



Shoki Al-Dobai, PhD

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Biography – Dr. Shoki Al-Dobai

Shoki Al-Dobai holds a PhD degree in Plant Protection – Entomology from the Slovak University of Agriculture in Slovakia with over 18 years' work experience at national, regional and international levels in pest management, biological control, pesticide management and phytosanitary measures. Currently, he works as the Integration & Support Team Leader of the Secretariat of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) at Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations (UN). He is in charge of support and coordination of the work of the IPPC governing body "Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM)", strategic planning, partnership, and communication and advocacy activities of the IPPC Secretariat. In addition to the technical activities related to the emerging pests and plant health issues.

From 2011 to 2017 he served as a Regional Crop Protection Officer at the FAO Regional Office for the Near East & North Africa Region in Cairo, Egypt. He provided guidance and technical support to governmental institutions in the formulation and implementation of FAO plant protection projects and programmes, both at the national and regional levels.

In addition to the FAO work history, Dr. Al-Dobai has also academic and research experience as Lecturer and Assistant Professor at different universities, and as visiting Post-Doctoral Research Entomologist at the Center for Medical, Agricultural and Veterinary Entomology (CMAVE), Agricultural Research Service (ARS), US Department of Agriculture, Gainesville, Florida, USA. He worked on a research project and examined environmentally friendly methods to conserve and

increase population of natural enemies of plant pests by planting specific flowering plants amidst and near crops.

Presentation Title: International Year of Plant Health 2020 – Protecting Plants, Protecting Life

Abstract

Healthy plants constitute the foundation for all life on Earth and help protect biodiversity. Plants make up 80 percent of the food we eat and produce 98 percent of the oxygen we breathe. Plant health is fundamental for reaching the 2030 Agenda for UN Sustainable Development goals, in particular to reduce hunger, poverty and threats to the environment. Plants are under constant attack from pests that are responsible for the loss of up to 40 percent of global food crops with over USD 220 billion trade losses in agricultural products annually. Plant pests leave millions of persons without food to eat and negatively affect agriculture, which is the primary source of income of rural poor communities.

To raise awareness of the importance and impacts of plant health in addressing issues of global importance, including hunger, poverty, threats to the environment and economic development, the International Plant Protection Convention with support of its contracting parties took the initiative to propose and advocate the proclamation of the 2020 the International Year of Plant Health (IYPH 2020).

The IYPH 2020 declared officially by the UN General Assembly in December 2018 is a unique opportunity to raise awareness on the important role of plant health for life of earth and to promote activities in favour of preserving and sustaining global plant resources. It will also raise the public awareness globally about the importance of plant health and improve the plant health policies, capacity development and resources mobilization opportunities of the plant health institutions.

Our plan for IYPH 2020 is to mobilize governments, industries, civic organizations, scientists, and the public to work together in protecting the world's plants against the spread of devastating pests; encourage scientific innovation to address pest threats; promote responsible practices that reduce pest spread; and increase public and private sector support for more sustainable plant health strategies and services.