



Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



International  
Plant Protection  
Convention



INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF  
**PLANT HEALTH**

2020

PROTECTING PLANTS,  
PROTECTING LIFE

# KEEPING OUR WORLD GREEN

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[www.fao.org/plant-health-2020](http://www.fao.org/plant-health-2020)

Presentation at the Occasion of the

***International Year of Plant Health Seminar***

**Auditorium Gaber, Milano, *October 21, 2020***

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*First things first:*

# What is a Pest?





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# What is a Pest?





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# Why Plant Health?



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# *Because...*



Larvae of Needling sawfly (European pine sawfly)  
feeding on pine. Larvae of this species feed on needles  
of Pinus spp. and cause boring of tree growth.

#### Pests without Borders Photo Contest

An initiative of the IPPC Capacity Development Committee, with financial support from the STDF (Project 316)

Photographer's Name: Eva Witzgaden  
Year: 2019  
Place/Country: Nurek, Russia



- we see an unprecedented spread of pests internationally
- we see more and more damages caused by pests
- climate change weakens our ecosystems and may support pests



## *However,...*



- the public isn't really aware of the problem
- decision makers don't know much about it
- politicians have other priorities

Macrophium mite (rice aphid)

Pests without Borders Photo Contest

An initiative of the IPPC Capacity Development Committee, with financial support from the STDF (Project 250)



Photographer's Name: Gilles Van Marcke  
Date: November 2014  
Photo: "Country: Spain" Name: Belgium





**The IYPH 2020 is an effort to raise the public and political awareness of Plant Health to help governments and the international community to address these challenges for plant health**



# *Legacy of the IYPH*

## What we want to achieve:

- The public knows about plant health and acts responsibly – not distributing pests.
- Decision makers and politicians understand that plant health is an important issue and deserves priority.
- National Plant Protection Organizations are well funded to undertake their main task – protecting against the introduction of pests.
- Funding for plant health research and teaching will be improved.



# *Legacy of the IYPH - 2*

## Top achievements envisaged:

- The 12<sup>th</sup> of May is officially recognized as the International Day of Plant Health.
- Plant Health and climate change interactions are studied.
- Plant Health solutions to address future challenges are investigated and developed.
- Funding for plant health research and teaching will be improved.
- Plant Health contributes substantially to the prevention of hunger and poverty, and the preservation of our environment.





***However, what we really, really  
don't want is:***



**That our trees  
and .....**



Courtesy of: Pfeilstetter/JKI



**..... forests die  
because of pests  
and .....**

Courtesy of: British Columbia  
Ministry of Forests, Lands,  
Natural Resource Operations  
and Rural



**.... consequential  
fires**

Courtesy of: British Columbia  
Ministry of Forests, Lands,  
Natural Resource Operations  
and Rural



**That our crops,  
fruits and vegetables  
die because of pests  
and that our  
livelihoods and  
ways of life are  
irreversibly changed**



**That our plants and  
the environment are  
irreversibly  
destroyed**



*Instead, what we really, really,  
really want is:*





© Adrian Houston

**To keep our  
environment  
pristine by keeping  
our plants healthy**



- **Plant Health is an important tool to prevent hunger and to mitigate some effects of climate change.**
- **Effects of hunger and climate change will impact around the world and may cause environmental degradation, wars, economic crisis and consequently mass migration movements.**
- **Increased global efforts to improve plant health may partially mitigate the above effects.**





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*Thank You!*  
*Grazie per*  
*l'attenzione!*

Courtesy of IPPC



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