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Report on the activities relating to the International Year of Plant Health in 2020 (IYPH 2020) - Update on the efforts to proclaim an International Year of Plant Health in 2020

Agenda item 11.1.3

Prepared by the IPPC Secretariat

I. Introduction

1. At CPM-10 Finland proposed to establish an International Year of Plant Health in the year 2020. The proposal received strong support by the CPM-10 and it was decided to pursue the establishment of IYPH 2020 under the leadership of Finland.

2. Since the Tenth Session of CPM (CPM-10) in 2015, a multitude of activities have been undertaken to promote IYPH 2020 at national and international levels, and to support and bring underway the proclamation process. The activities were mainly undertaken by the IPPC Secretariat, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Finland and several individual volunteers. These activities were mainly focused on procedural, communication and resource mobilization actions.

II. Procedural Activities to Progress with the Proclamation of the IYPH 2020

3. Following the positive decision of CPM-10 in 2015, it is essential that FAO adopts a resolution for the proclamation of the IYPH 2020 at its 40th Session of the FAO Conference in 2017. To prepare this FAO resolution for the FAO Conference various FAO bodies, such as Committee on Agriculture (COAG) and FAO Council, must be consulted. After an FAO resolution, the matter is brought forward to the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the United Nations General Assembly for a final decision in 2018. The following procedural activities were undertaken to further this proclamation process:

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June 2015	<p><i>39th Session of the FAO Conference</i></p> <p>To prepare the FAO Conference and in order to earmark the year 2020 as the year “reserved” for plant health, Finland raised the issue of IYPH 2020 at the 39th Session of the FAO Conference in June 2015. During the FAO Conference, Finland stated that it intends to formally make a request to the FAO Director General to establish the IYPH. It received strong support for this undertaking from several other FAO members. Many NPPOs were informed before the Conference about the Finnish intentions in order to allow national co-ordinations to support the issue. The Conference welcomed the initiative by Finland.</p>
October 2015	<p><i>Strategic Planning Group & CPM Bureau</i></p> <p>Based on discussion papers by the IPPC Secretariat the SPG and the CPM Bureau discussed the possible scope, main and specific objectives and the planning structure for the IYPH 2020. The CPM Bureau decided to make proposals to that effect to CPM-11 (CPM2016/34)</p>
January 2016	<p><i>Official request to start FAO procedure for IYPH 2020</i></p> <p>In January 2016, the Minister of Agriculture and the Environment of Finland, Mr Kimmo Tiilikainen, proposed to the Director General of FAO, Mr José Graziano da Silva, that the year 2020 is proclaimed as the International Year of Plant Health. Finland requested the Director General of FAO that the topic is placed on the agenda of relevant FAO bodies with a view to adopt a resolution to this effect at the 40th Meeting of the FAO Conference in 2017.</p>
February 2016	<p><i>Endorsement by the Bureau of the FAO Committee on Agriculture (COAG)</i></p> <p>In its meeting to prepare the upcoming session of COAG, the Bureau of COAG agreed to include the proposal to call for 2020 as the “International Year of Plant Health” on the Provisional Agenda of the 25th Session of COAG (Rome, 26-30 September 2016). If the proposal is approved by COAG, it will be submitted for consideration to the 155th Session of the FAO Council (Rome, 5-9 December 2016). Subsequently, the Council would submit the proposal for endorsement to the 40th Session of the FAO Conference (3-8 July 2017). Thereafter, the Director-General of FAO would submit the request to the Secretary-General of the United Nations that the proposed International Year be deliberated upon by the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in the period from late 2017 to early 2018.</p>

III. Communication Activities to Support the Proclamation of the IYPH 2020

4. Communication stands at the centre of an effective proclamation process and later for the implementation of the IYPH 2020 programme. Consequently the IPPC Secretariat focused many of its activities on communicating the aims and benefits of an IYPH 2020 to national and international audiences as well as FAO internally. Finland, with the assistance of volunteers from Canada, developed supporting material for the 39th Session of the FAO Conference. It is impossible to list all the communication activities undertaken by the IPPC Secretariat and national services, but the main activities were:

- As part of a new policy the IPPC Secretariat has established the practice of holding regular IPPC seminars to communicate important IPPC plant health topics to staff of the IPPC and FAO. The first seminar was organized on the 24th of June and covered efforts with regard to the proposed IYPH 2020. The seminar was welcomed by FAO staff.
- The IPPC Secretariat promoted the IYPH 2020 at the "*International Workshop on Phytosanitary Threats*" organized by the Sociedade Brasileira de Defesa Agropecuaria in Sao Paulo, Brazil

