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COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

Fifteenth Session

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International Year of Plant Health (IYPH) 2020

Agenda item 12.2

**Prepared by the IPPC Secretariat and Mr Ralf Lopian, Chairperson of the
IYPH International Steering Committee**

1. The International Year of Plant Health (IYPH) 2020 was officially launched by the FAO Director-General QU Dongyu on Monday 2 December at FAO headquarters. The event, promoted as a special session of the FAO Council had a high-level and large audience, and triggered high attention by the global phytosanitary community, the media and social media platforms¹. The launch was completed by a plant health exhibition installed with contributions by the Irish and Italian national plant protection organizations and Conlegno, and a reception hosted by the IPPC Secretary.

2. FAO published a media advisory and press release², while three news were published on the IPPC website³. The UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres sent a message for the occasion⁴.

¹ 1.7 million users viewed FAO social media posts on the IYPH launch as of 4 December 2019.

² Ref. FAO press release: <http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/1253551/icode/>

³ Ref. IPP news: <https://www.ippc.int/en/news/the-official-launch-event-of-the-international-year-of-plant-health/>, <https://www.ippc.int/en/news/plant-health-exhibits-hosted-by-ireland-and-italy-at-the-international-year-of-plant-health-launch-event/> and <https://www.ippc.int/en/news/reception-marks-the-launch-event-of-the-international-year-of-plant-health/>

⁴ Ref. UNSG message: <https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/statement/2019-12-02/secretary-generals-message-the-launch-of-the-international-year-of-plant-health>

*This document can be accessed using the Quick Response Code on this page;
an FAO initiative to minimize its environmental impact and promote greener communications.
Other documents can be consulted at www.fao.org*



3. On 2nd December 2019 the new IYPH website was launched at www.fao.org/plant-health-2020. This includes a section for IYPH-related events at all levels. The IPPC Secretariat is collecting information on such events.
4. The IPPC Secretariat is also collecting human interest stories related to plant health based on the related call⁵, and launched a photo contest on 2nd December, with deadline on 15th June⁶.
5. The following additional materials were developed:
 - IYPH brochure⁷
 - IYPH communications guide⁸
 - IYPH promotional video⁹
 - Trello board (for social media posts)¹⁰
6. All IYPH graphic materials and publications are publicly available, including logotypes in various languages¹¹.
7. The key decisions and recommendations of the IYPH ISC at their last two meetings (11 October and 29 November) include:
 - Approval of the IYPH action plan, inclusive of the IYPH key events and will be a “living document”, updated as needed.
 - Undertaking a timely review of the Ministerial Declaration on Plant Health within FAO regional groups (through representatives of member countries in the IYPH ISC) and considered the possibility to endorse it at CPM-15 (2020).
 - Cancellation of the IYPH launch event in New York, to be replaced by another relevant event at UN headquarters, to be discussed with FAO Liaison Office in New York and decided at next IYPH ISC meeting.
 - Draft a letter for the FAO Director-General to link the World Food Day in 2020 to plant health.
 - Agreement on initiatives to be undertaken by the IPPC Secretariat and IYPH ISC chairperson to mobilize resources in view of covering the budget gap for IYPH 2020, including letters to IPPC contracting parties and partners, and personalized letters to eight selected non-state actors.
 - Establishing a calendar for IYPH ISC meetings in 2020.
 - Re-activating the IYPH Technical Advisory Board, providing technical advice to the IYPH secretariat, including on presentations, technical documents and awareness raising publications.
 - Strengthening IYPH legacy considerations with regard to all future IYPH activities and communication.
 - Finalizing the list of proposed IYPH ambassadors by the IYPH ISC meeting planned on 16 January 2020.
8. Initial discussions were also held on the establishment of a World Plant Health Day as a key legacy for IYPH 2020, which was endorsed by the CPM Bureau at their virtual meeting in December 2019.

⁵ Ref. Call for human interest stories on plant health: <http://www.fao.org/3/ca5426en/ca5426en.pdf>

⁶ Ref. Photo contest page: <http://www.fao.org/plant-health-2020/photo-contest/enter-the-contest/en/>

⁷ Ref. IYPH brochure: <http://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/ca6992en>

⁸ Ref. IYPH communications guide: <http://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/ca7186en>

⁹ Ref. IYPH promotional video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cmPAwiIK2BU>

¹⁰ Ref. IYPH Trello board: <https://trello.com/b/3Q6b26IO/international-year-of-plant-health>

¹¹ Ref. IYPH workspace: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/79e79i1wt9jahcf/AADD04FRDDS4IDRMvcL0E-b3a?dl=0>

9. The IPPC Secretariat was also engaged in a series of meetings aimed at promoting the IYPH 2020 and the importance of plant health, particularly the role of the IPPC Community. IYPH presentations were made at the following key events from October to December 2019:

- The forty-first session of the European Commission on Agriculture (ECA-41) in Budapest, Hungary¹².
- The forty-third Annual Meeting of the North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO) in Montreal, Canada¹³.
- The twenty-fifth session of the Conference of Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP-25) in Madrid, Spain.
- EU Conference “Smarter rules for safer food and plant health” in Brussels, Belgium

10. Other awareness raising initiatives linked to IYPH 2020 were carried out in the same period at the universities of Turin, Florence and Bari with the participation of hundreds of students and good media coverage.

11. Further global events, in addition to the IYPH launch and CPM-15 (2020) Ministerial segment, include:

- FAO Conference on Fall armyworm, taking place in Abidjan on 12-13 March 2020.
- FAO Conference on banana fusarium wilt TR4, taking place in 2020, date to be confirmed.
- IPPC-SPS-STDF side event on IYPH at WTO-SPS Committee, taking place in Geneva in June 2020.
- International Plant Health Conference, taking place in Helsinki on 5-8 October 2020.¹⁴
- Side events or discussions at FAO Regional Conferences, World Food Day and CFS-47 in October 2020.
- IPPC-CBD joint event at 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP15), taking place in Kunming, China, in October 2020.
- IYPH closing event in December 2020, with date and venue to be confirmed.

12. The CPM is invited to:

- 1) *Note* the report on IYPH 2020.
- 2) *Request* CPM members to inform the IPPC Secretariat on IYPH-related initiatives they are responsible for or have become aware of throughout 2020 by writing to IYPH@fao.org or directly submitting the proposed events via the IYPH website.
- 3) *Endorse* the establishment of a World Plant Health Day as a legacy of IYPH 2020.

¹² Ref. IPPC news: <https://www.ippc.int/en/news/plant-health-sustained-by-experts-and-policy-makers-at-41st-european-commission-on-agriculture/>

¹³ Ref. NAPPO website: <https://www.nappo.org/english/nappo-annual-meeting-2019>

¹⁴ Ref. Conference page: <http://www.fao.org/plant-health-2020/events/events-detail/en/c/1250609/>