat to provide statistics on social media reach by region, in view of ensuring that all regions are appropriately covered and informed.

7.3 Update on IYPH Goodwill Ambassadors

[20] Regarding the IYPH Ambassadors, the Secretariat informed that a number of pre-identified potential personalities had been approached, and that now two Ambassadors have been confirmed, and two more may be confirmed soon.

[21] The IYPH ISC:

(11) *noted* the updates on IYPH Goodwill Ambassadors.

(12) *expressed* the hope that the rest of IYPH Goodwill Ambassadors will be confirmed and appointed soon.

8. IYPH Action Plan

8.1 Planning for the International Plant Health Conference and IYPH Closing Ceremony

[22] The IYPH ISC Chairperson updated the IYPH ISC on the status of the International Plant Health Conference, which should be organized on 28-30 June 2021, followed with the IYPH Closing Ceremony on 1 July. With the COVID-19 pandemic still full on, he informed that he would wait until October 2020, possibly even until January 2021, to see how the situation evolves before making the decision whether the conference takes place in Helsinki or whether it will be organized fully online.

[23] The IYPH Secretariat also reported on actions taken to secure the FAO Director General's participation at the IYPH closing ceremony. Planning for the conference and IYPH closing ceremony will be the focus of the next IYPH ISC meeting.

8.2 Progress with the Study on Impact of Climate Change and Plant Health

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

[25] The selected lead author for the study, Professor Maria Lodovica Gullino from the University of Turin, has identified and contacted several possible co-author candidates in all FAO regions to work alongside her, and eventually eight scientists expressed their availability for the task.

[26] FAO had the first introductory meeting with the authors on 23 July. In the meeting, a schedule for the study was agreed and individual tasks were assigned according to relevant expertise. The first draft will be sent to FAO for comments on 23 November.

[27] The IYPH ISC:

(13) *noted* the update.

8.3 Proposals for IYPH events/initiatives in 2020/2021

[28] Ms. Shiroma SATHYAPALA (FAO) reported on the webinar that took place on 29 July on forest invasive species in the context of IYPH, with over 600 registered users. She also reported on a side event in the World Forestry Congress 24-25 May 2021 in Seoul or virtually (currently work-in-progress with IUFRO). The IYPH Chair Mr. LOPIAN invited Ms. SATHYAPALA to liaise with the IYPH Secretariat to work together on this event.

[29] Mr. Pedro Ignacio GALLARDO BARRENA informed that the EU farm to fork strategy will reduce the use of fertilizers and pesticides. Currently support to the COPA-COGECA initiative is being sought. A copy of the document will be sent for discussion.





[30] Mr. LOPIAN informed that he attended a science gallery webinar organized by the Bangalore Science Gallery. The event was called “Phytopia” and combined art and science to attract young people to science and plant health. Mr. LOPIAN expressed his desire to organize a similar initiative in the spring of 2021, to be tabled at the next IYPH ISC meeting.

[31] The IYPH Secretariat invited to share IYPH-related initiatives to add them to the calendar of events.

[32] The IYPH ISC:

(14) *agreed* to support the IDPH proclamation at the upcoming COAG meeting.

9. Any Other Business

[33] The IYPH Secretariat encouraged the participants subscribe to and share the IYPH newsletter.

10. Next Meeting

[34] The IYPH Secretariat will send a Doodle to settle the dates for the next meetings (at least two, or three if needed) for the rest of the year 2020.

11. 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 - OiC) / Mr Ralf LOPIAN (ISC Chairperson)
2	Adoption of the Agenda	01_IYPH-ISC_2020-08	Mr Ralf LOPIAN
3	Participants List	02_IYPH-ISC_2020-08	Mr Mirko MONTUORI (IYPH Secretariat)
4	Background and Reports	Link to report of ninth IYPH ISC meeting	Mr Arop DENG (IYPH Secretariat)
5	IYPH Legacy	--	
5.1	International Day of Plant Health	05_IYPH-ISC_2020-08	Mr Arop DENG
6	IYPH Budget and Resource Mobilization	03_IYPH-ISC_2020-08	Mr Mirko MONTUORI
7	IYPH Communication		Mr Mirko MONTUORI
7.1	Update on IYPH communications	--	
7.2	Update on IYPH Influencers and social media	--	
7.3	Update on IYPH Goodwill Ambassadors	--	
8	IYPH Action Plan		
8.1	Planning for the International Plant Health Conference and IYPH Closing Ceremony	--	Mr Ralf LOPIAN
8.2	Progress with Study on Impact of Climate Change on Plant Health	04_IYPH-ISC_2020-08	Ms Viivi KUVAJA (IYPH Secretariat)
8.3	Proposals for IYPH events/initiatives in 2020/2021	--	ISC members
9	Any Other Business	--	Mr Ralf LOPIAN
10	Next Meeting	--	Mr Ralf LOPIAN
11	Close of the Meeting	--	Mr Ralf LOPIAN

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Annex 2 – Participants List

IYPH ISC members:

	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@mmm.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	Ms Monica ROBELO 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 Member
✓	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 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 Gustavo MOSTAJO OCOLA Agregado Agrícola ante la FAO, PMA y FIDA PERU	gmostajo@ambasciataperu.com	Latin America and Caribbean Alternate



