



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



International  
Plant Protection  
Convention

# REPORT

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

**Rome, Italy**  
**24 November 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), welcomed all participants to the twelfth meeting and invited Mr Avetik NERSISYAN, IPPC Officer-in-Charge for daily matters, to provide an update on behalf of the IPPC Secretariat.
- [2] Mr NERSISYAN updated the IYPH ISC on the IPPC Secretary vacancy announcement, which would be open until 10 January 2021, encouraging IYPH ISC members to invite valid candidates to apply. He mentioned that the IPPC Secretariat staff is mostly teleworking but still supporting the IYPH as much as possible, given the overall beneficial impacts of the International Year on the global plant health community.

## 2. Adoption of the Agenda

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

## 3. Participants List

- [4] The Participants List is attached to this report as [Annex 2](#).

## 4. Background and Reports

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

## 5. IYPH Legacy

### 5.1 International Day of Plant Health

- [6] The IYPH Secretariat updated the IYPH ISC on the current advancement status of the International Day of Plant Health (IDPH), which was included in the Provisional Agenda of the FAO Council under item 8.1 Report of the 27<sup>th</sup> session of the Committee on Agriculture (COAG). He further clarified the IYPH ISC and Zambia have been preparing letters to send to the attention of the Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council and its Members.
- [7] Mr Bommakanti RAJENDER, newly appointed Chairperson of the FAO COAG, informed the IYPH ISC that the COAG approved the proposal for an International Day of Plant Health and regional groups are drafting specific messages to further support its endorsement at the next FAO Council session.
- [8] The IYPH ISC Chairperson suggested to send a letter himself in the eventuality Zambia may not react in time to deliver the letter to the FAO Council. He also suggested that the IPPC Secretariat may draft a first proposal for events for the first International Day of Plant Health (12 May 2022), to be presented at CPM-15.
- [9] The IPPC Secretariat also clarified that the IDPH proposal is included in the COAG Report, and will be approved together en bloc, with other similar initiatives present in the report.

- [10] The IYPH ISC:

- (1) *Agreed* that Zambia will send a letter to the attention of the Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council and its Members.
- (2) *Asked* the IPPC Secretariat to present a draft plan for initiatives and activities for the first foreseeable International Day of Plant Health on 12 May 2022 at CPM-15.

### 5.2 Youth Declaration on Plant Health

- [11] The IYPH Secretariat introduced the proposal to entertain a Youth Declaration on Plant Health in the context of the International Year of Plant Health, clarifying that this proposal was shared with various youth





groups in relevant international organizations seeking additional inputs to develop this idea further. The IPPC Secretariat suggested that the declaration be prepared by the youth for the youth to ensure ownership of the initiative and active engagement. It recalled the major scheduled steps and appointments during 2021 leading to the finalisation of the Youth Declaration and its follow-up initiative.

- [12] The IYPH ISC asked for clarifications regarding the participation of those countries that may not have a well-established youth group as well as on the participation of younger generations. The IYPH Secretariat specified that a call has been issued to foster participation globally and that it may be necessary to assess the actual engagement prior to initiating additional initiatives to broaden participation.
- [13] The IYPH ISC highlighted the importance of including university student associations, local youth organizations as well as other groups, such as boy- and girl scouts, that involve youngsters in activities raising awareness about the environment.
- [14] The IYPH ISC
  - (3) *Welcomed* the IPPC Secretariat’s proposal to entertain a youth declaration as one of the legacies of the International Year of Plant Health.
  - (4) *Suggested* the widest possible inclusion of youth, including those organizations engaging undergraduate or even junior individuals to participate in plant health activities.

