

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Tuesday, 29 June 2021 13:00 GMT +02:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	IYPH webinar - Food systems and plant health
CONVENED BY	International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) Secretariat, International Year of Plant Health (IYPH) International Steering Committee
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/12672/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Independent
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	No borders

The outcomes from a Food Systems Summit Dialogue will be of use in developing the pathway to sustainable food systems within the locality in which they take place. They will be a valuable contribution to the national pathways and also of interest to the different workstreams preparing for the Summit: the Action Tracks, Scientific Groups and Champions as well as for other Dialogues.

1. PARTICIPATION

TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

337

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0	0-18	44	19-30	180	31-50	104	51-65	8	66-80	0	80+
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PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

160	Male	172	Female	4	Prefer not to say or Other
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NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

216	Agriculture/crops	0	Education	0	Health care
0	Fish and aquaculture	0	Communication	0	Nutrition
0	Livestock	0	Food processing	72	National or local government
0	Agro-forestry	0	Food retail, markets	0	Utilities
4	Environment and ecology	4	Food industry	0	Industrial
8	Trade and commerce	0	Financial Services	28	Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

4	Small/medium enterprise/artisan	0	Workers and trade union
2	Large national business	28	Member of Parliament
0	Multi-national corporation	0	Local authority
8	Small-scale farmer	9	Government and national institution
0	Medium-scale farmer	0	Regional economic community
4	Large-scale farmer	28	United Nations
4	Local Non-Governmental Organization	0	International financial institution
176	International Non-Governmental Organization	4	Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance
0	Indigenous People	0	Consumer group
0	Science and academia	20	Other

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

HOW DID YOU ORGANIZE THE DIALOGUE SO THAT THE PRINCIPLES WERE INCORPORATED, REINFORCED AND ENHANCED?

The Dialogue approach was used in a virtual webinar for different stakeholders and participants to: • Listen to each other in an inclusive multi-stakeholder platform; • Welcome diverse perspectives; • Demonstrate respect for one another and differentiating views; • Learn new information; • Explore synergies in complex, interconnected themes; • Identify promising courses of action; • Review potential impact of different strategies; • Highlight the urgency of action; • Engage the plant health community to the UN Food Systems Summit. The event was open for everybody.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

The event was inclusive and engaged a wide array of stakeholders. The event had speakers from different stakeholder groups from all FAO regions to ensure geographical balance, as jointly agreed by the International Steering Committee for the International Year of Plant Health. The selection of speakers also took account of gender balance. The event aimed to ensure a continuous engagement of the international community to keep promoting awareness of plant health and its importance to food systems after the official closure of the International Year of Plant Health. A question and answer session was open for all participants during the event.

DO YOU HAVE ADVICE FOR OTHER DIALOGUE CONVENORS ABOUT APPRECIATING THE PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT?

In global events, it is important to ensure balanced representation from different geographical areas, genders and stakeholder groups. It is also important to communicate in a transparent and timely way to all speakers and participants, and maximise the benefits of utilizing social media in sharing information about the event and conveying its key messages. Planning-ahead is the key in virtual events. We organized dry runs for speakers to test the platform and presentation mode the previous day in order to ensure smooth passage during the event itself to avoid technical issues.

3. METHOD

The outcomes of a Dialogue are influenced by the method that is used.

DID YOU USE THE SAME METHOD AS RECOMMENDED BY THE CONVENORS REFERENCE MANUAL?

☒

Yes

☐

No

4. DIALOGUE FOCUS & OUTCOMES

MAJOR FOCUS

The International Year Plant Health (IYPH) Webinar Series was one of the events building path to the International Plant Health Conference, which will place during the week of 9 to 13 May 2022, following its cancellation in 2020 and 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The series aligns with advancing the objectives of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) Strategic Framework 2020-2030. It aims to ensure continuous engagement of the international community to promoting awareness of plant health after the official closure of the IYPH, and to support the potential declaration of the International Day of Plant Health on 12 May each year by the United Nations General Assembly.

The first event of the IYPH Webinar Series took place virtually on 29 June 2020. Technical panels offered detailed presentations on different plant health tools to be implemented to obtain sustainable food system and presentations on the results obtained by certain regions and structures implementing these tools. With the increase in globalization as well as national and international trade plant pests are offered more pathways to spread, with potentially disastrous consequences. This coupled to climate change allowing for pests to establish in areas that were previously hostile to them will signify changes in plant pest distribution resulting in changes in food production patterns and trade. Seen the predicted spread and effect of plant pests it is vital to increase the implementation of techniques to limit plant pest effects and protect food systems. During the webinar, various experts presented techniques to prevent pest spread to new areas as well as techniques to allow rapid identification and reaction to new pests. These techniques included Pest Risk Analysis, appropriate surveying procedures, sample size calculation and technological improvement of surveillance tools.