- The IPPC Secretariat promoted the IYPH 2020 at the Milan Expo conference on “*Climate change and food security: challenges for plant health, plant breeding and genetic resources*”
- Finland, with the assistance of volunteers from Canada, developed position papers on the IYPH 2020 for briefing purposes of national FAO authorities in preparation of the 39th Session of the FAO Conference. These position papers were communicated to many NPPO with the request to support the IYPH 2020 at the FAO Conference.
- The IPPC Secretariat designated and established an IYPH 2020 web-page under the IPP - <https://www.ippc.int/en/iyp/>. The IYPH 2020 webpage contains news articles, presentations, videos and other communication materials developed over time. The IYPH Toolbox contains material as background material to allow NPPOs and other stakeholders to promote IYPH 2020.
- The IPPC Secretariat developed an internal IYPH 2020 communication strategy and work-plan and communicated it to the CPM Bureau.
- The CPM Chairperson gave a presentation on the IYPH 2020 to the Annual Meeting of the North American Plant Protection Organization in 2015.
- Finland, on behalf of the IPPC Secretariat, gave a presentation on the IYPH 2020 to the Annual Meeting of the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization in 2015.
- Finland gave a presentation on the IYPH 2020 to the EU Council Working Party of Chief Officers of Plant Health Services in 2015.
- The IPPC Secretariat gave a presentation on the IYPH 2020 to the Technical Consultations among RPPO and to all IPPC Regional Workshops.
- A volunteer developed a social media strategy for promoting the IYPH 2020.
- A volunteer gave a presentation on the IYPH 2020 at a phytosanitary training course in Yaoundé, Cameroon, which was jointly organized by the Better Training for Safer Food initiative of the EU and the Inter-African Phytosanitary Council of the African Union.
- The IPPC Secretariat and party representatives from Argentina, Ivory Coast, Latvia and Finland promoted the IYPH 2020 at the occasion of the “*Workshop on Synergies among the Biodiversity-Related Conventions*” in Geneva, 2016. The IPPC representatives proposed that all seven biodiversity-related conventions should cooperate and collaborate on the organization of international observances in line with the UN Decade for Biodiversity, such as the IYPH 2020. This proposal was strongly supported by all Workshop participants and subsequently included into the final conclusions.

5. As previously indicated the years 2015 and 2016 were abundant with IYPH 2020 communication activities and not all could be mentioned here.

IV. Resource Mobilization for the IYPH 2020

6. FAO provisions govern that international observances and their programmes must be financed through extra-budgetary contributions and not through regular programme funds. Consequently considerable efforts have to be taken to ensure that resources are available to plan and implement the IYPH 2020. Since CPM-10 (2015), the CPM Bureau and the IPPC Secretariat has undertaken resource mobilization efforts which included:

- *Establishment of IYPH volunteer programme*

7. At its June meeting the CPM Bureau agreed to the establishment of an IYPH 2020 volunteer programme aimed at mobilizing staff resources in the form of volunteers. First volunteers contributed substantially to the efforts to promote the IYPH. In this context the IPPC Secretariat and the CPM Bureau would like to thank the following individuals for volunteering their own time to the promotion of the IYPH 2020:

**Mr Mirko Montuori
(Italy/FAO)**

Mr Montuori volunteered four working days for the development of the social media strategy over and above his normal FAO work

**Ms MariePierre Mignault
(Canada)**

Contributions to the position papers developed for the FAO Conference

Mr Brian Double (Canada)

Contributions to the position papers developed for the FAO Conference

8. It is intended to further intensify the IYPH volunteer programme in 2016.

- *IPPC Secretariat efforts to receive extra-budgetary funding from potential donors*

9. The IPPC Secretariat undertook considerable efforts to receive extra-budgetary funds to support the proclamation and planning process for the IYPH 2020. The IPPC Secretariat approached several potential donors and has had only limited success to date. In December 2015, Ireland donated EUR 25 000 for the IYPH 2020 communication efforts. The IPPC Secretariat and the CPM Bureau would like to thank Ireland for this contribution and would like at the same time to encourage other potential donors to support the IYPH 2020 efforts financially.

10. The CPM is invited to:

- 1) *applaud* the valuable voluntary contributions
- 2) *thank* Ireland for their generous financial contribution
- 3) *encourage* other volunteers to join the IYPH 2020 volunteer programme
- 4) *encourage* NPPOs to promote the concept and importance of the IYPH 2020 in their capitals and through their FAO permanent representatives
- 5) *encourage* other potential donors to support efforts to proclaim the year 2020 as the International Year of Plant Health.