## 6. IYPH Budget and Resource Mobilization

- [15] The IYPH Secretariat updated the IYPH ISC on the current financial situation of the International Year of Plant Health, clarifying that some funds will need to be reassessed in light of the current pandemic and that certain operational costs require additional reassessment. These include reduced costs for planned events, particularly CPM-15, which did not take place and the World Food Day, whose IYPH-related activities run on a zero budget.
- [16] Ms Kyu-ock KIM (Republic of Korea) informed the IYPH ISC that the pledged contribution for 2020 will be transferred to the IPPC Multi Donor Trust Fund in December 2020, along with additional USD 50 000 to support IYPH activities. Mr Roman VAGNER (EU Commission) informed that the EU contribution specifications are being updated with the clear objective of making them available for the International Plant Health Conference (IPHC) in June 2021. The IYPH ISC also asked that any previous pledge given for financing the IYPH but not attributed yet, should be investigated and its status clarified.
- [17] The IYPH ISC
  - (5) *Noted* the update on IYPH Budget and Resource Mobilization.
  - (6) *Thanked* the Republic of Korea for its pledge of USD 50 000 to support IYPH activities.

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

- [18] The IYPH Secretariat updated on the work carried out with Ambassadors and Champion in each region, on the website update to provide and the detailed presentation is attached to this report as Annex 4. With regard to the possible appointment of an IYPH Ambassador from North America, the IYPH ISC kindly asked FAO to speed-up the process.
- [19] The IYPH ISC asked the IYPH Secretariat to increase the visibility of the IYPH ISC and its members on the IYPH webpage and to support the IYPH ISC in facilitating communication between IYPH ISC Members and the IYPH Ambassadors and Champion to involve them in events and initiatives as necessary.

<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.





- [20] The IYPH Secretariat noted the requests and suggested to invite the IYPH Ambassadors and Champion to the next meeting of the IYPH ISC to familiarise with its Members and proceedings.
- [21] The IYPH ISC agreed to extend an invitation to the IYPH Ambassadors and Champion and proposed to draft a Declaration by the end of the international year of plant health as an additional IYPH legacy document, which would be signed the entire IYPH ISC, suggesting that the IYPH Ambassadors and Champion may also contribute to its drafting.
- [22] The IYPH ISC:
- (7) *Agreed* to place the IYPH ISC names and contacts on the IYPH website.
  - (8) *Suggested* to distribute the IYPH ambassador video and subtitled as much as possible.
  - (9) *Welcomed* the initiative by the ISF to organise an event with the Ambassador and Champion for Europe.
  - (10) *Agreed* to extend an invitation to the current IYPH Ambassadors and Champion to the next IYPH ISC meeting.
  - (11) *Invited* the IYPH Secretariat to make any necessary effort to secure the nomination of the Ambassador for North America as well as pursuing gender balance in the nominations.

## 8. IYPH Action Plan

### 8.1 Planning for the International Plant Health Conference and IYPH Closing Ceremony and possible listing as Preparatory Meeting of the UN Food Systems Summit

- [23] The IYPH ISC Chairperson provided an oral update regarding the IPHC, informing the IYPH ISC that all the IPHC sessions will be streamed live, allowing virtual presence also for questions and answers. He mentioned that the location is being reassessed, as the new setting may allow to hold the IPHC in a smaller building to allow a limited number of guests to participate in person. Mr LOPIAN mentioned the possible reassessment and reallocation of funds for the conference to accommodate the new setting and also to arrange a virtual exhibition about plants through a website. He concluded that the IPHC may be listed as one of the Preparatory Meetings of the Food System Summit and he is prepared to contact the organisers to that end. He highlighted that having the IPHC listed as one of the Preparatory Meetings of the Food System Summit will help raise the profile of plant health internationally.
- [24] The IYPH ISC welcomed the IPHC update, sharing some experiences about organising virtual events, especially noting that virtual exhibitions may prove cumbersome to hold while underlining the importance of having at least the expected speakers attending the IPHC in person.
- [25] The IYPH ISC agreed to propose the IPHC as a Preparatory Meeting of the Food System Summit.
- [26] The IYPH ISC:
- (12) *Asked* the IYPH ISC Chairperson to contact the organisers of the Food System Summit to include the International Plant Health Conference in the list of Preparatory Meetings.

