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# COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

## Eleventh Session

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**Report on the activities relating to the International Year of Plant Health in 2020 (IYPH 2020) - Scope, Objectives and Structures for the International Year of Plant Health**

**Agenda item 11.1.3**

**Prepared by the IPPC Secretariat**

## I. Introduction

1. At the Tenth Session of the Commission of Phytosanitary Measures (CPM-10) Finland proposed to establish an International Year of Plant Health (IYPH) in 2020. The proposal received strong support from CPM-10 and CPM decided to pursue the establishment of IYPH 2020 under the leadership of Finland.
2. At the 39th FAO Conference held in Rome from 6-13 June 2015, the Finnish delegation informed the Conference about its proposal to the CPM for an IYPH in 2020 and was informed that the CPM-10 had strongly supported the proposal. The intervention received very positive responses from many delegations. Consequently, the FAO Conference welcomed the proposal to establish an International Year of Plant Health 2020.
3. In February 2016, the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry of Finland officially requested the Director-General of FAO to place the subject of declaring an IYPH in 2020 on the agenda of relevant FAO meetings with a view to receive a supportive FAO resolution at the meeting of the 40th FAO Conference in 2017.
4. The positive reaction of the FAO Conference and the official request lead to the situation that concrete planning of the objectives, outputs and programmatic components of IYPH 2020 need to be carried out in order to be ready for the FAO Council in 2016 as well as for other relevant FAO

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committees which prepare FAO Council and Conference. At CPM-11 decisions need to be taken in relation to the scope, objectives and structures with regard to the IYPH 2020.

## II. Scope of the IYPH

5. When CPM-10 decided to pursue the declaration of an IYPH this was done without a clear understanding what plant health encompasses. There are many interpretations of plant health, although the most commonly one refers it to the scientific and regulatory framework of checking plant imports for the presence of potentially invasive pests and pathogens.

6. Since there are different ways of interpreting what plant health means it should be important to clarify its meaning in the context of the international year. This would help to set the scope and focus the activities undertaken in the IYPH 2020. In 2015, the IPPC Strategic Planning Group (SPG) and the CPM Bureau discussed this and concluded that a definition of plant health should be attempted. The CPM Bureau acknowledged that the IYPH should be focusing on the objectives and activities made through the IPPC and national governments, but thought that the scope of the IYPH 2020 should not be limited to those activities. Consequently, it is proposed to define for the purpose of the IYPH 2020 the term "plant health" in the following way:

**Plant Health**                      *Plant health is usually considered the discipline that utilizes official or legislative approaches to prevent pests and disease causing organisms to spread into endangered areas, especially through human interaction such as international trade.*

7. In this context it should be understood that this is not intended to be an IPPC Glossary definition nor should the terms used in this definition be understood in their ISPM 5 meaning. It is simply an explanation of the meaning of plant health intended for international and national decision makers to clarify what the IYPH 2020 is all about.

## III. Main objective of the IYPH 2020

8. The overarching and general objective of the IYPH should be able to set a clear aim what the international phytosanitary community would like to achieve. The original idea for the IYPH 2020 had been to raise awareness of plant health internationally and in parts of society which usually are not aware of plant health policies and benefits. The SPG discussed this and recommended that the best way to raise international awareness would be to demonstrate how plant health affects international goals such as hunger and poverty reduction and the protection of the environment. Consequently, it is suggested that the main objective of the IYPH 2020 is defined as follows:

*"The International Year of Plant Health will raise awareness of the importance and impacts of plant health in addressing issues of global importance, including hunger, poverty, threats to the environment and economic development."*

## IV. Specific objectives for the IYPH 2020

9. Specific objectives of the IYPH would primarily focus around awareness raising and issues demanding actions, and would consequently lead to stronger public and political support to plant health as well as to a better coordination within the plant health community. In October 2015, the SPG discussed possible specific objectives for the IYPH 2020 and concluded that the following six specific objectives may be appropriate for the IYPH 2020:

- Raising the awareness of the public and political decision makers at the global, regional and national levels about plant health.

- Promoting and strengthening of national, regional and global plant health efforts and their resources in light of increasing trade and new pest risks caused through climate change.
- Educating the public and increasing its knowledge about plant health.
- Enhancing dialogue and stakeholder involvement in plant health.
- Increasing information about the state of plant protection in the world.
- Facilitating the establishment of plant health partnerships on national, regional and global levels.
- A decision by CPM-11 on specific objectives would be beneficial since it allows concrete planning for the IYPH 2020 to progress.

## V. Expected Outputs of the IYPH 2020

10. In October 2015, SPG also discussed possible outputs for the IYPH 2020, but did not come to a conclusion. In addition, the CPM Bureau did not propose specific outputs. Instead it suggested that the specific outputs for the IYPH should be discussed by the CPM to obtain the largest possible ownership. The following provisional outputs are extracts from the papers discussed at the SPG and the CPM Bureau and are intended as suggestions:

