

27th Session of the Committee on Agriculture
Written Correspondence Procedure – inputs from Members – Original language
Item 4.5 Proposal for an International Day of Plant Health

Member Name	Comments
Costa Rica (Tue 22/09/2020 07:19)	By the means of this communication, the delegation of Costa Rica would like to express its support to the proposal introduced by the delegation of Zambia, regarding the promotion of May 12th as the International Day of Plant Health. The contribution, that such a celebration will add to the efforts of highlighting the importance of Plant Health as a key factor to combat pests and disease, is undeniable. Specially during our times, when the global community gathers to coordinate efforts to stop the mass spread of new and dangerous diseases
Australia Wed (23/09/2020 17:07)	Australia supports the proposal to establish the observance on the 12 May of an International Day of Plant Health and endorses the related draft Conference Resolution. We believe this will provide a very important opportunity annually to raise awareness of the essential role that plant health plays in human health, food security, and trade, and the importance of plant health for maintaining a healthy and productive planet. Australia would like to have a better understanding of the implications on workload of the IPPC Secretariat in the eventual establishment of the International Day of Plant Health. We would also like to understand if there are minimum funding requirements from the UN prior to the Day being declared.
Dominican Republic (Tue 22/09/2020 18:52)	Reconocemos que selección de los temas de los Días Internacionales son el resultado de meticulosas propuestas y procesos de selección que han demostrado la importancia de la difusión y sensibilización de temas de escasa visibilidad. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respalamos el tema de la protección de la salud de las plantas frente a plagas y enfermedades, pues se trata de un tema vital, visto que hasta un 40% de las pérdidas de las cosechas puede atribuirse a plagas y enfermedades, así como a sus efectos en términos de disminución de la biodiversidad o de la salud de los suelos. Asimismo, respaldamos la iniciativa del Día Internacional de la Palma Datilera; aunque en República Dominicana no la cultivamos, reconocemos y valoramos sus aportes a la sostenibilidad de los suelos, a la lucha contra la desertificación y al extraordinario valor que esta planta y sus frutos brindan en términos de calorías y nutrientes para el consumo local, y para el comercio internacional. • República Dominicana acoge por tanto el proyecto de resolución y de reconocimiento de ambos Días Internacionales, que apoyaremos en la próxima sesión del Consejo de la FAO.
Zambia (Wed 23/09/2020 18:03)	Plants make up 80 percent of the food we eat, and produce 98 percent of the oxygen we breathe. Yet, they are under constant and increasing threat from pests and diseases. Every year, up to 40 percent of global food crops are lost to plant pests and diseases. This leads to annual agricultural trade losses of over \$220 billion, leaves millions of people facing hunger, and severely damages agriculture the primary income source for poor rural communities. By preserving plant health, we contribute to food security, environmental protection, economic development, and our own health. Despite their importance, plants are increasingly threatened by the climate crisis, invasive pests and diseases and unregulated movement of people and goods. We need to strengthen the capacity of national, regional and global institutions to develop and implement phytosanitary standards and actions to improve plant health. To raise awareness about the importance of plant health for achieving Zero Hunger and the Sustainable Development Goals, Zambia proposes 12 May the International Day of Plant Health.

Argentina (Wed 23/09/2020 23:05)	<p>1. La Argentina expresa su apoyo a la declaración del 12 de mayo como “Día Internacional de la Sanidad Vegetal”.</p> <p>2. De la misma manera, respalda el proyecto de resolución de la Conferencia adjunto en el Apéndice A del Documento COAG/2020/20.</p> <p>3. Asimismo, sugiere que en los Antecedentes, se incluya un nuevo párrafo en el que se reconozca el rol que otros instrumentos internacionales pueden tener en la contribución a la sanidad vegetal, como es el caso del Tratado Internacional sobre los Recursos Fitogenéticos para la Alimentación y la Agricultura (TIRFAA).</p> <p>4. En ese sentido, se sugiere que, en caso de que el COAG haga suya la propuesta de resolución, se incorpore en el documento pertinente para su presentación al Consejo un párrafo que lea: “reconocer la importancia del acceso a los recursos fitogenéticos para la alimentación y la agricultura como forma de desarrollar cultivos resistentes a plagas y condiciones climáticas cambiantes”. En el documento COAG/2020/20, este párrafo podría incorporarse entre los párrafos 26 y 27.</p>
Canada (Thu 24/09/2020 14:43)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canada is supportive of raising the profile and awareness of plant health activities worldwide. • A focus on plant health is critical to support food security, environmental sustainability, and the trade of agricultural products • Canada appreciates all efforts to increase awareness on plant health globally and to help civil society and decision-makers understand the importance of protecting the world's plant resources.
Peru (Thu 24/09/2020 10:03)	<p>Revisado el documento que se presenta a los miembros del Comité de Agricultura, el único comentario sería que por la justificación estamos de acuerdo con la propuesta de Zambia para el reconocimiento del día internacional de la Sanidad Vegetal para continuar promoviendo la toma de conciencia sobre la importancia y las repercusiones de la sanidad vegetal a la hora de hacer frente al hambre, la pobreza, las amenazas al medio ambiente y el desarrollo económico; así como contribuir al logro de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible de las Naciones Unidas para 2030.</p> <p>En ese sentido, se opina favorablemente para que se emita la resolución correspondiente y se eleve el tema al Secretario General de las Naciones Unidas para que la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas considere la posibilidad de declarar el 12 de mayo Día Internacional de la Sanidad Vegetal.</p> <p>Este tema ya fue consensuado a nivel de la Convención Internacional de Protección Fitosanitaria - CIPF: en la Comisión de Medidas Fitosanitarias (CMF), el Bureau de la CMF y en el Comité Directivo Internacional del Año Internacional de la Sanidad Vegetal - AISV. La Organización Nacional de Protección Fitosanitaria - ONPF del Perú (Dirección de Sanidad Vegetal) está de acuerdo con ello.</p>
China (Thu 24/09/2020 17:32)	<p>中国积极支持粮农组织设立国际植物健康日的努力，长期以来，中国一直十分重视植物健康宣传工作，每年组织召开植物健康宣传月活动，提高社会公众对植物健康的认识。中国愿意参加粮农组织及国际植保公约的“植物健康年”、“植物健康日”等相关活动，努力营造全社会共同关注植物健康的良好氛围。</p>
New Zealand (Thu 24/09/2020 18:16)	<p>New Zealand notes that plants account for over 80 percent of the human diet as direct or indirect food supply, including animal feed. Plant pests are responsible for losses of up to 40 percent of global food crops and trade losses exceeding USD 220 billion in agricultural products annually. Therefore, healthy plants are the foundation for all life on earth, ecosystem functions and food security.</p> <p>Promoting and preserving plant health globally is essential to food security and achieving the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular, those aimed at eliminating hunger and malnutrition as well as reducing poverty and threats to the environment.</p> <p>The development and implementation of globally recognized standards and policies including International Standards on</p>

