



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



International  
Plant Protection  
Convention

# REPORT

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

**Rome, Italy  
6 April 2021**



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 IYPH International Steering Committee (ISC) welcomed all participants and opened the meeting.

## 2. Adoption of the Agenda

- [2] The Provisional Agenda was circulated, adopted 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

### 5.1 Youth Declaration on Plant Health

- [5] The IYPH Secretariat updated the IYPH ISC on the ongoing drafting process of the Youth Declaration on Plant Health, which is proceeding on time. The IYPH Secretariat mentioned that the Youth Declaration on Plant Health may be posted on the International Phytosanitary Portal with a form to sign it after its publication. The IYPH ISC welcomed the update and asked the IYPH Secretariat to draft an introductory note clarifying rationale and providing context to the general public regarding this initiative.

- [6] The IYPH ISC:

- (1) *Noted* the update on the Youth Declaration on Plant Health.
- (2) *Asked* the IYPH Secretariat to draft an introductory section to explain the declaration.

## 6. IYPH Budget and Resource Mobilization

- [7] The IYPH Secretariat introduced the Report on the current budgetary situation, recalling that the IYPH ISC revised the document at its tenth, fourteenth and fifteenth meetings to adjust for the IYPH extension as well as reallocate funds as a consequence of the cancellation or virtual modality of various meetings and events, including the International Plant Health Conference.

- [8] The IYPH Secretariat clarified that the current standing funds are intended to continue supporting the activities for the International Day of Plant Health and also to consider some flexibility to ensure interpretation for the IYPH remaining events.

- [9] The IYPH ISC:

- (3) *Noted* the update.
- (4) *Agreed* to allow enough flexibility to ensure that interpretation is granted for the remaining IYPH events.

## 7. IYPH Communication

### 7.1 Update on IYPH Advocates

- [10] The IYPH Secretariat reported on new activities with the IYPH Advocates, particularly and interview to Mr Rodrigo Pacheco, several videos being produced by Mr Rodrigo Pacheco and others being planned by Mr Monty Don, and other initiatives to continue promoting plant health.





## 7.2 Update on IYPH Website and Social Media

- [11] The IYPH Secretariat reported that since the beginning of the IYPH campaign there have been over one 1 350 plant-health related posts on FAO and IPPC accounts, nearly 24 000 mentions from other social media accounts with potential total views by over 300 million social media accounts in their feeds. The IYPH Secretariat informed the IYPH ISC that the report comparing digital statistics among different international years is being looked at, however there may be issues in comparing them given the different technologies and statistics that became available through the past years.
- [12] The IYPH ISC thanked the IYPH Secretariat for the updates and suggested to build on the experience gathered throughout the IYPH to continue communicating its messages also after the International Year has come to an end, such as the EPPO initiative of establishing a Plant Health Fellowship for the coming ten years.
- [13] The IYPH ISC Chairperson informed the IYPH ISC that the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures agreed to establish a Focus Group on Communications to develop a new communication strategy, building upon the experience of the IYPH, and including the International Day of Plant Health as a key component for the new IPPC communication strategy, once established. He also mentioned that the CPM-15 indicated that the IYPH Technical Advisory Body (TAB), former IYPH Steering Committee, will take over the coordination and implementation of activities in preparation and in celebration of the International Day of Plant Health, including the planning of the International Plant Health Conference to be held in the week of the IDPH in 2022. The IYPH ISC Chairperson invited the IYPH Secretariat to include a discussion item for the next IYPH ISC session on the venue of the IPHC.
- [14] The IYPH Secretariat observed that some campaigns, such as the Travellers' Campaign, will take place even after the official closing of IYPH.
- [15] The IYPH ISC:
- (5) *Noted* the report.
  - (6) *Welcomed* the initiative to compare data across International Years, as feasible.
  - (7) *Welcomed* the CPM-15 decision to have the IYPH TAB taking over the coordination of the IDPH preparations and celebrations, once established.