✓	Latin America and Caribbean	Ms Carolina CARRANZA NUNEZ Alternate Permanent Representative of Peru at FAO PERU	embperu@ambasciataperu.it	Latin America and Caribbean Alternate
✓	Near East	Ms Sadia Elmubarak Ahmed DAAK Agricultural Counsellor, Embassy of Sudan to Italy SUDAN	saadiadaaka@yahoo.com	Near East Member
✓	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 / Chairperson	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 / Vice-Chairperson	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	donghia@iamb.it	Academia and Research Representative





		Principal Administrator - Head of the Knowledge Unit on Precision Crop Protection CENTRE INTERNATIONAL DE HAUTES ETUDES AGRONOMIQUES MEDITERRANEENNES (CIHEAM)		
✓	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
✓	Industry and Private Sector	Ms Rose Souza RICHARDS Secretary-General INTERNATIONAL SEED FEDERATION (ISF)	R.SouzaRichards@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
✓	International Organization	Ms Angelina KERSHIA Young Professional WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION (WTO)	kershiaangelina.cavele@wto.org	International Organizations Representative / Observer
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	Resource Organization	Mr Shane SELA Senior Trade Facilitation Specialist WORLD BANK	ssela@worldbank.org	Resource Organizations Representative
✓	Regional Plant Protection Organization	On a rotational basis Present at the 10th meeting: Visoni TIMOTE (SPC) Nico HORN (EPPO)	nico.horn@epo.int juliet.goldsmith@cahfsa.org cbeltran@comunidadandina.org cristinagaleano@gmail.com jeangerardmezuimella@yahoo.fr stephanie.bloem@nappo.org emedina@oirsa.org visonit@spc.int cdelacruz@senasa.gob.pe cendara@comunidadandina.org	RPPO Representative





Observers:

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	FAO Regional Office for Asia and Pacific	Mr GC YUBAK Senior Agricultural Officer CC: Ms Xiangjun YAO Regional Programme Leader Mr Sridhar DHARMAPURI Senior Food Safety and Nutrition Officer Ms Bo ZHOU Senior Agricultural Officer FAO Regional Office, Bangkok	Yubak.GC@fao.org CC: Xiangjun.Yao@fao.org Sridhar.Dharmapuri@fao.org Bo.Zhou@fao.org	FAO Regional Office Representative
✓	FAO Regional Office for Europe	Mr Piotr WLODARCZYK Agricultural Officer Ms Shiroma SATHYAPALA (present at the 10 th meeting) Forestry Officer CC: Mr Nabil GANGI Deputy Regional Representative Mr Viliami FAKAVA (present at the 10 th meeting) Plant Production and Protection Officer FAO Regional Office, Budapest	Piotr.wlodarczyk@fao.org Shiroma.Sathyapala@fao.org CC: Nabil.Gangi@fao.org Viliami.fakava@fao.org	FAO Regional Office Representative
	FAO Regional Office for Latin America	Ms Raixa LLAUGER Agricultural Officer FAO Subregional Office for Mesoamerica, Panama City	Raixa.Llauger@fao.org	FAO Regional Office Representative
✓	FAO Regional Office for Near East	Mr Thaer YASEEN Agricultural Officer FAO Regional Office, Cairo	Thaer.Yaseen@fao.org	FAO Regional Office Representative
✓	International Day of Plant Health Champion	Mr Martin KABEMBA Agricultural Research Officer CC: Mr Kenneth MSISKA Mr Chris KATOKA NPPO of Zambia	martinkabemba@yahoo.com CC: msiska12@yahoo.co.uk chriskatota@gmail.com	International Day of Plant Health Champion
✓	National Plant Protection Organization	Mr Viliami KAMI Head of Quarantine and Quality Management Division Ministry of Agriculture, Food, Forestry, and Fisheries Nuku'alofa TONGA	maf-ento@kalianet.to	IYPH Technical Advisory Board





FAO Secretariat:

✓	IPPC Secretariat	Mr Avetik NERSISYAN	Avetik.Nersisyan@fao.org
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Annex 3 – Action List

N.	Action	Lead	Deadline
1	Prepare a one-pager on the possible IPPC positioning options in the new FAO structure to be circulated to the IYPH ISC members and observers.	IYPH Secretariat	7 September 2020
2	Prepare a Doodle to set a date for the remaining IYPH ISC meetings in 2020	IYPH Secretariat	7 September 2020
3	Clarify in the IYPH budget which exact costs need to be co-funded.	European Commission / IYPH Secretariat	Next IYPH ISC meeting
4	Ensure that IYPH Goodwill Ambassadors are confirmed and appointed.	IYPH Secretariat	Next IYPH ISC meeting
5	Explore the possibility to figure out how far the IYPH communications on social media are reaching in terms of regions, and how effectively the messages are being communicated to certain regions.	IYPH ISC	Next IYPH ISC meeting
6	Follow up whether the Vatican Radio interview could be translated into French, Spanish and Portuguese.	IYPH Secretariat	Next IYPH ISC meeting
7	Support proclamation of International Day of Plant Health at upcoming COAG meeting.	IYPH ISC	COAG (28 September to 2 October 2020)

