**Planning the International Year of Plant Health 2020**

**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. 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. It informed that the CPM-10 had strongly supported the proposal and that consequently Finland will very soon make an official proposal for IYPH 2020 to the FAO Director-General. The Finnish intervention received very positive responses from many delegations. Consequently, “The [Conference] welcomed the proposal of Finland to establish an International Year of Plant Health 2020.”
3. The positive reaction of the FAO Conference leads 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 the Finance and Programme Committees which prepare FAO Council and Conference. To this effect it is essential that the CPM Bureau will make decisions at its meeting in October 2015 which should be confirmed by CPM-11 in 2016.
4. To work on the planning of the IYPH 2020, the CPM-10 requested the CPM Bureau and the Financial Committee to form a small steering committee to continue with detailed planning of IYPH 2020 and to present a detailed work-programme for the planning of the IYPH 2020 to CPM-11 (2016). Unfortunately, the creation of a small steering committee had financially not been possible and the CPM Bureau decided that the detailed work be undertaken by the SPG and the CPM-Bureau itself. This discussion paper aims to provide the basis for discussions in the SPG and the CPM-Bureau on its discussions about the objectives, work-programme and outputs for the proposed IYPH 2020.

**II OBJECTIVES FOR IYPH 2020**

1. Every international year in the UN system has a set of predetermined objectives which form the skeleton for the planning an implementation of programmatic events as well as the expected outputs of the international year. The objectives of an international year usually form the basis of an FAO and UN resolution on the proclamation of the particular year.
2. For IYPH 2020 no objectives have been decided, yet, although a general and several specific objectives were indicated to CPM-10[[1]](#footnote-1). It is, therefore, essential that a set of general and specific objectives are decided at the CPM Bureau meeting. These objectives will then be communicated to FAO when a formal request for an IYPH 2020 is made within the near future. The objectives proposed by the CPM-Bureau will also be proposed to CPM-11 for adoption to enlarge the ownership of these IYPH 2020 objectives to all contracting parties.
3. ***a. Basic Considerations on the IYPH 2020 Objectives***
4. When deciding on the objectives for the IYPH 2020 it is essential to have a common understanding of the term “plant health” and its meaning. Although, there are different definitions and approaches used, it is widely understood that “*plant health is considered the discipline that utilizes normative and legislative approaches to prevent pests and disease causing organisms (hereafter called pests) to spread into endangered areas, especially through human interaction such as international trade*”. This understanding would set a certain limitation to the scope of the IYPH 2020 and would ensure that the objectives of the IYPH 2020 are somewhat governed by the strategic objectives of the international phytosanitary community.
5. ***b. Main Objective for the IYPH 2020***
6. 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 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, the proposal for the main objective of the IYPH 2020 could be:

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

**Action Points:**

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| 1. ***Actions required by SPG:***
 | ***Advise the CPM-Bureau on possible main objectives for IYPH 2020***  |
| 1. ***Actions required by CPM-Bureau:***
 | ***Agree on main objectives for IYPH 2020 for adoption at CPM-11*** |

1. ***c. Specific Objectives***
2. 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. Following are a number of proposals for specific objectives:
* **Raising the awareness of the public and political decision makers at the global, regional and national levels about plant health**
* **Promoting a strengthening of national, regional and global plant health efforts in light of increasing trade and new pest risks caused through climate change.**
* **Increasing global, regional and national resources for plant health policies and systems**
* **Educating the public about plant health and their role in protecting the environment against pests**
* **Increasing knowledge about plant health and furthering research activities related to it**
* **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**
1. The examples of the specific objectives above just aim to illustrate how such specific objectives could look like for the IYPH 2020. The SPG and the CPM-Bureau are invited to consider them when selecting or developing specific objectives for the IYPH 2020.

**Action Points:**

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| 1. ***Actions required by SPG:***
 | ***Advise the CPM-Bureau on possible specific objectives for IYPH 2020***  |
| 1. ***Actions required by CPM-Bureau:***
 | ***Select specific objectives for IYPH 2020 for adoption at CPM-11*** |

**III WORK-PROGRAMME FOR IYPH 2020\**

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. *Structure of the Steering Committee*
4. It would be proposed that the IYPH 2020 Steering Committee has a number of subcommittees or groups dealing with major activities, such as programmatic and communications, finances and partnerships (see fig.)

Steering Committee

Programme and Communications Group

Partnership and Liaison Group

Resource Mobilization Group

1. The Steering Committee should have enough members to tackle all subjects related to the IYPH 2020. Membership would ideally be composed of:
* 14 members from contracting parties
* 5-7 members from collaborating International Organizations and RPPOs
* 3 members from IPPC Secretariat and FAO
* Representatives of major donors and contributors to the IYPH 2020
1. In this context it maybe of advantage to have some permanent representatives from contracting parties as members of the steering committee to have full coordination with the FAO decision making bodies on the IYPH 2020.

**Action Points:**

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| 1. ***Actions required by SPG:***
 | ***Advise the CPM-Bureau on membership and tasks of a IYPH 2020 Steering Committee*** |
| 1. ***Actions required by CPM-Bureau:***
 | ***Establish IYPH 2020 Steering Committee and propose its confirmation to CPM-11*** |

**IV OUTPUTS FOR IYPH 2020**

1. In order to evaluate the effectiveness of an IYPH it should be necessary to define certain measurable outputs. This will help to plan and focus the activities undertaken in the IYPH. Outputs should be measurable and result in the strengthening of national, regional or global plant health systems and structures and should be designed to link to the objectives. Possible outputs of an IYPH could be:
	* **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**
2. The examples of the outputs above just aim to illustrate how they could look like for the IYPH 2020. The SPG and the CPM-Bureau are invited to consider them when selecting or developing outputs for the IYPH 2020.

**Action Points:**

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| 1. ***Actions required by SPG:***
 | ***Advise the CPM-Bureau on outputs for IYPH 2020***  |
| 1. ***Actions required by CPM-Bureau:***
 | ***Select outputs for IYPH 2020 for adoption at CPM-11*** |

1. Document CPM 2015/14: Proposal for an *International Year of Plant Health;* [*https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/governance/cpm/*](https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/governance/cpm/) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)