International Year of Plant Health in 2020 (IYPH 2020)

1. Introduction

1. At CPM-10 (2015) Finland proposed to establish an International Year of Plant Health (IYPH) in 2020. The proposal received strong support from the CPM-10, which decided to pursue the proclamation of the IYPH in 2020 under the leadership of Finland.
2. CPM-12 (2017) encouraged IPPC Contracting Parties (CPs) to provide extra-budgetary contributions to enable promotional activities to support the IYPH proclamation process and to propose potential IYPH events and activities.
3. In 2017, the 40th Session of the FAO Conference adopted the proposal by Finland and the FAO Director-General and submitted the resolution to the Secretary-General of the United Nations with a view to having the resolution adopted by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).
4. CPM-13 (2018) agreed to a skeleton list of IYPH programme events and their associated estimated costs as developed by the IYPH Steering Committee (IYPH StC). It also urged CPs to provide extra-budgetary contributions to enable promotional activities to support the IYPH proclamation process. They were also urged to propose potential IYPH events and activities.
5. A decision by the UNGA is expected to be taken by the end of November 2018.

2. Activities to promote the proclamation of the IYPH in 2020

1. Activities to promote the proclamation of the IYPH at the UN General Assembly have primarily focused on creating awareness amongst stakeholders about the IYPH proposal. Presentations were given at a number of occasions, including the IPPC regional workshops, and other relevant regional events and international conferences such as the International Congress of Plant Pathology in Boston.
2. In addition to the Public Relations activities carried out, the Government of Finland has prepared a draft resolution, which has been tabled to the UN General Assembly Second Committee. In order to promote the proposal, the Embassy of Finland to the UN in cooperation with the IPPC Secretariat are planning to hold a reception for UN ambassadors at the end of October 2018.
3. In order to solicit support for the proposal at the UN General Assembly, the Chair of the IYPH Steering Committee contacted CPs’s official contact points and sent an information package developed by the IPPC Secretariat and the IYPH StC. The purpose of this communication was to request National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs) to contact their Foreign Ministries and UN Permanent Representations and urge them to support the IYPH proposal once it has been discussed at the UNGA.