## 8. IYPH Action Plan

### 8.1 Progress with Scientific Review of Impact of Climate Change on Plant Pests (and high-level launch on 1 June 2021)

- [16] The IYPH Secretariat reported on the progress made on the Scientific Review, clarifying that it will be published in all FAO languages, and it will be published both as PDF and as digital report. The Secretariat also informed that a Summary for Policy Makers will be made available in all FAO languages.
- [17] The IYPH Secretariat further informed that the FAO Director-General confirmed his attendance at this event, and invitations for other speakers are ready to be sent. The event will take place from 2:00 to 4:00 pm (Rome time).
- [18] The IYPH ISC:
- (8) *Welcomed* the progress with the organization of the event and the launch of the scientific review of the impact of climate change on plant pests.





## 8.2 Update on IYPH webinars (29 and 30 June 2021)

- [19] The IYPH Secretariat presented the draft programmes for the two IYPH webinars<sup>1</sup> on 29 and 30 June 2021. The IYPH ISC discussed about the importance of including a short wrap-up section in each segment of the webinars.
- [20] The IYPH ISC welcomed the programme for the IYPH webinar on 29 June and underlined the importance to link it with the Food System Summit. The IYPH ISC requested to link the webinars with the UN Food Systems Summit (FSS), including by inviting relevant speakers and registering the webinars as independent dialogues of the UN FSS.
- [21] The IYPH Secretariat presented the draft programme for the webinar on 30 June on Climate change, plant health and biodiversity. The IYPH ISC welcomed the programme and recommended to ensure proper inclusion of the private sector.
- [22] The IYPH ISC:
- (9) *Endorsed* the programmes for the IYPH webinars on 29 and 30 June 2021.

## 8.3 Update on the IYPH Closing Ceremony (1 July 2021)

- [23] The IYPH Secretariat confirmed the event and informed the IYPH ISC that the programme was already shared with the IYPH ISC and with the FAO management. The FAO Director-General confirmed his attendance and the programme includes the award ceremony of the two contests. The IYPH ISC also explored the possibility to hold the meeting in person.
- [24] The IYPH ISC:
- (10) *Noted* the update.  
(11) *Expressed* its hope of a physical presence at the IYPH closing ceremony.

## 8.4 IYPH final report

- [25] The IYPH Secretariat reported that the work is ongoing but there are not many sources for comparison. The International Year of Pulses report is being analysed as potential baseline but the overall plan is to include some forewords, a section on relevant data in terms of outreach, communication and digital coverage. In general, the report aims to becoming an advocacy document that may be shared also digitally. One point would be for the IYPH ISC to approve the outline of the final document.
- [26] The IYPH ISC:
- (12) *Agreed* to contribute to the IYPH final report.  
(13) *Asked* the IYPH Secretariat to draft a preliminary outline of the IYPH final report.

## 8.5 Proposals for IYPH events/initiatives in 2021

- [27] The IYPH ISC discussed this item and agreed that the upcoming events and initiatives are satisfactory.

## 8.6 Discussion on Research Priorities in Plant Health

- [28] Ms Anna Maria D'ONGHIA (CIHEAM) introduced the paper outlining the research priorities on plant health based on a call launched by Euphresco and CIHEAM in 2018, which is published in a compendium as an IYPH initiative. She informed about a meeting on this to coordinate amongst all the actors countries involved working on those topics, in view of reducing fragmentation and duplication of national initiatives. The suggestion is to have a focus each year on certain topics. Ms D'Onghia asked the IYPH ISC to agree on this course of action and then submit the concrete proposal.

<sup>1</sup> Papers 04 and 05 respectively.