- **Public well informed about plant health issues (numbers of popular publications, articles, etc.).**
- **Adoption of a new IPPC Plant Health Strategy for 2020-2030**
- **Adoption and publication of the "Review of the Status of Plant Protection in the World" (Article 11, 2 (a) of IPPC)**
- **Establishment of the 6th December 2021 as an international day of plant health (70 years after IPPC signature), possibly re-occurring annually**
- **Establishment of a financial mechanism for the IPPC**
- **Increased donor commitments to plant health**
- **Increased commitments on sustainable financing of national plant health systems**
- **Increased reflection of plant health matters in national academic curricula**
- **Greater stakeholder involvement in national plant health decision-making**
- **Better plant health legislation and infrastructure on national levels**
- **Triggering policy discussions on the organization of plant health and IPM within FAO**
- **Raising awareness on the use of new plant pest management and control techniques**
- **Integrating non-conventional stakeholders groups into phytosanitary actions**
- **Increase in the educational profile of plant health**
- **Increased linkage between climate change and plant health**

11. The CPM is invited to consider them when selecting or developing outputs for the IYPH 2020.

## VI. Work-programme for Proclamation and Organization of IYPH 2020

12. The work-programme for IYPH 2020 is currently limited to activities leading to the proclamation of the international year and in preliminary activities regarding programme, communication, partnerships and finances. Although no detailed programmatic plans can be made at the moment, infrastructure should be developed in order to be able to focus on the specific work related to the IYPH 2020. It is necessary that a forum is established under the IPPC which will ensure that contracting parties, representatives of other FAO departments and other international organizations and major donors can contribute to the planning and implementation of the IYPH 2020.

13. Currently, discussions on the IYPH 2020 are conducted within the Financial Committee and the CPM-Bureau. With the intensification of activities these groups are too limited in time and composition to address all the issues related to the IYPH 2020 in a sufficient manner. Consequently, it is proposed that a Steering Committee is established for the IYPH 2020. It is also suggested that the

IYPH 2020 Steering Committee has a number of subcommittees or groups dealing with major activities, such as programme and communications, finances, and partnerships.

14. The Steering Committee should have enough members to tackle all subjects related to the IYPH 2020. The SPG and CPM Bureau recommended that the membership should ideally be composed of:

- **7 members from contracting parties**
- **7 alternate members from contracting parties**
- **5-7 members from collaborating International Organizations and RPPOs**
- **1 member from IPPC Secretariat and FAO**
- **a maximum of 3 representatives from major donors and contributors to the IYPH 2020**

15. The CPM Bureau also thought that it might be of advantage to have some permanent representatives from contracting parties as members or alternates of the steering committee to have full coordination with the FAO decision making bodies.

## **VII. Timing of Activities**

16. The work of the IYPH Steering Committee has to be organized in accordance with the schedule applicable until the IYPH 2020. This would be primarily oriented towards the promotion of the IYPH 2020 for the years 2016-2017 and the concrete planning of activities for the years 2017 – 2020. A more detailed time schedule for activities is below:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Activities</b>
<b>2016</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support to FAO in preparing documents and positions for FAO Council &amp; Conference</li> <li>• Communication strategies and activities developed to support proclamation process</li> <li>• Communication with Contracting Parties on programmatic aspects for IYPH 2020</li> <li>• Identification and approach of potential partner organizations</li> <li>• Resource mobilization</li> </ul>
<b>2017</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support to FAO in preparing documents and positions for FAO Council &amp; Conference</li> <li>• Support to FAO in preparing documents and positions for ECOWAS and UN deliberations</li> <li>• Communication strategies and activities implemented to support proclamation process</li> <li>• Communication with Contracting Parties on programmatic aspects for IYPH 2020</li> <li>• Identification and approach of potential partner organizations</li> <li>• Resource mobilization</li> </ul>
<b>2018</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support to FAO in preparing documents and positions for ECOWAS and UN deliberations</li> <li>• Communication activities implemented to raise awareness about IYPH 2020</li> <li>• Communication with Contracting Parties to plan for activities in the IYPH 2020</li> <li>• Collaboration with identified partner organizations to organize activities</li> <li>• Establishment of a programme for the IYPH 2020</li> <li>• Resource mobilization</li> </ul>

- 2019**
  - Coordination of IYPH 2020 activities with contracting parties and collaborating organizations
  - Communication activities implemented to raise awareness about IYPH 2020
  - Establishment of a final programme for the IYPH 2020
  - Resource mobilization
  
- 2020**
  - Implementation of the IYPH 2020 programme
  - Resource mobilization
  
- 2021**
  - Follow-up activities for the IYPH 2020
  - IYPH 2020 evaluation
  - Publishing the “State of Plant Protection in the World”
  - Resource mobilization

17. It should be noted that this is a preliminary schedule for activities leading only to the IYPH 2020 and beyond. It does not include the development of programmatic actions, such as the development of a new strategic framework for the IPPC, to be adopted in 2020. These IYPH communication activities will also need to be integrated, where appropriate, into the IPPC communication Annual Work Plan once they are agreed by the IYPH Steering Committee.

### **VIII. Decisions for CPM-11**

18. The CPM is invited to:

- 1) *Consider and adopt* the definition of “Plant Health” as indicated in paragraph 6
- 2) *Consider and adopt* the main objective of the IYPH 2020 as indicated in paragraph 8
- 3) *Consider and adopt* the specific objectives for the IYPH 2020 as indicated in paragraph 9
- 4) *Discuss and adopt* expected outputs for the IYPH 2020 taking into account the suggestions indicated in paragraph 10
- 5) *Establish* a Steering Committee for the IYPH 2020 as proposed in paragraph 14
- 6) *Select* members for the Steering Committee from contracting parties in paragraph 15
- 7) *Note* the preliminary time and work schedule for the IYPH 2020 as indicated in paragraph 16.