

**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 55th Meeting of the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures
18 and 19 October 2012

The following communication, received on 11 October 2012, is being circulated at the request of OIRSA.

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

1. Two hazard analysis critical control points (HACCP) training workshops and their prerequisite programmes were held in the Dominican Republic in coordination with the Agrifood Safety Department (DIA) of the Ministry of Agriculture (MA) and the Dominican Exporters Association (ADOEXPO), within the framework of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)-Multilateral Investment Fund (MIF)/ADOEXPO Project.

2. In El Salvador, the first discussion on Food and Drug Administration (FDA) inspection procedures (preparation prior to the inspection visit) for representatives of companies that export to the United States was held in coordination with the El Salvador Exporters' Corporation (COEXPORT), within the framework of the AgroCAFTA Programme. A similar event was held for the staff of the Division responsible for the safety of food of animal origin (DIPOA) in the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock's Directorate-General of Livestock.

3. In El Salvador, in coordination with DIPOA, an audit of the company Calvo Conservas El Salvador S.A. de C.V. was conducted and training on European Union legislation for fish products was provided.

4. The OIRSA-Ministry of Agricultural Development (MIDA)-United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Eighth Hemispheric Congress on Fruit Flies was held in Panama, with 200 scientists and technicians from 25 American countries in attendance.

5. In Honduras, a regional workshop was held to define strategies for pest management in palm trees. Moreover, a radio spot on the palm weevil (*Rhynchophorus palmarum*) - red ring (*Bursaphelenchus cocophilus*) complex was broadcast and a field booklet and leaflet on palm bud rot were produced.

6. In Guatemala, a training workshop was held on sanitary import requirements and related administrative formalities in the international market.
7. Posters and leaflets were produced and distributed in Guatemala to provide producers with information on good practices in the use of veterinary drugs.
8. In Nicaragua, a pre-assessment of (aflatoxin) contamination in peanuts was conducted, according to European Union requirements, in coordination with the Directorates of Agrifood Safety (DIA) and Plant Health (DSV) through the Department of Farm Inspections and Traceability/Directorate-General of Agricultural Protection and Health (DGPSA)/Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Forestry (MAGFOR), in preparation for an inspection visit by the authorities of the Food and Veterinary Office of the European Commission's Directorate-General for Health and Consumers (FVO/DG-SANCO).
9. In Nicaragua, support was provided to the DIA/DGPSA/MAGFOR authorities with a view to updating sanitary inspection procedures in dairy establishments, as well as the procedures for taking samples of dairy products, for refusing non-complying products and for pre-operational inspections.
10. In Nicaragua, a regional training workshop on the *Bactericera cockerelli* - Zebra chip complex was conducted, with support from the national phytosanitary authorities.
11. In Nicaragua, MAGFOR's development of a procedure manual and phytosanitary surveillance database was supported.
12. Under the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)-OIRSA technical cooperation project TCP/RLA 3311, the following documents were produced: the procedure manual for collecting, sending and processing samples, which was prepared and distributed amongst phytosanitary inspectors from the project's recipient countries, and the population trends of *Diaphorina citri* protocol. Extension materials on Huanglongbing (HLB) were also developed for distribution amongst producers, nursery owners and rural communities.
13. The regional apicultural safety ongoing training workshop was held in Mexico for technicians from the public sector and apicultural producers, in coordination with the National Institute for Forestry, Agricultural and Livestock Research (INIFAP) through the South-Eastern Regional Research Centre of INIFAP (CIRSE-INIFAP).
14. The international course for citrus quarantine pest training and licensing of phytosanitary professionals was held in Mexico, with support from Mexico's National Agri-food Health, Safety and Quality Service (SENASICA) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food (SAGARPA), the FAO-OIRSA technical cooperation project TCP/RLA 3311, the Belize Citrus Growers Association (CGA) and OIRSA.
15. In Mexico, the apicultural safety ongoing training workshop was organized with support from INIFAP. This workshop provided training on new technologies for extracting and processing honey, quality controls, and applying good agricultural practices (GAP), good manufacturing practices (GMP), sanitation standard operating procedures (SSOP) and HACCP in small, medium and large agricultural establishments.
16. Six health education and communication campaigns and poultry vaccinations were conducted in El Salvador, Guatemala and Nicaragua.
17. Training events on poultry management and health were held in El Salvador and Nicaragua for small-scale producers.

18. The laboratory techniques for diagnosing classical swine fever were validated in Belize, Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras.
19. Workshops to design and organize the HLB and HLB vector control campaign at regional level took place in Guatemala, Honduras and Costa Rica, with support from OIRSA, FAO, SENASICA, the USDA and the phytosanitary authorities of the respective countries.
20. In Belize, the "From the Farm to the Table" regional training workshop for food safety instructors was organized in coordination with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), FAO and the Food Safety Directorate of the Belize Agricultural Health Authority (BAHA).
21. The technical bulletin NOTI-GRANOS is being issued in electronic format as a tool for raising awareness of different technical phytosanitary aspects of staple grains.
22. Five hundred handbooks on pig feeding, 500 handbooks on the building of pig-farming facilities, 500 handbooks on biosecurity measures, 500 manuals on backyard pig breeding, and 500 manuals on *Taenia* and cysticercosis were produced and distributed.

