

Message from IPPC Secretary Jingyuan Xia at the Occasion of the International Day for Biological Diversity 2020

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22 MAY 2020
INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR
BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY
Our solutions are in nature

Rome, 22 May 2020. On this International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB), the community of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) stands together with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and other biodiversity-related conventions to strengthen global commitments to preserve nature, enhance food security and facilitate safe trade.

This year's IDB takes place during the global COVID-19 pandemic, under the theme: "Our solutions are in nature" links together nature with human health and well-being. Today, more than ever the need to strengthen our link and commitment to nature and build sustainable solutions for our future.

This year's IDB celebrations also fall in the context of the International Year of Plant Health (IYPH) declared by the UN General Assembly for 2020. Plants make up 80 percent of the food we eat and produce 98 percent of the oxygen we breathe. Plant pests and diseases including Invasive Alien Species are responsible for the loss of up to 40 percent of global food crops, and for trade losses exceeding USD 220 billion in agricultural products annually.

2020 is a once in a lifetime opportunity to raise awareness of the importance of plant health in protecting the environment and preserving biodiversity, and to call upon the biodiversity community to work together to maximize the impact and implementation of IPPC standards. The IPPC community is committed to contribute to a successful path towards the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. This is even more necessary given the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Let us do everything is in our hands to protect plants and nature to ensure food and well-being for all.

This IDB is taking place online, with many messages and initiatives carried out through the web. Let's not forget that "Our solutions are in nature" and work hand-in-hand to rediscover the importance of healthy ecosystems for our lives and protect them.

2020 is a year of reflection, opportunity and solutions. Throughout this difficult time, let's commit to developing a realistic global framework that will "bend the curve" on biodiversity loss for the benefit of humans, animals and plants alike.