

43rd Session of the Conference

Introduction to Item 15.1: Evaluation of the International Year of Plant Health 2020

The inaugural International Year of Plant Health (IYPH) 2020 began a new period of increased international cooperation for plant health management and greater awareness on how plant health can help address pressing global problems such as hunger, poverty, food insecurity, climate change and threats to the environment. It promoted the use of innovative and environmentally friendly approaches to manage plant pests and increased support for the development of more efficient national, regional and global policies to tackle existing and emerging plant health issues such as new pest pathways such as e-commerce. The IYPH improved technical and financial resources of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and its cooperation with plant health research institutions.

In December 2018, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) proclaimed 2020 as the IYPH. FAO and the IPPC would implement it. However, the COVID-19 pandemic, which peaked in 2020, affected the course of the IYPH and led to its extension to July 2021. Nonetheless, close to 700 events were organized in 86 countries, with a high-level launch event at FAO, Rome. The IYPH commemoration activities included webinars, exhibitions, peer-reviewed publications, photo and video contests, a children's drawing competition, global awareness campaigns such as World Food Day, information sharing via a dedicated IYPH website, high-level political meetings, production of commemorative coins, social media, IYPH youth declaration and advocacy campaigns by Goodwill Ambassadors Diarmuid Gavin – a garden designer and television personality from Ireland, Rodrigo Pacheco – a celebrated chef from Ecuador and Monty Don – a horticulturalist from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland .

The IYPH funding was from voluntary contributions from Australia, China, Finland, France, Ireland, Kenya, the Republic of Korea, the United States of America, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the International Seed Federation and the IPPC's allocation for China's "One Belt, One Road" initiative.

Following a successful IYPH, in March 2022, the UNGA proclaimed 12 May as the International Day of Plant Health (IDPH), celebrated for the first time in 2022. In September 2022, the first International Plant Health Conference was held in London, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

The IPPC community continues promoting the IDPH, outcomes of the IYPH and better plant health management, in line with its Strategic Framework 2020-2030 and FAO's Strategic Framework 2022-31, to promote more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems for better production, better nutrition, a better environment and a better life.

The IPPC invites the FAO Conference to endorse this evaluation report and encourages FAO Members to promote the IDPH and implement actions to safeguard plant health for food and income security.

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