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Report of the IYPH Steering Committee - Report and recommendations of the IPPC IYPH Steering Committee
Agenda item 12.1
Prepared by the IPPC Secretariat

I. Introduction

1. The International Year of Plant Health 2020 (IYPH 2020) was officially declared by the 73 Session of the United Nations General Assembly on 20 December 2018.
2. Since CPM-13 (2018) two meetings of the IPPC IYPH Steering Committee (IYPH StC) have been conducted. The Fourth meeting of the IYPH StC took place immediately after CPM-13 from 23-25 April 2018¹ and the Fifth meeting of the IYPH StC was conducted from 14-15 February 2019. Both meetings took place in Rome. The following chapters aim to inform about the outcomes of the meetings as well as propose actions to CPM-14 with regard to the planning implementation of the IYPH 2020.

II. Finalization of the proclamation process

3. The Fourth meeting of the IYPH StC considered the communication plan of the IYPH 2020 and the actions to be undertaken to support its proclamation at the 73rd Session of the United Nations General Assembly. It particularly worked on the finalization of an information leaflet about the benefits of the IYPH 2020 and plant health. Furthermore, the IYPH StC also developed documentation material

¹ Ref. Report of fourth IYPH StC: https://www.ippc.int/static/media/uploads/iyp/2018/05/17/Report_IPPC-IYPHStC_Fourth_Meeting-2018-05-16.pdf

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for contracting parties' NPPOs to contact and inform their Foreign Ministries about the IYPH 2020. In this context the IYPH StC finalized:

- A multilingual IYPH brochure
- IYPH advocacy documents for decision makers
- 4 IYPH UNGA model statements
- A model press release for NPPOs

4. All these information materials were sent to all NPPOs in order to facilitate their interactions with their authorities responsible for UN affairs. In addition, the IPPC Secretariat produced another video advocating the IYPH 2020, and took part in discussions on the IYPH resolution at the Second Committee of the UN General Assembly. Furthermore, to support the IYPH proclamation the Government of Finland organized at its Permanent Representation to the UN in New York a reception in October 2018, which was highly successful in promoting the IYPH 2020.

5. The result of this focus on the proclamation process was extremely positive since 95 countries co-sponsored the UN resolution.

III. Future role of the IPPC IYPH StC towards 2020

6. The IYPH StC was informed at its 4th and 5th meeting that FAO will establish a new steering committee for the IYPH 2020. This new committee will be called the "IYPH International Steering Committee" (IYPH ISC). The membership of this committee will be comprised of seven delegates from FAO regions (+7 alternates) as well as members from research and academia, civil society, private sector, and international organizations. The IYPH StC had proposed at its 4th meeting that the Chair and Vice-chair of the current IPPC IYPH StC (Mr. Ralf LOPIAN & Ms. Kyu-ock YIM) should be members of the new IYPH ISC to ensure continuity and technical/scientific expertise. The "Terms of Reference" of the IYPH ISC have been developed by the IPPC Secretariat and the FAO Partnerships division, in consultation with the IYPH StC. In addition, the current IYPH StC suggested that it will continue its work in a reduced frequency, as a technical advisory group, to ensure that relevant IPPC aspects are included in the planning of the IYPH 2020. The specific tasks of this advisory group for the IYPH will be especially:

- Provide technical support and advice as required by the IYPH ISC established by FAO
- Serve as programme and editorial committee for the International Plant Health Conference
- Serve as editorial committee for major IYPH publications
- Serve as IPPC coordinating body for the IYPH 2020
- Support the evaluation of the IYPH in 2021

IV. Programme of activities during the IYPH 2020

7. The Fifth meeting of the IYPH StC discussed the activities to be undertaken during the IYPH 2020. In this regard the following issues were addressed:

International Plant Health Conference

8. The IYPH StC was informed that the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Finland has announced to sponsor the International Plant Health Conference and invited FAO, IPPC and the international plant health community to Finland in October 2020. A draft conference programme was discussed and the preliminary title of the conference is "Protecting Plant Health in a Changing World". The IYPH StC set up a programme committee, which will decide on a detailed programme of the conference as well as on possible speakers and presenters. It is planned that the conference will have 500-700 participants and its programme will contain concurrent symposia, workshops as well as public and media events. The IYPH StC considered that abstracts of presentations, the results of the conference and its major papers should be published.

