

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

Communication from Argentina

The following communication, received on 2 March 2010, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Argentina.

**I. INTRODUCTION**

1. In Argentina, the National Fruit Fly Control and Eradication Programme (PROCEM) was created in 1994<sup>1</sup> in order to facilitate international market access for horticultural products and to curb the financial losses caused by *Ceratitis capitata* (Mediterranean fruit fly) and *Anastrepha fraterculus* (South American fruit fly). The programme consists of:

- A permanent high-sensitivity network for the detection of *Anastrepha fraterculus* and *Ceratitis capitata*, as well as trapping centres for the early detection of other species of exotic fruit fly that are not present in Argentina;
- control measures backed by the sterile insect technique coupled with chemical and crop control measures;
- a quarantine protection system.

2. 2006 saw the approval of the Phytosanitary Emergency Plan for Fruit-Fly Free Areas.<sup>2</sup>

3. In 2006, in the framework of PROCEM, the fruit producing valleys of the Patagonia region (upper valley of the Rio Negro and Neuquén, middle valley of the Rio Negro, lower valley of the Rio Negro, valley of the Rio Colorado, General Conesa valley, central Patangonian Plateau and the lower Chubut River Valley) were declared to constitute an area free from fruit flies of economic importance (Diptera, Tephritidae).<sup>3</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Resolution ex IASCAV No. 134/1994.

<sup>2</sup> Resolution SENASA No. 152/2006.

<sup>3</sup> Order of the National Plant Protection Directorate No. 18/2006.

## Geographical Location of the Patagonian Region



## II. EMERGENCY PLAN FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN FRUIT FLY

4. On 14 April 2009, following an occurrence of *Ceratitis capitata* in the peri-urban area of the town of General Roca, in the province of Rio Negro, an emergency fruit fly plan was launched by DNPV Order No. 1.

5. A regulated area was established, within a circle of a radius of 7.2 kilometres with its epicentre located where the pest was detected (latitude 39.0692 S and longitude 67.5467 W). With the appearance of new cases, the area was extended by DNPV Order No. 2/09.

6. Throughout the emergency period, the phytosanitary measures provided for in Resolution SENASA No. 152/06 were applied.

A. DETECTION AND CONTROL SYSTEM

7. An additional network of traps was set up (with Jackson and McPhail traps) and samples were taken in accordance with the guidelines laid down in the National Emergency Plan.

8. Control activities were conducted using bait insecticides and soil insecticides coupled with a massive release of sterile insects.

B. QUARANTINE MEASURES

9. With the implementation of the emergency plan, exports from the regulated area to markets with fruit fly quarantine restrictions of host fruit that had not undergone the necessary quarantine treatment were suspended.

10. The host fruit from the regulated area was detained until phytosanitary measures had been introduced to ensure minimum risk to the rest of the Patagonia region and to other areas covered by the official programme with pest-free status. To that end, the private sector was asked to notify the stocks of fruit prior to the emergency as well as the destination of the regulated fruit.

11. Checkpoints were set up to monitor compliance with the protection measures and documentation required for the vehicles transporting host plant products.

12. Inspections were conducted, origin verified and phytosanitary conditions checked in collection and distribution centres, cold storage plants, packing warehouses and industries.

C. COMMUNICATION AND DISSEMINATION

13. Meetings were held with representatives of the private sector and with delegations from third countries to provide updates on the action taken. Radio and television interviews were also conducted together with massive press campaigns.

D. TERMINATION OF THE PHYTOSANITARY EMERGENCY

14. With the completion of the technical, operational and legal measures provided for in SENASA Resolution No. 152/06, the necessary conditions were fulfilled and it was possible to terminate the phytosanitary fruit fly emergency through DNPV Order No. 3/09.

Note: Further information on the National Fruit Fly Control and Eradication Programme (PROCEM) and the activities conducted under the programme can be obtained from the National Enquiry Point:

Servicio Nacional de Sanidad y Calidad Agroalimentaria  
Unidad de Relaciones Internacionales  
Tel.: + (54 11) 4121 5353  
Fax: + (54 11) 4121 5360  
E-mail/Internet: [relint@senasa.gov.ar](mailto:relint@senasa.gov.ar)  
Website: <http://www.senasa.gov.ar>

---