- [29] The IYPH Secretariat underlined that this initiative aligns with the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020 – 2030 and suggested the IPPC governing bodies are made aware of the efforts to coordinate research.
- [30] The IYPH ISC noted that the compendium is a great effort and links very well with the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020 – 2030 and may work as a legacy for the IYPH, noting that it is possible for the IPPC community to reflect on the potential spots where this coordination may be well received.
- [31] The IYPH ISC Chairperson suggested to plan for a preparatory meeting on this subject.
- [32] The IYPH ISC:
- (14) *Noted* the update.
  - (15) *Considered* research coordination on plant health a topic of global importance.
  - (16) *Recommended* the IYPH TAB to hold a symposium on research coordination and a preparatory webinar during the second part of 2021 on research coordination, building on existing experiences, such as the one presented by Euphresco and CIHEAM.

## 9. Any Other Business

- [33] The IYPH ISC discussed the opportunity to reduce the number of meetings as previously planned and asked the IYPH Secretariat to share a poll to hold a meeting in the week of 7 – 11 June 2021 and the last meeting on 2 July 2021.

## 10. Close of the Meeting

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



## Annex 1 – Provisional Agenda

| AGENDA ITEM |  | DOCUMENT NO.   | PRESENTER                               |
|-------------|--|--|---|
| 1           | <b>Opening of the Meeting</b>  |  | Mr Ralf LOPIAN<br>(ISC Chairperson)     |
| 2           | <b>Adoption of the Agenda</b>  | 01_IYPH-ISC_2021-16  | Mr Ralf LOPIAN                          |
| 3           | <b>Participants List</b>   | 02_IYPH-ISC_2021-16  | Mr Mirko MONTUORI<br>(IYPH Secretariat) |
| 4           | <b>Background and Reports</b>  | <a href="#">Link to report of fifteenth IYPH ISC meeting</a> | Mr Arop DENG<br>(IYPH Secretariat)      |
| 5           | <b>IYPH Legacy</b>   |  |   |
| 5.1         | Youth Declaration on Plant Health  | --   | Ms Viivi KUVAJA<br>(IYPH Secretariat)   |
| 6           | <b>IYPH Budget and Resource Mobilization</b>   | 03_IYPH-ISC_2021-16  | Mr Mirko MONTUORI                       |
| 7           | <b>IYPH Communication</b>  | PPT  | Mr Berlant QABEEL<br>(IYPH Secretariat) |
| 7.1         | Update on IYPH Advocates   | --   |   |
| 7.2         | Update on IYPH Website and Social Media  | --   |   |
| 8           | <b>IYPH Action Plan</b>  |  |   |
| 8.1         | Progress with Study on Impact of Climate Change on Plant Health (and high-level launch on 1 June 2021) | --   | Ms Viivi KUVAJA<br>(IYPH Secretariat)   |
| 8.2         | Update on IYPH webinars (29 and 30 June 2021)  | 04_IYPH-ISC_2021-16<br>05_IYPH-ISC_2021-16                   | Mr Mirko MONTUORI                       |
| 8.3         | Update on the IYPH Closing Ceremony (1 July 2021)  | --   | Mr Ralf LOPIAN                          |
| 8.4         | IYPH final report  | --   | Mr Mirko MONTUORI                       |
| 8.5         | Proposals for IYPH events/initiatives in 2021  | --   | ISC members                             |
| 8.6         | Discussion on Research Priorities in Plant Health  | 06_IYPH-ISC-2021-16  | Ms Anna Maria D'ONGHIA<br>(CIHEAM)      |
| 9           | <b>Any Other Business</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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### Annex 3 – Action List

| N. | Action  | Lead                           | Deadline                |
|----|---|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1  | Draft an introductory section to explain the IYPH youth declaration.  | IYPH Secretariat               | Next IYPH ISC meeting   |
| 2  | Draft a preliminary outline of the IYPH final report.   | IYPH Secretariat               | Next IYPH ISC meeting   |
| 3  | IYPH TAB to take over the coordination of the IPDH preparations and celebrations, once established.   | IYPH TAB<br>IYPH Secretariat   | Starting from July 2021 |
| 4  | IYPH TAB to hold a symposium on research coordination and a preparatory webinar during the second part of 2021 on research coordination, building on existing experiences, such as the one presented by Euphresco and CIHEAM. | IYPH TAB<br>IYPH Secretariat / | October 2021            |

