**Moving Forward with initiating a work program for the assessment and management of the impacts of climate change on plant health**

*(Prepared by the IPPC Secretariat)*

1. Introduction
2. Climate change will have a significant impact on plant health, especially through the possible expansion of pest distribution, incidence and intensity, and changes in pest epidemiology and life cycle. Mitigation of these impacts on plant health will present a major challenge to the national, regional and international plant protection organizations that deal with plant health. Changes in food production patterns and trade will become apparent over the next few decades. New challenges are occurring in areas such as surveillance, pest risk analysis and diagnostic. Therefore, it is important to forecast, prevent and mitigate the effects of climate change on plant health.
3. Trade offers a way to resolve challenges such as regional food shortages due to climate change impacts. However, climate change impacts on plant pests and pest vectors also threaten the international trading system, as international trade provides a pathway for plant pests and pest vectors to spread into new areas of the world that were previously not hospitable. To realize the potential benefits of safe international trade of plants and plant products it is therefore imperative to strengthen phytosanitary activities with regard to climate change.
4. Since pest and host plant distribution, pest epidemiology and pest impacts may change considerably as a result of climate change, robust surveillance and monitoring systems are vital at national, regional and international levels. Knowledge about pests and the potential changes in their life cycles, epidemiology and pathogenicity that may be induced by climate change, is essential when conducting pest risk analysis.
5. Up until now, the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures has given only initial consideration to issues related to climate change. If such issues are to receive more attention in the work program of the Commission, it is important that they are addressed in a systematic manner.
6. Greater attention needs to be paid to phytosanitary issues also in general policy considerations on climate change. It is essential that phytosanitary policies and strategies are adequately reflected especially in the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Political weight and subsequent funding for phytosanitary needs at a national, regional and international level will only be available when phytosanitary issues are recognized as an important components of the climate change debate.
7. Further steps to be taken
8. The goal defined in the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020-2030 is that by 2030, the impacts of climate change on plant health and the safe trade of plants and plant products are evaluated on a regular basis, especially in relation to pest risk analysis and management issues, and that phytosanitary matters are adequately reflected in the international climate change debate and considered by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.
9. The International Year of Plant Health 2020 aims at raising global awareness on the importance of plant health, and includes a focus on the significant impact that climate change can have on the behavior of plant pests and diseases and their impact. To this end, the IYPH International Steering Committee has commissioned a scientific document entitled "Climate change impacts on plant health: a global challenge to prevent and mitigate pest and disease risks for and impacts on agriculture, forestry and eco-systems".
10. The study is primarily addressed to the plant health community and decision-makers, including government officials, legislators and politicians. It intends to empower and strengthen plant protection organizations and help build phytosanitary capacity through the development of policies, scientific foundations and legal frameworks as well as adequate human and financial resources to deal with emerging pests through accurate forecasts, which may help prevent and mitigate the climate change impacts on plant health.
11. The results and recommendations of the study, along with a summary for policy makers, will be presented at the International Plant Health Conference titled "Protecting Plant Health in a Changing World" in Helsinki in June 2021. The scientific document will be considered as one of the outputs of the IYPH 2020, and its results and recommendations should provide further, science based guidance to support the development of future strategies in plant health.
12. In view of advancing the work on the development agenda item on the assessment and management of climate change impacts on plant health, the following next steps are proposed:
* The SPG is invited to agree that the major goal in 2021 is to increase the international understanding of the phytosanitary issues associated with climate change. The results and recommendations of the study on the impact of climate change on plant health, as well as the findings of the International Plant Health Conference in Helsinki, form an important basis for this understanding.
* Follow up the Helsinki Conference with a webinar organized by the Secretariat, targeted at the CPM members, to further inform and enhance countries’ understanding of the issue. Primary goal of the webinar is to better define the key actions that the CPM should take.
* Establish a CPM task force on climate change and phytosanitary issues. Based on the results and recommendations of the scientific paper on the impact of climate change on plant health, and the and findings of the Helsinki Conference and the webinar, the task force should conduct an analysis of the CPM responsibilities on climate change issues as appropriate, with a view on their effect on plant health policies. The task force should develop a program of actions to be presented to the CPM for consideration.
1. Recommendations
2. The SPG is *invited* to:
* *Endorse* the current concept note for presentation at the CPM-15.