	<p>Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) and Commission on Phytosanitary Measures Recommendations adopted under the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) framework contributes to minimizing the risks posed by plant pests and diseases and their management, and facilitating safe international trade of plants and plant products.</p> <p>Recognition, advocacy and support for the promotion of plant health is of paramount importance for protecting global plant resources from pests, through developing and implementing ISPMs, improving capacity building for effective phytosanitary systems at international, regional and national level, strengthening international collaboration, and promoting harmonised phytosanitary measures through standard setting.</p> <p>New Zealand has supported the proclamation and observation of International Year of Plant Health (IYPH) 2020. As with many other member nations, New Zealand has organised a range of national activities to increase public awareness of the importance of plant health.</p> <p>New Zealand supports the establishment of the International Day of Plant Health on 12th of May as a legacy of the IYPH, with the purpose of promoting globally recognized standards, policies and sustainable agricultural practices.</p> <p>New Zealand supports the endorsement of the draft Resolution with the intention to submit the proposal for approval by the 165th Session of the FAO Council and adoption by the 42nd Session of the FAO Conference.</p>
Thailand (24/09/2020 23:20)	<p>Thailand endorses the proposal for an International Day of Plant Health on May 12 as per draft Resolution contained in Appendix A of the related document, to be submitted to Council 165 for approval and to Conference 42 for adoption.</p> <p>We encourage the establishment of the IDPH and the implementing actions among all relevant stakeholders that contribute to the preservation of plant resources, as well as the increased awareness of the importance roles of plant health in addressing global issues, including hunger, poverty, threats to the environment and economic development</p>
Mexico (Thu 24/09/2020 09:05)	<p>Así como se está celebrando el Año Internacional de la Sanidad Vegetal (AISV), con el fin de fomentar la conciencia a nivel mundial sobre cómo la protección de la salud de las plantas puede ayudar a erradicar el hambre, reducir la pobreza, proteger el medio ambiente e impulsar el desarrollo económico, en ese mismo sentido, México se unirá a la propuesta de la celebración de un Día Internacional de Sanidad Vegetal, ya que, como lo señalan las Naciones Unidas, la celebración de los Días Internacionales nos dan la oportunidad de sensibilizar al público en general acerca de los temas relacionados con cuestiones de interés. Por un lado, se promueve que los gobiernos tomen medidas y, por otro lado, que los ciudadanos conozcan mejor la problemática.</p>
EU (Thu 24/09/2020 19:00)	<p>2. We are fully aware of the threat of plant pest diseases and their serious effect on food security and nutrition, as they are responsible for a big amount of global food losses. We see also other harmful impacts like climate change that enhance the risks posed by plant pest diseases by decreasing the resilience of crops and spreading invasive species.</p> <p>3. We recognise the importance of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and its International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) in combating plant pests and diseases by providing globally harmonised guidance for countries to manage pest risks. The International Year of Plant Health (IYPH) 2020 contributes to this important goal, by raising awareness of the crucial challenges we are facing in this sector – despite limitations to public engagement opportunities as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. For all these reasons, we would also support an International Day of Plant Health, in order to continue raising awareness on this important subject.</p> <p>4. We agree that implementation of globally recognised standards and policies contributes to minimizing the environmental risks posed by plant pests and diseases and their management. We encourage FAO to continue to pay due attention to the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) as a means to contribute to the protection of the environment.</p>
USA (Fri 25/09/2020 09:33)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The United States strongly supports Zambia’s proposal. This will be an important initiative to continue raising awareness of plant health worldwide annually.

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Invasive plant pests are a major agricultural, environmental, and ecological threat. Every year, a significant portion of the global harvest is lost to plant pests.• The establishment of an International Day of Plant Health would be an important step to address future pest risk challenges that may have serious impacts on food security, the environment, and the global trade system.• The United States looks forward to collaborating with others in establishing this UN proclamation. |
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