

**DECLARATION OF VARIOUS MUNICIPALITIES IN THE STATE OF CHIHUAHUA  
AS AREAS FREE FROM PINK BOLLWORM AND BOLL WEEVIL**

Communication from Mexico

The following communication, received on 28 November 2012, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Mexico.

1. Pursuant to Article 7 of the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures and paragraph 3(b) of Annex B thereto, Mexico hereby advises WTO Members that the **Decision declaring the municipalities of Juárez, Praxedis G. Guerrero, Guadalupe, Ahumada, Janos, Ascensión, Nuevo Casas Grandes, Casas Grandes, Galeana and Buenaventura, in the State of Chihuahua, to be areas free from pink bollworm (*Pectinophora gossypiella*) and boll weevil (*Anthonomus grandis*)** was published in the *Diario Oficial de la Federación* (Mexican Official Journal) on 22 November 2012.

2. The notified Decision declares the municipalities of Juárez, Praxedis G. Guerrero, Guadalupe, Ahumada, Janos, Ascensión, Nuevo Casas Grandes, Casas Grandes, Galeana and Buenaventura, in the State of Chihuahua, to be areas free from pink bollworm (*Pectinophora gossypiella*) and boll weevil (*Anthonomus grandis*) following the introduction of phytosanitary measures to determine the absence of these pests. These measures were based on phytosanitary status assessments and taken in accordance with the procedures indicated in Mexican Official Standard NOM-026-FITO-1995 establishing cotton plant pest controls and Mexican Official Standard NOM-069-FITO-1995 on the establishment and recognition of pest-free areas.

3. The Decision was published in order to ensure that the municipalities of Juárez, Praxedis G. Guerrero, Guadalupe, Ahumada, Janos, Ascensión, Nuevo Casas Grandes, Casas Grandes, Galeana and Buenaventura, in the State of Chihuahua, remain free from pink bollworm (*Pectinophora gossypiella*) and boll weevil (*Anthonomus grandis*). The phytosanitary measures found in Articles 19 to 22 of the Federal Plant Health Law will be applied, as a result of which production is expected to amount to approximately 290,000 bales of cotton.

4. The Decision is available in Spanish at <http://www.dof.gob.mx> and "[http://www.dof.gob.mx/nota\\_detalle.php?codigo=5278662&fecha=22/11/2012](http://www.dof.gob.mx/nota_detalle.php?codigo=5278662&fecha=22/11/2012)" or from the National Enquiry Point (normasomc@economia.gob.mx).

5. Lastly, Mexico wishes to state that this communication is being made for the purposes of transparency, without prejudice to the country's rights and obligations under the SPS Agreement.