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

- [27] The IYPH Secretariat introduced the progress with the study on climate change impact on plant health, highlighting the possibility to hold a special high-level event to launch the publication. The IYPH ISC noted the report and invited the IYPH Secretariat to discuss the details for such a high-level event during the next meeting of the IYPH ISC.
- [28] The IYPH ISC:
- (13) *Welcomed* the proposal of a high-level event to launch the study and *asked* the IYPH Secretariat to produce a concept note by the next IYPH ISC meeting.





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

- [29] The IYPH ISC discussed about the opportunity to receive inputs by the IYPH Ambassadors and Champion on IYPH activities and initiatives and asked the IYPH Secretariat to draft and circulate a survey regarding the potential dates for meetings during 2021.

### 8.4 Proposal for Art Event linked to Plant Health in 2021

- [30] This item was deferred to the next meeting of the IYPH ISC.

## 9. Any Other Business

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

## 10. Next Meeting

- [32] The IYPH Secretariat informed the IYPH ISC that the next meeting of the IYPH ISC will be scheduled via a poll and take place in December 2020.

## 11. Close of the Meeting

- [33] 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_2020-12	Mr Ralf LOPIAN
3	<b>Participants List</b>	02_IYPH-ISC_2020-12	Mr Mirko MONTUORI (IYPH Secretariat)
4	<b>Background and Reports</b>	<a href="#">Link to report of eleventh IYPH ISC meeting</a>	Mr Arop DENG (IYPH Secretariat)
5	<b>IYPH Legacy</b>	--	
5.1	International Day of Plant Health	--	Mr Arop DENG
5.2	Youth Declaration on Plant Health	03_IYPH-ISC_2020-12	Mr Mirko MONTUORI
6	<b>IYPH Budget and Resource Mobilization</b>	04_IYPH-ISC_2020-12	Mr Mirko MONTUORI
7	<b>IYPH Communication</b>	PPT	Mr Berlant QABEEL (IYPH Secretariat)
7.1	Update on IYPH Communications	--	
7.2	Update on IYPH Influencers and Social Media	--	
7.3	Update on IYPH Special Goodwill Ambassadors	--	
8	<b>IYPH Action Plan</b>		
8.1	Planning for the International Plant Health Conference and IYPH Closing Ceremony and possible listing as Preparatory Meeting of the UN Food Systems Summit	05_IYPH-ISC_2020-12	Mr Ralf LOPIAN
8.2	Progress with Study on Impact of Climate Change on Plant Health	06_IYPH-ISC_2020-12	Ms Viivi KUVAJA (IYPH Secretariat)
8.3	Proposals for IYPH events/initiatives in 2020/2021	--	ISC members
8.4	Proposal for Art Event linked to Plant Health in 2021	07_IYPH-ISC_2020-12	Mr Riccardo MAZZUCHELLI (IYPH Secretariat)
9	<b>Any Other Business</b>	--	Mr Ralf LOPIAN
10	<b>Next Meeting</b>	--	Mr Ralf LOPIAN
11	<b>Close of the Meeting</b>	--	Mr Ralf LOPIAN



## Annex 2 – Participants List

### IYPH ISC members:

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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
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### Annex 3 – Action List

N.	Action	Lead	Deadline
1	Present a draft plan for initiatives and activities for the first foreseeable International Day of Plant Health on 12 May 2022 at CPM-15.	IPPC Secretariat	29/01/2021
2	Place the IYPH ISC names and contacts on the IYPH website.	IYPH Secretariat	16/12/2020
3	Extend an invitation to the current IYPH Ambassadors and Champion to the next IYPH ISC meeting.	IYPH Secretariat	12/12/2020
4	Make any necessary effort to secure the nomination of the Ambassador for North America as well as pursuing gender balance in the nominations.	IYPH Secretariat	ongoing
5	Send a letter to the attention of the Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council and its Members.	Zambia IYPH ISC Chairperson	29/11/2020
6	Contact the organisers of the Food System Summit to include the International Plant Health Conference in the list of Preparatory Meetings.	IYPH ISC Chairperson	16/12/2020
7	Produce a concept note on the high-level launch of the study on climate change impacts on plant health.	IYPH Secretariat	16/12/2020

