



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



International  
Plant Protection  
Convention

# REPORT

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

**Rome, Italy**  
**12 October 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 Ralf LOPIAN, Chairperson of the International Steering Committee of the International Year of Plant Health (IYPH ISC), opened the meeting and invited all participants to observe one minute of silence to commemorate Dr Kim RITMAN.

## 2. Adoption of the Agenda

- [2] The Provisional Agenda was circulated and is attached to this report as Annex 1.

## 3. Participants List

- [3] The Participants List is attached to this report as Annex 2.

## 4. Background and Reports

- [4] The IYPH Secretariat reported that all actions emerging from the previous IYPH ISC meeting were fully carried out.

## 5. IYPH Legacy: International Day of Plant Health

- [5] IPPC Secretariat reported to the IYPH ISC regarding the endorsement by the FAO Committee on Agriculture (COAG) to the proposal for an International Day of Plant Health during its twenty-seventh session held from 28 September to 2 October 2020, further clarifying that the resolution will now move on to the FAO Council in December 2020, later to the FAO Conference in July 2021.
- [6] The IYPH ISC Chairperson thanked all IYPH ISC for their support and asked for proposals to move it forward. The IYPH ISC discussed the opportunity to draft another letter to all IPPC contracting parties and the FAO Regional Group presidents to support the introduction of the draft resolution to establish the International Day of Plant Health (IDPH).
- [7] The IYPH ISC:
- (1) *Asked* the IYPH ISC Chairperson to draft a letter to all IPPC contracting parties and the FAO Regional Group presidents to support the introduction of the draft resolution to establish the International Day of Plant Health.
  - (2) *Invited* the Permanent Representative of Zambia to send a letter to the FAO Council in support of the IDPH proposal.

## 6. IYPH Budget and Resource Mobilization

- [8] The IYPH Secretariat presented the key elements of the update on the IYPH budget and resource mobilisation, underlining the need to move some of the expenses for 2020 to 2021. The IYPH Secretariat specified that some of the activities are not currently being translated but suggested that some resources may be allotted to provide translation to the research on the impact of climate change on plant health, amongst others. The IYPH Secretariat further clarified that the co-funding mechanism of the European Union does not cover in-kind contributions.
- [9] Mr Roman VAGNER (European Union) suggested to include the budget adjusted to the possibility that meetings in 2021 will not be taking place physically but virtually, including clear indications regarding the technical feasibility as well. He confirmed the EU financial support to the International Plant Health Conference (IPHC), but the support may vary, depending on whether the conference will be taking place face-to-face or through digital means.

The IYPH ISC:





- (3) *Noted* the report.
- (4) *Asked* the IYPH Secretariat to include a financial analysis if the IPHC is done virtually instead of physically, adjusting the budget accordingly.
- (5) *Decided* to hold a discussion on the contributed resources at the next meeting of the IYPH ISC, especially focusing on pledged contributions and the co-funding mechanism of the European Union.

## 7. IYPH Communication<sup>1</sup>

- [10] The IYPH Secretariat reported that two Goodwill Ambassadors (GWAs) and one Champion received the official nomination letters and the recent achievements in communications activities, particularly with regards to social media, outreach and the publication of stamps as well as additional translation of the IYPH visual identity in over thirty languages, which is more than any other International Year so far.
- [11] The IYPH ISC congratulated the IYPH ISC for the appointment of two GWAs, and noted that the communication activities that seem to be picking up the pace with some encouraging numbers. Some IYPH ISC members asked for greater inclusion of the GWAs and Champions in national initiatives, noting that several organizations working in plant health already operate but are not interacting with the IYPH Secretariat. The IYPH ISC suggested to hold some technical events to continue promoting plant health.
- [12] The IYPH Secretariat clarified that we are currently facing some difficulties to reach out to the nominees, suggesting compensating with local influencers, particularly for Asia, Near East and Africa. The IYPH Secretariat informed the IYPH ISC that the nominated GWAs and Champions already expressed their availability to participate in the IYPH events.
- [13] The IYPH ISC:
  - (6) *Asked* the IYPH Secretariat to interface with the relevant regional and national representatives to further include FAO Special Goodwill Ambassadors and Champions in more activities at the national level.
  - (7) *Asked* the IYPH Secretariat to attach the presentation on communication delivered by the IYPH Secretariat to this report as [Annex 4](#).
  - (8) *Asked* the IYPH Secretariat to increase the technical and professional level of communication contents during the remainder of the current year and during the first semester of 2021.

## 8. IYPH Action Plan

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

- [14] The IYPH ISC Chairperson provided an update regarding the International Plant Health Conference (IPHC), which is also being impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, especially considering the spiking cases in Europe. He suggested to begin considerations to hold the IPHC virtually.
- [15] The IYPH Secretariat encouraged the IYPH ISC to attend the celebrations for this year's World Food Day on 16 October not only with the purpose of celebrating the initiative but also as a learning experience in view of a virtually held IPHC.
- [16] The IYPH ISC Chairperson invited the IYPH ISC to discuss potential adjustments or modifications to the IPHC in view of the aggravated situation of the COVID-19 pandemic. The IYPH ISC discussed the opportunity to hold a face-to-face IPHC, postponing it to October 2021, or go virtual. The IYPH ISC

<sup>1</sup> Agenda items 7.1 Update on IYPH Communications, 7.2 Update on IYPH Influencers and social media and 7.3 Update on FAO Special Goodwill Ambassadors were presented and discussed jointly.





concluded to maintain the IPHC as scheduled from 28 June to 1 July 2020 after in-depth discussion and asked the IYPH Secretariat to draft a programme for three potential scenarios:

- a) maintaining the IPHC as a face-to-face meeting;
- b) designing a hybrid system, with the possibility to participate both physically and virtually; and
- c) planning for a completely virtual IPHC.

