**TOWARDS IYPH 2020**

The following document is intended to provide background information and justification for the proclamation of an International Year of Plant Health in 2020. It describes in a condensed form the activities undertaken to date and briefly introduces the future activities leading to a proclamation.

It is intended that National Plant Protection Organizations utilize this document as background information or briefing note when informing political decision makers and other stakeholders about the initiative IYPH 2020.

It can be attached to or included in national memos or press releases. It can also be translated and placed on web-sites of NPPOs or RPPOs.

The advocacy document has been provided by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Finland. It does not reflect any positions or views of FAO and the IPPC!

**Update on Activities Undertaken with Regard to Establishing the IYPH 2020 and Future Activities**

In 2014, the governing body of the International Plant Protection Convention (Commission on Phytosanitary Measures of the IPPC) discussed the possibility of conducting an International Year on Plant Health and asked the IPPC Secretariat and the Commission Bureau to investigate the rules and procedures for conducting an international year. The procedure for such a declaration requires resolutions by FAO and the UN General Assembly at the latest in 2018.

In 2015, the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures of the IPPC discussed again the will to organize an International Year of Plant Health for 2020 (IYPH 2020). Based on a proposal by Finland the Commission decided to pursue the IYPH 2020 and accepted Finland’s offer to serve as a champion for the declaration process.

In June 2015, the Finnish Head of Delegation at the FAO Conference reported to the FAO Conference about the decision of the IPPC with regard to the IYPH 2020 and the Finnish offer to serve as a champion for IYPH 2020. Strongly supported by many delegations, the FAO Conference welcomed the initiative.

In December 2015, the Government of Ireland donated EUR 25 000 to FAO/IPPC with the explicit request that these funds are used for promoting the International Year of Plant Health.

In January 2016, the Minister of Agriculture and Environment of Finland, Mr Kimmo Tiilikainen, officially requested the Director-General of FAO, Mr José Graziano da Silva, to place the subject on the agenda of relevant FAO meetings with a view to have a resolution on the matter at the FAO Conference 2017.

In March 2016, the Director-General of FAO replied to Finland and informed that the matter had been placed on the agenda of the Committee of Agriculture (COAG) in September 2016.

In April 2016, the 11th Session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM-11) met and decided to further pursue the International year of Plant Health. The meeting established a steering committee to plan and promote the IYPH. It also took decisions on the scope of the IYPH 2020 and its main and specific objectives.

***Future steps***

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| *September 2016* | ***Decision by FAO Committee of Agriculture***A positive decision by COAG is necessary to elevate the IYPH 2020 to the agenda of FAO Council. Papers need to be prepared and FAO members mobilized for support. A side-event to promote the objectives of an IYPH will be held. |
| *December 2016* | ***Decision by FAO Council***FAO Council would discuss this matter with regard to preparing a resolution on the IYPH 2020 which would be submitted for adoption at FAO Conference. A side-event to promote the objectives of an IYPH will be held. |
| *June 2017* | ***Decision by 40th FAO Conference***Official resolution by FAO Conference on the organization of a IYPH 2020. Supporting papers need to be prepared and FAO members mobilized for support. A side-event to promote the objectives of an IYPH will be held. |
| *Fall 2017* | ***Decision by UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)***ECOSOC will discuss a possible IYPH 2020 and hopefully approve the resolution. Papers and advocacy material will need to be prepared and a side-event to promote the objectives of an IYPH will be held. |
| *2017/2018* | ***Decision by UN General Assembly***Un General Assembly will discuss a possible IYPH 2020 and hopefully declare IYPH 2020. Papers and advocacy material will need to be prepared and a side-event to promote the objectives of an IYPH will be held. |

The IPPC activities to be undertaken in 2016 & 2017 are primarily focusing on resource mobilization, communication and activities to be conducted by the IPPC Steering Committee.