The Webinar supported the implementation of the IPPC Strategic Framework 2020-2030 development agenda as well as informing the participants of the correct practices to implement to protect food systems.

ACTION TRACKS

✓	Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
✓	Action Track 2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns
	Action Track 3: Boost nature-positive production
✓	Action Track 4: Advance equitable livelihoods
✓	Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress

KEYWORDS

✓	Finance	✓	Policy
✓	Innovation	✓	Data & Evidence
✓	Human rights	✓	Governance
	Women & Youth Empowerment		Trade-offs
		✓	Environment and Climate

MAIN FINDINGS

The participants highlighted the importance of informing the international community about the work of the IPPC community and its importance to food security and attainment of the SDGs. Thus they highlighted the importance of including plant health considerations and the IPPC international standards into the UN Food System Summit dialogues, seen the relevance of the topic to all five summit action tracks. The participants reiterated that multi-stakeholder collaboration is key to achieving plant health and sustainable food systems.

The vital role plant health and safe trade of food and agricultural products can have in alleviating food insecurity was recognised, with specific focus on pests and the logistical value chain that can affect safe agricultural trade. Hence, international commodity standards, better private/public cooperation in the development of standards and a global implementation of the e-Phyto Solution were determined to be essential tools to be worked on to facilitate safe trade. The participants highlighted the importance of implementing the International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) as a first action point to obtain safer trade. The ISPMs were thus mentioned as sources of guidance for safer provision of food aid.

The participants also reiterated the importance of focusing on prevention rather than on reaction, hence the need to improve the capacity of different countries was discussed, especially with regard to regulatory plant health. Among the capacities analysed during the event were capacities to predict pest risks through Pest Risk Analysis, Horizon Scanning Tool as well as the digitalization and improvement of other technological pest surveillance tools to monitor pests and prevent spread. In addition to the above, the importance of accurate sample size calculation tools to be implemented in pest surveillance was also agreed upon during the event.

The importance of improving alert systems and immediate response activities was also explored as a means to efficiently react to newly established pests whenever prevention mechanisms failed. Among the techniques discussed, the need to develop and implement adequate pest surveys, tailored for specific species was highlighted as a necessary strategy to monitor pests and to allow their reliable identification. In addition, focus was also given to developing early detection systems and effective response systems, including emergency plans and preparedness activities to immediately contrast the spread of plant pest and prevent further damage.

The event also analysed specialised structures established to train plant health practitioners with pest-specific and country-specific expertise in order to properly implement the plant health protection techniques, including the ones mentioned during the event. The various panellists encouraged the establishment of these structures, which also play a major role in popularising plant health to the public through events and by producing advocacy material.

As plant health and especially the IPPC are natural stakeholders in the One-Health approach and activities with regard to antimicrobial resistance, the suggestion that the IPPC should be a full partner in the FAO internal cross-sectorial One Health activities, was advanced.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC

1. The relation between Plant Health and Food Security

This session presented different ways in which Plant Health and Food Security are related to each other.

Key take-aways of the session:

Food aid to providing food commodities to a recipient country in need of assistance, can act as a pathway for plant pests ultimately doing more harm than good.

To reduce pest risk by promoting safe provision of food aid that implement phytosanitary measures, the following suggestions were made:

- Develop and maintain emergency plans and preparedness activities to reduce regulated pest introduction risk;
- Raise awareness of pest risk to stakeholders and partner with relevant stakeholders to improve the phytosanitary aspect of the food aid provision plan also using the guidance available from International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs);
- Encourage donor countries to perform pre-dispatch and during transit treatments;
- Increase the visibility of information about goods posing a pest risk;
- Encourage exporting countries to meet phytosanitary requirements of the recipient country.

Another aspect that was explored in this section was facilitating safe trade of grain suggested different means to improve grain trade as well as overall trade of plant-based commodities, these include:

- Share vital research and expertise on the global supply chain through technical, legal and economic evaluations nationally and internationally;
- Promote partnerships, forming networks working with experts from all over the world to facilitate safe trade;
- Prioritize the IPPC and promote the implementation of the already existing ISPMs while also encouraging the establishment of new trade-related ISPMs to promote a rule-based trading system;
- Encourage the use of the ePhyto Solution especially to governments deemed important grain traders, involving of the whole supply chain to improve these initiatives;
- Create of an Industry Advisory Group to complement the FAO's private sector strategy;
- Develop non-trade distortive means for food and feed processing risk management;
- Connect smallholders to the global network.

