

**AVIAN INFLUENZA SITUATION**

Communication from Colombia

The following communication, dated 12 April 2011, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Colombia.

- 
1. The Government of Colombia, through the Colombian Agricultural Institute (ICA), is implementing the Programme for the Prevention and Surveillance of Avian Influenza in Colombia. The National Epidemiological Surveillance System aimed at early detection and early alert has succeeded in building up reliable avian health mechanisms that have made it possible to rule out the presence of highly pathogenic and low-pathogenicity avian influenza in national territory.
  2. The ICA has been conducting systematic seroepidemiological monitoring of the country's avian population for more than ten years, with negative results. In order to achieve disease-free status for Colombia, the ICA has been actively engaged in prevention; epidemiological surveillance of commercial poultry and poultry covered by food safety programmes; strengthening the veterinary diagnostic network; and developing an emergency plan and health education.
  3. For prevention purposes, the ICA has been carrying out analyses of the risks of avian influenza being introduced by poultry and products from countries that have experienced outbreaks of the disease.
  4. Colombia meets the requirements established in Chapter 10.4 of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and may thus self-declare itself as a country free from avian influenza.
  5. Pursuant to ICA Resolution No. 001610 of 7 April 2011, Colombia has self-declared itself as a country free from highly pathogenic and low-pathogenicity avian influenza.
-