[17] The IYPH ISC Chairperson agreed to work with the IYPH Secretariat to draft three scenarios as suggested, including a precise timeline.

[18] The IYPH ISC:

(9) *Agreed* to maintain the International Plant Health Conference as currently scheduled from 28 June to 1 July 2021.

(10) *Asked* the IYPH ISC Chairperson to consult for the availability of the Conference venues and work with the IYPH Secretariat to design a virtual, hybrid and physical setting to hold the IPHC.

## 8.2 Progress with Study on Impact of Climate Change on Plant Health

[19] The IYPH Secretariat reported the progress with the study on Impact of Climate Change on Plant Health.

[20] The IYPH ISC:

(11) *Noted* the report by the IYPH Secretariat.

## 9. Proposals for IYPH events/initiatives in 2020/2021

[21] The IYPH ISC suggested to have the summary of the activities in each region by FAO Regional Group chairs or regional plant protection organizations (RPPOs) to learn about their initiatives and experiences.

[22] The IYPH Secretariat reported about the interest of several artists to work on plant health as an inspirational theme. The IYPH ISC Chairperson asked the IYPH Secretariat to monitor for initiatives bringing together art and plant health.

[23] The IYPH ISC reiterated the importance of planning additional events involving GWAs; IYPH Secretariat to organise an event toward spring 2021 with technical background.

[24] The IYPH ISC:

(12) *Invited* Regional representatives and RPPOs to continue sharing initiatives and activities related to plant health, focusing – if possible – on the lessons learnt and providing a comprehensive feedback to build on for future technical events.

(13) *Asked* the IYPH Secretariat to investigate how an event linking art and plant health may be organised during 2021, with the purpose of raising awareness on plant health amongst the general public.

(14) *Urged* the IYPH Secretariat to engage the FAO Special Goodwill Ambassadors and Champion for their involvement in IYPH events.

## 10. Any Other Business

[25] The IYPH Chairperson noted no item under Any Other Business.





### 11. Next Meeting

[26] The IYPH Secretariat informed the IYPH ISC that the next meeting of the IYPH ISC is scheduled on 24 November 2020 at 13:00 CET.

### 12. Close of the Meeting

[27] 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 Ralf LOPIAN (ISC Chairperson)
2	<b>Adoption of the Agenda</b>	01_IYPH-ISC_2020-10	Mr Ralf LOPIAN
3	<b>Participants List</b>	02_IYPH-ISC_2020-10	Mr Mirko MONTUORI (IYPH Secretariat)
3	<b>Background and Reports</b>	Link to report of tenth IYPH ISC meeting	Mr Arop DENG (IYPH Secretariat)
4	<b>IYPH Legacy</b>	--	
4.1	International Day of Plant Health	03_IYPH-ISC_2020-10	Mr Arop DENG
5	<b>IYPH Budget and Resource Mobilization</b>	04_IYPH-ISC_2020-10	Mr Mirko MONTUORI
6	<b>IYPH Communication</b>		Mr Berlant QABEEL (IYPH Secretariat)
6.1	Update on IYPH Communications	--	
6.2	Update on IYPH Influencers and social media	--	
6.3	Update on FAO Special Goodwill Ambassadors	--	
7	<b>IYPH Action Plan</b>		
7.1	Planning for the International Plant Health Conference and IYPH Closing Ceremony	--	Mr Ralf LOPIAN
7.2	Progress with Study on Impact of Climate Change on Plant Health	05_IYPH-ISC_2020-10	Ms Viivi KUVAJA (IYPH Secretariat)
7.3	Proposals for IYPH events/initiatives in 2020/2021	--	ISC members
8	<b>Any Other Business</b>	--	Mr Ralf LOPIAN
9	<b>Next Meeting</b>	--	Mr Ralf LOPIAN
10	<b>Close of the Meeting</b>	--	Mr Ralf LOPIAN

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## Annex 2 – Participants List

### IYPH ISC members:

	Region	Name	Email address	Status
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	Asia	<b>Mr MUHAMMAD SUHAIL MUHAMMAD</b> Agriculture Attaché Office Embassy of Malaysia <b>MALAYSIA</b>	<a href="mailto:aaa.rome@ambasciatamalaysia.it">aaa.rome@ambasciatamalaysia.it</a>	Asia Alternate
✓	Europe	<b>Ms Aulikki HULMI</b> Deputy Permanent Representative of Finland to FAO <b>FINLAND</b>	<a href="mailto:Aulikki.Hulmi@mmm.fi">Aulikki.Hulmi@mmm.fi</a>	Europe Member
✓	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	Draft a letter to all IPPC contracting parties and the FAO Regional Group presidents to support the introduction of the draft resolution to establish the International Day of Plant Health	IYPH ISC Chairperson	02/11/2020
2	Send a letter to the FAO Council in support of the IDPH proposal	Zambia	02/11/2020
3	Draft a financial analysis if the IPHC is done virtually instead of physically, adjusting the budget accordingly	IYPH Secretariat	20/11/2020
4	Interface with the relevant regional and national representatives to further include FAO Special Goodwill Ambassadors and Champions in more activities at the national level	IYPH Secretariat	23/11/2020
5	Consult for the availability of the Conference venues and work with the IYPH Secretariat to design a virtual, hybrid and physical setting to hold the IPHC	IYPH ISC Chairperson IYPH Secretariat	23/11/2020
6	Investigate how an event linking art and plant health may be organised during 2021, with the purpose of raising awareness on plant health amongst the general public	IYPH Secretariat	15/12/2020

