

**INFORMATION ON THE RECOGNITION OF
FRUIT FLY-FREE AREAS**

Communication from Argentina

The following communication, received on 10 July 2012, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Argentina.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Fruit Fly Eradication Programme (PROCEM) became operational in the province of Mendoza in 1992. It comprises the following:

- A highly sensitive permanent network, consisting of 4,600 traps, for the detection of *Ceratitis capitata*, *Anastrepha fraterculus* and other exotic fruit flies not present in Argentina;
- a quarantine protection system consisting of land and air checkpoints located at points of entry into the province, the purpose of which is to prevent the entry of infested fruit;
- control activities based on the use of the sterile insect technique and supplemented by chemical and crop control activities.

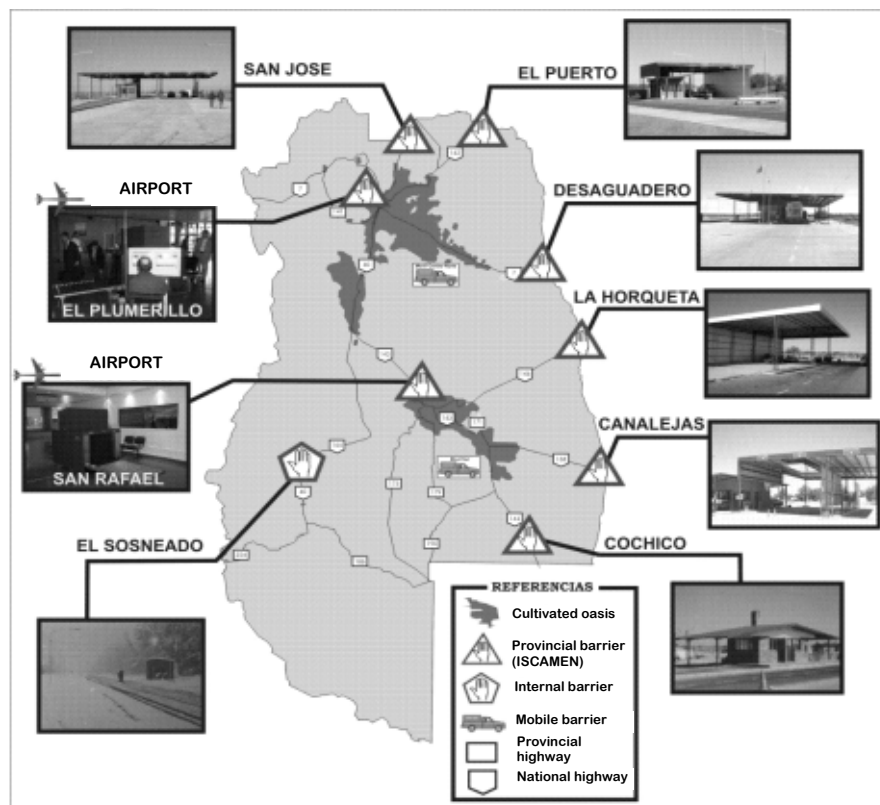
2. In 2005, the National Agriculture and Food Quality and Health Service (SENASA) recognized the entire province of Mendoza as an area free of the genus *Anastrepha*. In 2002, the entire province was given low prevalence status for *Ceratitis capitata*, while the following were recognized as *Ceratitis capitata*-free areas: the valleys of Malargüe and El Sosneado (2003), the departments of Tunpungato, Tunuyán and San Carlos (2004), and the departments of San Rafael and General Alvear (2006).

3. It should be noted that in order to protect fruit fly-free areas from any form of pest entry and ensure their preservation, internal inspection points were set up in 2007 on roads entering the Central and Southern Oases of the province to check commercial loads entering the area. 2007 also saw the launch of a risk mitigation system covering the movement of pest hosts from low prevalence areas to fruit fly-free areas for consumption in a fresh state or for processing.

II. LOCATION OF THE PROVINCE OF MENDOZA (REPUBLIC OF ARGENTINA)



III. LOCATION OF PRODUCTION OASES AND CHECKPOINTS



IV. USDA RECOGNITION OF THE CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN OASES OF THE PROVINCE OF MENDOZA AS FRUIT FLY-FREE AREAS

4. In the Federal Register, Vol. 76, No. 248, of 27 December 2011, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) recognized the Central and Southern Oases of the province of Mendoza as areas free of *Ceratitis capitata* and *Anastrepha* spp.

5. The Central Oasis includes the departments of Tupungato, Tunuyán and San Carlos, while the Southern Oasis comprises the departments of Malargüe, San Rafael and General Alvear.

6. This recognition was the result of extensive technical work conducted jointly by SENASA, the Agricultural Health and Quality Institute of Mendoza (ISCAMEN) and the United States Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA/APHIS). In 2006 and 2009, officials from these institutions made inspection visits to the region to assess the monitoring network, the quarantine protection system, preventive control activities, and the registration and systematization of data.

7. On the basis of this decision, there are two ways of exporting to the United States. The first is to send a consignment directly to the country, accompanied by a SENASA phytosanitary certificate; the consignment will be registered by APHIS upon entry. The second method involves what is known as a pre-shipment work plan, whereby SENASA and APHIS conduct a joint inspection and issue a certificate; while the cost of this operation is covered by the private sector, it is guaranteed that what is inspected in Argentina and authorized for dispatch will enter freely into the United States.

8. This second method involves sending the goods to an inspection site where they are protected from all types of insect. Such sites have the space and equipment to carry out an entomological inspection of either the full consignment or a sample.

V. OTHER RECOGNITION

9. In 2006, through Resolution No. 5331, the Chilean Agriculture and Livestock Service (SAG) recognized the Uco valley (Central Oasis) and the valleys of Malargüe and El Sosneado (Southern Oasis) in the province of Mendoza as fruit fly-free areas for *Ceratitis capitata* and *Anastrepha* spp. This recognition was ratified in 2009 through Resolution No. 5281.

10. More recently, in January 2012, SAG officials made an inspection visit to the departments of San Rafael and General Alvear (Southern Oasis) with a view to extending this recognition to those departments. The publication of the corresponding Resolution is pending.
