



# CELEBRATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PLANT HEALTH 12 MAY 2022



agriculture, land reform  
& rural development

Department:  
Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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# What am i going to talk about?

- ❖ Introduction
- ❖ Ancient History
- ❖ Current History
- ❖ The IDPH Five Specific Objectives
- ❖ Calls to Action
- ❖ Intentions for the NPPOZA
- ❖ Conclusion and actions that can be taken



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# Introduction



Plants = 80% of the food we eat and 98% of the oxygen we breathe.

Up to 40% of food crops are lost due to plant pests and diseases every year.

Major Culprits are Climate change and International travel and trade, which has tripled in volume in the last decade, is also spreading pests and diseases.



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# Ancient History



- ❖ Several verses refer to the blasting (KJV) or blight (NIV) of crops. **Deuteronomy 28:22** and **II Chronicles 6:28**.
- ❖ Obviously, some plant disease is intended in these verses but it is not possible to specifically identify which disease.
- ❖ Since the major crops were the grains wheat and barley, we can assume that the diseases attacked these crops.



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# Current History

The IPPC Secretariat is attached to the FAO.



The FAO has welcomed a UN decision to establish an annual IDPH , an issue critical in addressing global hunger.

The observance, to be held every 12 May, was championed by Zambia and unanimously adopted by the UN General Assembly. The Day is a key legacy of the [International Year of Plant Health](#), which was marked in 2020-2021.



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# The IDPH Five Specific Objectives:



1. Increase awareness of the importance of healthy plants to achieve the UN 2030 Agenda, particularly SDG 2 (Zero Hunger).
2. Campaign to minimize the risk of spreading plant pests through trade and travel, by ensuring compliance with international plant health standards.
3. Strengthen monitoring and early warning systems to protect plants and plant health.
4. Enable sustainable pest and pesticide management to keep plants healthy while protecting the environment.
5. Promote investment in plant health innovations, research, capacity development and outreach.



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# Calls to Action:

- ❖ Governments, policy makers and legislators
- ❖ The general public
- ❖ Media professionals
- ❖ Farmers/Exporters/Importers
- ❖ Non-Government Organisations and cooperatives
- ❖ Donors
- ❖ The private sector
- ❖ The transportation and trade sectors



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# In south Africa, the NPPOZA intends to :

Use the DALRRD social media platforms.

Take advantage of platforms such as this one.

Circulate a Media Release associated with this event.

Designing of email & Website banners for IDPH



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# Conclusion & Actions You Can Take



Buying Responsibly



Caring for plants@ homes & offices



Report any unusual symptoms on trees & Plants



Clean your boots



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# THANK YOU

## Declaration of 12 May as the Annual International Day of Plant Health



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