IYPH 2020 launch events in New York and Rome

9. The official launch of the IYPH 2020 will be planned and organized by the new IYPH ISC. The current steering committee will assist in this planning by providing a draft tentative programme to FAO.

Photo and video competitions

10. At CPM-13 (2018), the skeleton-programme of the IYPH 2020 was agreed, which contained plans for a photo and video competition. After detailed discussion at the IYPH StC it was considered that the organization of a video competition may not be feasible due to the fact that the production of high-quality video materials may not be achievable by non-professionals. The IYPH StC suggested creating a jury for the photo contest composed of people with technical expertise on the quality of the photos taken, but also an expertise of plant protection. It also suggested to develop various categories, with awards given by category and to an overall winner. Finally, the IYPH StC considered it important to have a public selection of finalist photos to decide on the winner.

Development and publication of scientific/technical publications in IYPH 2020

11. The IYPH StC discussed possibilities to develop and publish scientific/technical publications during the IYPH 2020. There are quite a few technical reports or publications, which have been connected to previous international years and the question should arise if there should be similar publications be prepared during the IYPH 2020. In addition, there have been recent activities by some non-governmental institutions or organizations to produce a major publication titled “*Global Burden of Plant Pests*” which falls loosely into the same category as publications either published or in preparation for “*Global Burden of Food-borne Diseases (FAO/WHO)*” or “*Global Burden of Animal Diseases (OIE)*”, respectively.

12. The IYPH StC considered that the production of such publications could be outsourced to internationally renowned experts or institutions. It agreed that one or two scientific/technical publications should be developed as outcomes of the IYPH 2020. One of these should be a scientific review on “*Plant Health and climate change*”. The IYPH StC also agreed that the IPPC Secretariat should explore possibilities to coordinate with other institutions the production of a major publication called “*Global Burden of Plant Pests*”. In this context it is important to note that extra budgetary funds are needed to undertake this work.

V. IYPH Communications Handbook, including visual identity

13. FAO informed the IYPH StC that it would be developing an “IYPH Communications Handbook” in cooperation with the IPPC Secretariat. This would also include the visual identity (logo) of the IYPH 2020. The IYPH StC recalled the urgency to finalize the logo as soon as possible, e.g. to allow national post offices to develop relevant stamps on time for 2020.

VI. Resources

14. The IYPH StC discussed a version of the paper CPM 2019/09 which deals with the IYPH budget. The IYPH StC found it adequately reflects the financial resources needed to successfully implement the IYPH 2020. To achieve this resource level the IYPH StC recommended that contracting parties support the IYPH celebration financially and in-kind at all levels. Contracting parties and other donors are encouraged to voice resource pledges at CPM-14.

15. The planning and implementation of the IYPH 2020 will be a major undertaking and will require the input from the global plant health community. Especially within the IPPC Secretariat, the CPM, and its subsidiary bodies specific efforts are required in order to make the IYPH 2020 a successful undertaking. The success with regard to the planning and implementation of the IYPH 2020 will also be

the benchmark to which NPPOs, RPPOs and the IPPC Secretariat will be judged in relation to competence and future influence. NPPOs, RPPOs and the IPPC Secretariat should make their best efforts for the good performance of the IYPH 2020, as this will be, in the near future, a unique occasion to promote plant health to the worldwide community

16. On national and regional levels, the IYPH StC found that NPPOs and RPPOs need to pool resources and collaborate with all kind of national and regional stakeholders. In order to achieve the best possible results for the IYPH 2020, NPPOs and RPPOs may need to temporarily adjust priorities and establish a transparent information system between themselves. To facilitate this, the IYPH StC recommended that all NPPOs and RPPOs establish national and regional coordination committees to plan and implement their IYPH activities.