2. Support for the harmonization and equivalence process

23. OIRSA has submitted a cattle traceability standard to the authorities and production sector concerned in Panama, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Guatemala.
24. In its capacity as a Regional Plant Protection Organization (RPPO), OIRSA attended the 24th Technical Consultation among Regional Plant Protection Organizations, held in Fiji.
25. OIRSA and the Ad Hoc Regional Veterinary Drugs Group produced a handbook on good practices in the use of veterinary drugs.
26. OIRSA supported the process of developing the animal health requirements for exporting slaughter and feeder cattle from Central America to Mexico, which are being reviewed by the Mexican health authorities.
27. OIRSA has proposed a "regional protocol" for moving animals in fairs, exhibitions and competitions.
28. The 11th meeting of OIRSA's Regional Technical Group for the revision of International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM), held in El Salvador, reviewed and commented on draft ISPMs.
29. In Costa Rica, support was provided for regional participation in the Latin American workshop for the revision of draft ISPMs.
30. In Panama, OIRSA, working jointly with the authorities in the Ministry of Agricultural Development (MIDA) and producers, prepared a draft law on agricultural traceability, which was put before the Panamanian National Assembly.

3. Support for regionalization (establishment of pest-/disease-free and low-prevalence areas, development of protocols for their recognition)

31. In Nicaragua, technical and financial support is still being provided for the programme to maintain the area north of Lake Xolotlán as an area free from the Mediterranean fruit fly (*Ceratitidis capitata*).

32. In Nicaragua, technical and financial assistance is still being provided for the citrus leprosis-free area programme, the citrus HLB control programme and the programme to maintain Nicaragua's status as a country free from the pink bollworm.

33. In Panama, OIRSA supported the national animal health authorities and producers in declaring the Azuero peninsula an area free from bovine brucellosis.

4. Prevention, control and eradication activities (programmes or campaigns)

34. The regional emergency programme for the control of classical swine fever in Guatemala, aimed at applying control and prevention measures in neighbouring countries, is still being implemented.

35. With support from the European Union, the study on "brucellosis and tuberculosis screening of herds in Belize" is being conducted in Belize and had tested 15,261 head of cattle for tuberculosis and 12,380 head for brucellosis as at 14 September 2012. The study is aimed at supporting the export of live slaughter and feeder cattle from Belize to Mexico.

36. In Guatemala, a regional simulation was undertaken for the main exotic diseases of animals and emergency systems and plans, especially for avian diseases.

37. In order to strengthen epidemiological surveillance of highly pathogenic avian influenza (H7N3), OIRSA contributed to the review and updating of national emergency plans and channelled official information from the Mexican health authorities on the reported outbreak in the state of Jalisco.

38. OIRSA is implementing the project to determine the presence or absence of bovine brucellosis and tuberculosis and caprine arthritis/encephalitis in El Salvador.

39. A presentation on the organization of phytosanitary campaigns and programmes concerning cucurbits was given in Panama in support of the Plant Health Association of Azuero.

40. In Costa Rica, technical support was provided to design the campaign for the prevention and control of the pink hibiscus mealy bug (*Maconellicoccus hirsutus* (Green)) as well as the nationwide campaign for the control of the stable fly (*Stomoxys calcitrans*).

41. In Nicaragua, technical and financial support is still being provided for the surveillance programme to prevent the entry of tomato leaf miner (*Tuta absoluta*).

5. Strengthening of national institutions in order to facilitate trade

42. With support from the WTO Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF), Project STDF/284 aimed at strengthening the National SPS Committee (CNMSF) of Honduras is still ongoing. A document entitled "Reform project for the incorporation of sanitary and phytosanitary measures (SPS) in undergraduate university curricula in Honduras" was prepared over recent months. Moreover, the National Committee's website (<http://www.cnmsfhn.com>) was officially launched and the seminar on trade dispute settlement and the specialized seminar on animal health were given.

43. A programme on the eligibility of poultry products on international markets and the development of veterinary accreditation is still being implemented at the regional level.

44. In Honduras, with support from the Spanish National Association of Fish and Seafood Canning Manufactures and Technical Centre for the Preservation of Fish and Aquaculture

Products (ANFACO-CECOPESCA), the technical staff of the National Laboratory for Residue Analysis (LANAR) was given advice and training in the procedure for validating methods for the analysis of heavy metals, bisulfite and veterinary drug residues, so as to ensure compliance with Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004 relating to the placing of aquaculture products on the European market.

45. The national assessment and strategic planning workshop for national organic production control systems was held in Nicaragua, in coordination with the Inter-American Commission for Organic Agriculture (ICOA)/Inter-American Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture (IICA) and the DGPSA/MAGFOR Directorate of Plant Health and Seeds.

6. Strategic alliances for the promotion of health and trade

46. In El Salvador, OIRSA signed a cooperation agreement with Alberto Masferrer University with a view to developing technical cooperation in the areas of animal health communication, information, training, consultancy and technical services.

47. At the invitation of the IICA, OIRSA took part in the meeting of the International Advisory Group, discussing the establishment, under project STDF/PG/108, of a virtual school on food inspection in Central America and the Dominican Republic.

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