3. IPPC and FAO Strategy to Support IYPH 2020

1. The 4th meeting of the IYPH StC was held at FAO Headquarters in Rome in April 2018. One of the main issues discussed was the future planning of FAO/IPPC activities for the IYPH 2020 once the year has been officially declared by the UN General Assembly. The FAO divisions concerned informed that a new international steering committee should be established by FAO after the IYPH proclamation. This new IYPH Steering Committee will be composed mainly of Rome-based permanent representatives to FAO as well as stakeholders selected by FAO. In this context, the IYPH StC stressed that the new FAO steering committee should build on the experience and work plan being developed by the IYPH StC. It was agreed that the Chair and the Vice-chair of the current IPPC IYPH StC should be members of the FAO Steering Committee in order to ensure that the new FAO Steering Committee takes into account the planning, and other considerations, which have been done up to now. It was also emphasized that IPPC Secretariat should be the FAO Lead Division of the IYPH 2020 initiative. The IPPC IYPH StC also recommended that the current IPPC IYPH StC should continue its work and function as a technical advisory body to FAO for the IYPH 2020. A proposal to this effect should be made by the CPM to FAO management.
2. In April 2018, the CPM-13 agreed to the skeleton list of IYPH global programme events and their associated estimated costs proposed by the IYPH StC. The skeleton programme adopted consists of:  
    - IYPH launch events in New York and Rome (December 2019);  
    - a photo contest / exhibition;  
    - a Ministerial-level CPM in Rome (April 2020);  
    - an International Conference on Plant Health (location TBD);  
    - the World Food Day focused on Plant Health (16 October 2020)  
    - an IYPH closing event in Rome.
3. The organization of these events requires substantial activities from NPPOs, the IPPC Secretariat as well as the CPM and its subsidiary bodies. The organization of the ministerial level CPM should commence as soon as possible after the official adoption of the IYPH at the UNGA. It is important that ministers of CPs get the dates for CPM-15 (2020) early into their calendars to block the relevant days and to ensure wide ministerial participation. Considering that the planning of CPMs has been in the competence of the CPM Bureau and the IPPC Secretariat, it is suggested that the CPM-Bureau and the IPPC Secretariat commence planning CPM-15 as soon as possible. This would also include interaction with different FAO units and divisions responsible for protocol and security. In addition, it may be of advantage if the CPM-15 is officially opened by a Head of State. The CPM-Bureau may want to consider who could open the CPM-15 and ways to secure the participation by   
   a Head of State.
4. With regard to the International Plant Health Conference, the IYPH StC discussed its possible programme and decided that it should be as broad as possible. The IYPH StC opened a discussion on the OCS about a detailed programme. A proposal was made for a detailed multi-day programme consisting of multiple concurrent symposia. The draft programme is attached as Annex I to this paper. It would be of advantage if the SPG could comment on the draft programme of the planned conference.
5. With regard to activities carried out by NPPOs and stakeholders under the umbrella of the IYPH 2020, it should be noted that all national and regional activities will be carried out under the programmatic responsibility of the organizers. The IPPC or FAO will not have the capacity to vouch that every activity organized in the world fulfils the expectations set in the declaration of the IYPH. However, there is the possibility for NPPOs to manage the planning process on a national level by setting up national programme committees, which would include wide stakeholder participation. This would ensure that the plant health related activities are focusing on “plant health” as defined in the original CPM decision on the IYPH. To encourage this, it is suggested that the CPM Chairperson will write a letter to each NPPO requesting them to set up a national IYPH coordinating committee. Ideally, this letter would be sent after the adoption of the IYPH proposal by the UNGA in November 2018.
6. In addition, every year a number of regular plant health related meetings are held in every country (e.g. annual meetings of scientific societies and professional organizations, trade shows, and agricultural fairs). To achieve the greatest possible outreach, NPPOs are encouraged to incorporate plant health components into all of those events and meetings. The SPG may wish to discuss a strategy to this effect. The possible components of such a strategy may be that in the beginning of 2019 NPPOs and their national IYPH programme committee establish a calendar of plant health related events and consequently contact all organizers of these events.
7. As for each International Year, FAO will develop a communication handbook and action plan. This handbook will be essentially the communication guide for the entire IYPH. The handbook will be developed by the FAO “Office for Corporate Communication and Outreach” (OCCO) and be developed in consultation with the FAO IYPH StC. The IYPH communication work plan which was revised in the April meeting should serve as a draft to the communication handbook.
8. With regard to financial matters, the IYPH StC had been informed previously that according to FAO procedures “an International Year will not be proclaimed unless full financing (which in principle should be based on voluntary contributions) …. [is] confirmed”[[1]](#footnote-1). The adoption of the IYPH resolution by FAO Governing Bodies proves that this criterion is met and initial financing has been secured. This in fact means that here is no specific need to demonstrate to the UNGA that funds are secured.
9. The IYPH StC further estimated the costs of the IYPH by establishing a skeleton programme of flagship events during 2019/2021 and costing them in a general manner. It considered that the total budget for IYPH global activities (2019 - 2021) should be a minimum of 600 000 USD.
10. There are currently approximately USD 265 000 in the IPPC trust fund or other funds that have been pledged for the IYPH. In addition, a substantial contribution towards organizing the International Conference is expected. This contribution will be substantially higher than the originally estimated USD 150 000 and will be made official on the day the IYPH is proclaimed by the UNGA. More contributions are needed to implement the skeleton programme and the SPG, Finance Committee (FC) and CPM-Bureau are invited to provide suggestions on how financing will be secured.
11. Based on the FAO OCC and DPS Divisions, the budget of similar previous international years ranged from 1.5 to 2 million USD. Hence, the IYPH strategy should aim at mobilizing (i) more partners to support the IYPH at the global and regional level and (ii) adequate resources to enable the better coordination of the global activities led by IPPC and FAO. The latter should also, to a certain extent, contribute to the IYPH activities to be carried at the regional and national level with support of the IPPC Secretariat, FAO Regional and Sub-Regional Offices and partner organizations. This should include the production and dissemination of communication and advocacy materials.
12. Several partner organizations informed the IPPC Secretariat about their planned programmes to support IYPH. To mobilize more partners and ensure better coordination, join forces and share ideas, the IPPC Secretariat proposes to have an “IYPH Partners Coordination Meeting” during the CPM-14.
13. A further issue regarding financing the IYPH has been revealed by FAO. Once the IYPH 2020 is proclaimed, FAO will establish its International Steering Committee and establish a IYPH 2020 dedicated trust fund. That would mean that any funds contributed to the dedicated FAO IYPH 2020 trust fund would be under the control of FAO and not necessarily accessible to the IPPC. In this context it would be of advantage if the SPG, FC and CPM-Bureau could discuss possible strategies should CPs target possible donations to IYPH specific purposes or trust funds.

