



Concept note for December 2019 FAO Council special session

International Year of Plant Health (IYPH) launch event

At its 73rd session in December 2018, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution, proclaiming 2020 as the International Year of Plant Health (IYPH). The UN Resolution A/RES/73/252 calls upon FAO, in collaboration with the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), to lead the implementation of the International Year.

The launch event will take place at FAO HQs as a special session of the 163rd session of the FAO Council on 2 December. This will include a high-level panel, an exhibition and a reception.

The main objective of the IYPH is to raise awareness of the importance and impacts of plant health in addressing issues of global importance, including hunger, poverty, threats to the environment and economic development.

IYPH specific objectives are as follows:

- Raise the awareness of the public and political decision makers at the global, regional and national levels about plant health.
- Promote and strengthen national, regional and global plant health efforts and their resources in light of increasing trade and new pest risks caused through climate change.
- Educate the public and increasing its knowledge about plant health.
- Enhance dialogue and stakeholder involvement in plant health.
- Increase information about the state of plant protection in the world.
- Facilitate the establishment of plant health partnerships on national, regional and global levels.

The IYPH is also expected to increase awareness of the importance of healthy plants to achieve several Sustainable Development Goals, including 1 (No Poverty); 2 (Zero Hunger); 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth); 12 (Sustainable Consumption and Production); 13 (Climate Action); 15 (Life on Land) and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

Earlier this year, FAO has set up the IYPH Secretariat, composed of representatives of the FAO Partnerships Division (PSP), the IPPC Secretariat, the Plant Production and Protection Division (AGP), and the Office of Corporate Communication (OCC).

This Secretariat facilitates the IYPH implementation process within FAO, in collaboration with an International Steering Committee (IYPH ISC), consisting of various stakeholders.

The IYPH ISC meetings are being held regularly to provide oversight over the programme of global events and propose an IYPH action plan. Among the key global events included in the IYPH action plan are the IYPH launch events, suggested to take place on 2 December 2019 at FAO headquarters in Rome, and in New York at a later date.

The agenda for the IYPH launch event, included in the FAO Council agenda as a special session, is presented as an annex to this concept note.

The official programme (opening and panel discussion) will be enriched by a plant health exhibit in the FAO atrium with materials provided by the Office of Corporate Communication, the Irish and Italian national plant protection organizations, and by a reception in the FAO cafeteria.

The event is supported by the IYPH Secretariat, along with the IYPH ISC, composed of members of all FAO regional groups and partner organizations.





ANNEX - PROVISIONAL AGENDA

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF PLANT HEALTH OFFICIAL LAUNCH EVENT

Sheikh Zayed Center, FAO Headquarters,

Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, Rome, Italy

2 December 2019

TIME	PROGRAMME	ORGANIZER
17:45 – 18:00	Opening of plant health exhibition in FAO atrium by FAO Director-General	IYPH Secretariat

TIME	INTERVENTION	SPEAKER
OPENING		
Moderator: Mr Roberto RIDOLFI		
	Video for the International Year of Plant Health (IYPH)	
	Opening and Launch of the International Year of Plant Health by FAO Director-General	Mr QU Dongyu
	Video message by the UN Secretary-General (TBC)	Mr António GUTERRES
18:00	Remarks by the Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Nicaragua	H.E. Edward CENTENO GADEA
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18:50	Remarks by the Minister of State at the Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine of Ireland	H.E. Andrew DOYLE
	Remarks by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Finland	Ms Jaana HUSU-KALLIO
	Remarks by the Permanent Secretary for the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Ms Tamara FINKELSTEIN
PANEL DISCUSSION		
Moderator: Mr Hans DREYER		
	Introductory remarks by FAO Assistant Director-General of Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department	Mr Bukar TIJANI
18:50	Chairperson of IYPH International Steering Committee	Mr Ralf LOPIAN
-	Executive Director, Global Operations, CABI	Mr Ulrich KUHLMANN
19:45	Secretary-General of International Seed Federation	Mr Michael KELLER
	Wrap-up by IPPC Secretary	Mr Jingyuan XIA

TIME	PROGRAMME	ORGANIZER
19:45 – 21:00	Reception at FAO terrace	IYPH Secretariat