17. Planning and implementation of IYPH 2020 will strain the resources of the IPPC Secretariat, the CPM and its subsidiary bodies. The IPPC Secretariat will be at the epicentre of all IYPH 2020 related activities. It will be constantly approached with questions, requests for technical contributions and participation at many international, regional and national events. Without a proper plan on how to carry out these activities and how to prioritize its activities, the Secretariat might be in a difficult position to achieve these tasks. The IYPH StC considered that it may not suffice that the IPPC Secretariat hires new staff, since for these activities experienced staff is absolutely needed. This warrants a reprioritization of activities within the Secretariat in order to cope with the IYPH 2020 requirements. Consequently, the IYPH StC strongly recommends that the CPM suspends the 2020 call for topics and delays it for one year until 2021. This would free staff resources of the IPPC Secretariat of about 50 staff days, with no negative repercussions since the work programme for standards and implementation materials is filled and would survive a one-year delay without any noticeable impact in the work programme for the SC and IC. In addition, the IYPH StC repeats its recommendation from CPM-13, that the IPPC Secretariat analyses staff needs and commitments for IYPH, and share this analysis with the IYPH StC and CPM Bureau. Based on this analysis the CPM Bureau would need to rearrange the IPPC work plan in 2020 to allow the IPPC Secretariat to deal with IYPH activities effectively and efficiently.

18. The IYPH StC considered that during IYPH 2020 a large number of technical/scientific commenting requests will reach the IPPC Secretariat. IYPH 2020 partners and other stakeholders will constantly request the IPPC to react to some of their activities and to technically review their IYPH 2020 relevant publication. The IPPC Secretariat may be inundated by a large amount of such requests. The IYPH StC considered it prudent to have a group of scientifically trained professionals ready to assist the Secretariat in these matters. The members of the IC and SC are highly professional and scientifically trained and may, therefore, serve as a pool of expertise. Consequently, the IYPH StC recommends that the CPM-14 decides that each of the subsidiary bodies establishes a group of its members to deal with scientific/technical issues arising from the IYPH 2020.

VII. Conclusions

19. The IPPC, NPPOs and RPPOs are entering the most important phase in the preparation of the IYPH 2020. With the IYPH 2020 we aim to promote plant health and consequently to strengthen plant health efforts, world-wide. This, however, requires focus, determination and resources from the IPPC, RPPOs and NPPOs. It is important to set the tracks for a successful IYPH 2020 right now.

20. Consequently, the CPM is invited to:

- 1) *agree* that the work of the current IPPC IYPH Steering Committee should continue in form of a technical advisory body to CPM and the new IYPH International Steering Committee with the following main tasks:
 - *Provide* technical support and advice as required by the IYPH ISC established by FAO
 - *Serve* as programme and editorial committee for the International Plant Health Conference

- *Serve* as editorial committee for major IYPH publications
 - *Serve* as IPPC coordinating body for the IYPH 2020
 - *Support* the evaluation of the IYPH in 2021;
- 2) *take* note of the preparations for the International Plant Health Conference;
 - 3) *thank* the Government of Finland for sponsoring the International Plant Health Conference;
 - 4) *note* the removal of the video competition from the skeleton programme;
 - 5) *invite* the IPPC Secretariat to coordinate with other organizations the production of a flagship publication “*The global burden of plant pests*”;
 - 6) *decide* on a scientific/technical review of “*Plant Health and climate change*” to be published in 2020;
 - 7) *urgently encourage* contracting parties and donors to provide financial or in-kind resources to support the IYPH 2020 on all levels (national, regional, global);
 - 8) *recommend* to NPPOs and RPPOs to establish national and regional IYPH 2020 coordination committees, respectively, to coordinate the IYPH 2020 planning and implementation;
 - 9) *request* the IPPC Secretariat to analyse staff needs and commitments for IYPH, and share this analysis with the IYPH StC and CPM Bureau;
 - 10) *request* the CPM Bureau to rearrange the IPPC work plan in 2020 in order to allow the IPPC Secretariat to deal with IYPH activities effectively and efficiently;
 - 11) *decide* that the IPPC call for topics planned in 2020 will be delayed by one year;
 - 12) *instruct* the SC and IC to create a small advisory group of experts each to help the IPPC Secretariat with scientific issues arising from IYPH.