

**ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BY THE INTERNATIONAL REGIONAL  
ORGANIZATION FOR PLANT AND ANIMAL HEALTH (OIRSA)  
RELATING TO THE WTO AGREEMENT ON THE  
APPLICATION OF SANITARY AND  
PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES**

Report to the 48<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Committee  
on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

28 and 30 June 2010

The following communication, received on 28 June 2010, is being circulated at the request of OIRSA.

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**1. Specific support for agricultural production chains**

1. In conjunction with national sanitary and phytosanitary authorities and the private sector, OIRSA is continuing to implement sanitary and phytosanitary programmes in support of agri-food chains. The following action has been taken over the past three months.

Phytosanitary programme in support of the pineapple production chain

2. The International Regional Committee for Plant and Animal Health (CIRSA), made up of the Ministers/Secretaries of Agriculture and Livestock, at its 57<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Meeting declared a phytosanitary regional emergency for Fusariosis in pineapples (*Fusarium guttiforme*). OIRSA drew up technical recommendations in order to prevent the entry of the disease into the OIRSA region.

Phytosanitary programme in support of the citrus fruit production chain

3. OIRSA coordinated a technical visit to the Fund for Citrus Plant Protection (FUNDECITRUS) in Brazil by 51 technical experts from the public and private sectors of the nine member countries of OIRSA. The aim of the visit was to learn of the most recent technological advances in Brazil relating to the control of Huanglongbing (HLB).

4. Panama carried out a survey to detect HLB and its vector on the Caribbean coast of the whole of the province of Bocas del Toro as far as the Costa Rican frontier. The areas were geo-referenced and no sign of HLB was found.

Phytosanitary programme in support of the vegetable production chain

5. A document entitled "Handbook of Procedures for the Detection of *Tuta Absoluta Meyrick* in the Cultivation of Tomatoes under Field and Greenhouse Conditions in the Countries within the OIRSA Region" was drafted and submitted for approval to the member countries of OIRSA.

**2. Training, technical assistance and dissemination activities relating to agricultural health and trade**

6. In Panama 35 technical experts and producers received training on topics relating to the agricultural management of plant cultivation and health at the Seminar-Workshop on papaya cultivation.

7. In Panama a Panel of Experts on Fruit Flies: Taxonomy, Ecology and the Control of Fruit Flies of Quarantine Significance (MIDA-OIRSA-AIEA-APHIS) was held. It was attended by 25 officials from the member countries of OIRSA, Colombia and Peru. The aims of the Panel were: (a) to draw up strategies so as to prevent the entry of existing fruit flies into other regions of the world with the great impact that would have on international trade; (b) to establish a programme for the eradication of the Mediterranean fruit fly; and (c) to analyse the most effective methods to combat the native flies that affect the economy and trade, such as the mango, guayaba and papaya fly.

8. In Honduras OIRSA took an active part in the workshop: "Participatory Strategic Plan 2010-2014 of the National Agricultural Health Service (SENASA)".

9. In Panama a Seminar-Workshop was organized on Training on the Health and Safety of Fishery Products: EU legislation on the health of food products with reference to fishery products. The event was intended for the benefit of 30 technical experts from fish processing companies and officials from the Panamanian Aquatic Resources Authority (ARAP), MIDA and MINSA. The Seminar was organized by ARAP, OSPESCA and OIRSA.

10. In Nicaragua OIRSA participated as organizer, lecturer and moderator in the Seventh Central American and Caribbean Congress on Apicultural Integration and Modernization, which was attended by 330 producers, exporters, technical experts and professionals from 11 Latin American countries.

11. At the First Pre-Harvest 2010-2011 Theoretical and Practical Training Session of the Apicultural Chain of El Salvador a talk was given on Good Practices during the Maintenance Season.

12. In El Salvador support was provided for DIA/DGSVA/MAG in drafting the Regulations for Sanitary Inspection of Pork Meat and the NSO Standard "Meat of slaughtered ready-to-eat poultry (chicks and hens of the species *gallus gallus*), whole or cut in pieces, and the offal thereof. Specifications" (public consultation).

13. In the Dominican Republic technical assistance was given to the Central Veterinary Laboratory (LAVECEN) in good laboratory practices and the implementation of ISO/IEC 17025:2005 standard "General Requirements for the Competence of Testing and Calibration Laboratories".

14. The "Handbook on Good Shrimp Farm Management Practices" was prepared and revised by the OIRSA Ad Hoc Group on Aquaculture Health.

15. The "Manual of Good Apicultural Practices" was updated by the OIRSA Ad Hoc Group on Apicultural Health and Safety.

16. Technical guides were prepared on Animal Welfare and Model Programmes for Disease Control and Eradication.

17. The OIRSA publication "Contingency Plan for an Outbreak of the Pink Hibiscus Mealy Bug (*Maconellicoccus hirsutus*) in a country of the OIRSA region" was made available online. Further information on this publication may be found at the site: [http://www.oirsa.org/portal/Noticia\\_principal.aspx?id=83](http://www.oirsa.org/portal/Noticia_principal.aspx?id=83). It should be noted that the IPPC is encouraging the RPPO to become involved in such initiatives.

18. Continuing Training Models have been prepared in such areas as epidemiology, information systems, risk analysis, aquaculture, cost-benefit, prevention of transborder diseases, with a view to strengthening the veterinary services of the member countries.

### **3. Strengthening of national institutions in order to facilitate trade**

19. The Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF/WTO) approved the project "Strengthening the Honduran National Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures", which will begin its work in July 2010.

20. The Honduran National Laboratory for Residue Analysis (LANAR), whose administration has been delegated to OIRSA by the express wish of SENASA, achieved accreditation of the quality management system under the INTE-ISO/IEC 17025:2005 standard.

### **4. Strategic alliances for the promotion of health and trade**

21. Within the framework of the IDB Mesoamerican Fruit-Growing Project (PROMEFRUT) the Participatory Regional Workshop for the Formulation of a Regional Policy for the Development of Fruit-Growing was held in Guatemala. The phytosanitary side of the project will be coordinated by OIRSA.

22. Finalization of the Technical Cooperation Project between FAO and OIRSA on "Strengthening of the BSE Prevention Mechanism and Adoption of Good Practice in Animal Feeding" (TCP/RLA/3113). This produced a "Critical Roadmap for the Follow-up to the Conclusions of the Project", which was sent to the governments of the beneficiary countries so that they might continue with the follow-up activities previously agreed.

23. A common framework of actions was established between the agencies operating in the OIRSA region for the application of sanitary measures, the strengthening of veterinary services and the prevention, control and eradication of zoonotic diseases that interfere with trade [OIE, FAO, USDA-APHIS, OPAHO, GF-Tds, COSALFA, CARIVET].

24. In Mexico, the Inter-institutional Meeting of the Mesoamerican Cooperation Programme resulted in the process of revision, for subsequent approval, of the "Integrated support project for the institutional capacity of the Central American countries in health diagnostics: the response to health emergencies and information on Mexican standards and institutions that relate to the application of sanitary and phytosanitary measures".

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