



5 October 2015

(15-5158)

Page: 1/2

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: Spanish

ACTIONS AIMED AT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WTO AGREEMENT ON SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

INFORMATION SUBMITTED BY THE INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR COOPERATION ON AGRICULTURE (IICA)

The following communication, received on 3 October 2015, is being circulated at the request of the IICA.

The observer organizations of the WTO Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Committee) are invited to submit reports on the activities they have carried out to promote the understanding and implementation of the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement). The IICA would like to present some of the actions and activities that it considers relevant to the work of this Committee.

1 EFFORTS TO MAKE GREATER USE OF MULTILATERAL FORUMS

1.1 World Trade Organization

1.1. As part of the EU-CARIFORUM SPS Project, under its component aimed at strengthening the multilateral trading system, support was provided for the participation of 14 Caribbean countries in the 64th session of the World Trade Organization Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Committee).

1.2. As part of this effort to reposition the SPS Committee agenda in the Caribbean region, the IICA used the workshop on transparency to provide information on and to promote the strengthening of regional enquiry and notification points, and to provide details of notification procedures and current topics of discussion.

1.3. In September 2015, the IICA provided support for a national workshop on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures organized by the WTO in Paraguay. The IICA will also support the workshop on international trade that will be held for countries of the Latin American Integration Association (LAIA) in October. This workshop, organized by LAIA and the WTO, will be supported by the IICA in the areas of agriculture and sanitary and phytosanitary measures.

1.4. At the end of the year, the IICA will support the WTO at a regional SPS workshop for Caribbean countries.

1.2 Codex Alimentarius

1.5. In the short term, the IICA has organized and will organize a number of events aimed at developing capacity to ensure good Codex Alimentarius management:

- a. Workshop on good participation practices and negotiation techniques (September, Uruguay). Attended by experts from Argentina and Chile;
- b. Workshop on experience-sharing in the area of regional coordination management and regional seminar on the situation and challenges of the Codex Alimentarius in Latin America and the Caribbean (August, Chile). Participants included experts from Costa Rica, Argentina and Brazil;

- c. Codex Colloquium on the Committees on Food Hygiene, Fresh Fruits and Vegetables, and Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (August, Uruguay). Attended by 57 delegates from 23 countries;
- d. Support was provided to the US Codex Office for an event to promote strategic thinking on Codex Alimentarius-related issues (September, United States). Participants included delegates from Latin American, Caribbean, Asian and African countries;
- e. Workshop on establishing Codex priorities for the development of joint public sector-private sector work plans (El Salvador). This same event will be held in Honduras and Paraguay in November; and
- f. At the end of the year, Codex political positioning activities will take place in Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana and Suriname, with the support of the Codex Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean (Chile) and the US Codex Office.

1.6. These activities benefited or will benefit from the financial support of the United States Department of Agriculture and the IICA's own resources. In addition, they were or will be supported by officials from Codex Alimentarius leader countries in Latin America.

1.7. As part of the programme to promote participation in the Codex Alimentarius in the Americas and the EU-CARIFORUM SPS project, support was provided for the participation of Latin American and Caribbean countries in meetings of the Committees on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (seven countries), Food Hygiene (13 countries) and Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (number of countries to be determined).

1.3 International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)

1.8. Under the joint cooperation plan, the IICA supported the IPPC in examining the phytosanitary standards to be approved in 2016 for the Caribbean and Latin American regions. To this end, events were held in Trinidad and Tobago, and Peru, respectively.

2 SUPPORT FOR STRENGTHENING THE INSTITUTIONAL, TECHNICAL AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

2.1. As part of its training programmes for member countries on new legislation that significantly impacts trade, the IICA has, since 2014, been working on building up capacity to meet the United States' new safety requirements (Food Safety Modernization Act).

2.2. Two workshops were organized recently, one on the economic impact of disease and another on good poultry practices. Both were taught online and brought together sanitary and trade issues.

2.3. The IICA provided its support for a meeting on agricultural health and food safety (RISAVIA) that saw highly technical and productive discussion on issues of a sensitive nature for the countries of the Americas. This event, held in Brasilia, sought to encourage decision-making with a view to tackling the challenges of international trade.

Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)
Agricultural Health and Food Safety
<http://www.iica.int>