4. Recommendations to SPG

1. The SPG is invited to:
2. *Note* the report of the activities undertaken to promote the declaration of the IYPH.
3. *Provide* feedback on the provisional agenda of the international conference contained in Annex I.
4. *Discuss* the strategy and programme for promoting the IYPH, especially at the regional and national level.
5. *Contribute* to mobilizing more partners to support the IYPH 2020 and encourage the CPs and regional partner organizations to contribute to IYPH 2020 activities *(financially and in-kind)*
6. *Provide* advice on how further resources can be mobilized and additional potential donors could targeted.
7. *Encourage* CPs to establish a coordination mechanism, start planning and share national and regional level IYPH 2020 plans with their regional representatives in the IYPH StC.

Annex 1.

Proposal for an International Conference in 2020 – Flagship event for the IYPH 2020

Title of the Conference: “**Plant Health in a Changing World**”

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| Description: | The conference aims to present changing parameters, which influence plant health and plant health policy responses. The conference would particularly aim to highlight the following topics:   * The potential of plant health to contribute to a hunger-free world. * Trade aspects:   + The internationalization of individual steps in production chains (e.g. seed).   + Changing trade patterns.   + Trade facilitation – friend or foe of plant health policies? * Development aspects   + Changing agricultural production methods and their impact on plant health   + Plant health risks to vulnerable production systems (e.g. small islands, least developed countries, subsistence farming etc.) * Plant Health Contribution to Climate Action & Preserving Life on Land   + Climate change and its impacts on plant health.   + Conserving biodiversity through plant health (IAS) * Resourcing Plant Health at the national, regional and global levels |
|  | ***Justification and target audiences:***  The conference would appeal as much to the public, which has a high interest in the problems facing the world (climate change, biodiversity and hunger) as well as politicians and plant health experts. Parts of the conference could be widely used by generating a kind of list of “recommendations” which then could form the basis of a paper on how to proceed after the IYPH has been completed. Recommendations of this conference may be incorporated into the CPM work-programme in coming years as well as being translated into political decisions for future CPM/FAO Conference decisions.  The scope of the conference would be wide, covering the entire spectrum of plant health, and would be oriented towards attaining the UN Sustainable Development Goals. This would help maximize public attention and mainstream plant health policies into UN discussions.  ***Participants***:  Participation would mainly consist of plant health officials/researchers/decision makers as well as the private sector and other decision makers with regard to the sectors included in the programme. Ideally, representatives of civil society would also be involved.  ***Organization***:  The large amount of topics makes it necessary that concurrent sessions are organized. It is necessary to have a sufficient amount of qualified speakers for each session. It should be approached in such a way that there are a number of speakers and not “lecturers”.  ***Logistics***:   * Live-streaming capability * multiple seminar rooms to accommodate concurrent sessions * possibly: field trip * no interpretation * possibly: registration fee (50-200 USD?) * establishment of a programme committee * Media packages; before and after conference * participants: >300 persons |

1. FAO, C 2013/LIM/15 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)