The topic of phytosanitary system to protect food security at a national level was also explored and recommendations were made accordingly:

- Promote implementation of preventive measures rather than curative measures;
- Develop effective predictive models like Horizon Scanning Tool, Pest Risk Assessment and pest surveillance support tools;
- Enhance cooperation between agencies, organizations and countries, to create a network for efficient pest detection and management activities;
- Invest more in research focusing on emerging phytosanitary threats to ensure knowledge to tackle them if they become widespread;
- Consider food security, trade and economic development equally when developing plant protection strategies;
- Strengthen focus on regulatory plant protection, advisory plant protection and research plant protection to support access to food and support compliant production respectively.

The last section of this panel was dedicated to recognising the role youth engagement and One Health play in food security and plant health. One Health approaches are essential for anticipation, prevention, detection and control of diseases and issues in the human-animal-plant-environment interface and thus, overall, also for ensuring food safety.

- One health is essential in fighting zoonotic pandemics and antimicrobial resistance;
- Enhancing national and international preparedness and performance in managing disease and pest outbreaks;
- Direct focus to the development of policies for spill over containment through foresight approaches;
- Mainstreamed One Health approaches and concepts to environment and natural resource-related agencies, that should direct their effort to abiding to these concepts;
- Improving the national capacity of certain countries is essential to allow the inclusion of harmonious One Health approaches;
- Empower youth and include them in environmental conversations, seen as they are the future, stimulate their enthusiasm about the matter by appealing to them with appropriate events.

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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

2. Technical session: Plant health tools for sustainable food systems

This session was a technical session with experts from different fields exploring different technical approaches to protect plant health and obtain sustainable food systems.

Key take-aways of the session;

Among the techniques discussed was Pest Risk Analysis (PRA), which was presented as an essential tool for National Plant Protection Organizations and Regional Plant Protection Organizations to protect plant resources and biodiversity, increase safe global trade, provide economic growth and prevent plant pest introductions.

Among the recommendations made it was noted that it is important to use the right type of PRA in the correct situation:

- Rapid PRA for a qualitative evaluation following new pest interceptions and outbreaks;
- Comprehensive PRA to yield a more detailed qualitative and quantitative evaluation to justify changes to phytosanitary legislation;
- A detailed analysis of certain aspects of PRA for a quantitative assessment to resolve major uncertainties.

It was also duly noted that PRA should be performed even if certain information about the pest is lacking as PRA would still have a degree of efficiency.

This panel also discussed the importance of detection tools and surveillance mechanisms such as plant pest surveys. The development of adequate plant pest surveys through a national network of co-operators and stakeholders, can be tailored to cover different target pests, provide pest information and help countries prepare to pest outbreaks. It was highlighted that for an ideal survey a network should be created, ideally different experts from different branches of plant protection should be involved to draft different aspects and areas of the survey for more accurate results.

Sample size calculation and appropriate statistical analyses were also presented as crucial components of pest surveillance and early detection mechanisms.

This section of the event also detailed the importance of establishing specialised structures at national and regional level to suppress plant pest dispersion and protect food systems. Certain important roles these structures have should be highlighted when analysing some existing structures:

- Train phytosanitary practitioners in a variety of techniques including PRA and other surveillance mechanisms, tailored to specifically address national and regional issues;
- Mainstream national plant health information through advocacy material production;
- Establish national plant health conferences to coordinates and focus phytosanitary activities;
- Promote the creation of an effective phytosanitary network by partnering with other organizations and cooperating with other countries;
- Encourage the construction of national structures containing biosecurity laboratories.

During the session important considerations were also made for phytosanitary efforts to be made at regional level. Once again the importance of using systems like PRA, alert procedures and similar mechanisms was reinforced. Suggestions were also made to develop more technological pest surveillance systems and adapt these systems to take into consideration changes in plants and pests that may occur as a result of climate change variability. The digitalization of these practices would also allow having access to easily updatable databases with complete regarding the whole region.

Suggestions to prevent plant pest introduction included:

- Support countries and areas of the region with low pest prevalence to prevent introduction of pests;
- Strengthen the implementation of phytosanitary inspection and certification;
- Utilize integrated pest management techniques to both prevent pest introduction and eradicate pest in a sustainable manner.

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ATTACHMENTS AND RELEVANT LINKS

RELEVANT LINKS

- **Food Systems and Plant Health webinar observes end of the International Year of Plant Health**
<https://www.ippc.int/en/news/food-systems-and-plant-health-webinar-observes-end-of-the-international-year-of-plant-health/>
- **Webcast**
<http://www.fao.org/webcast/home/en/item/5573/icode/>
- **Photo gallery**
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/faonews/albums>
- **International Year of Plant Health**
<http://www.fao.org/plant-health-2020/home/en/>
- **International Plant Protection Convention**
<https://www.ippc.int/en/>
- **International Plant Protection Convention**
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