



7 March 2013

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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: Spanish

**PHYTOSANITARY EMERGENCY DUE TO THE DETECTION OF
CITRUS GREENING DISEASE (HUANGLONGBING, HLB)**

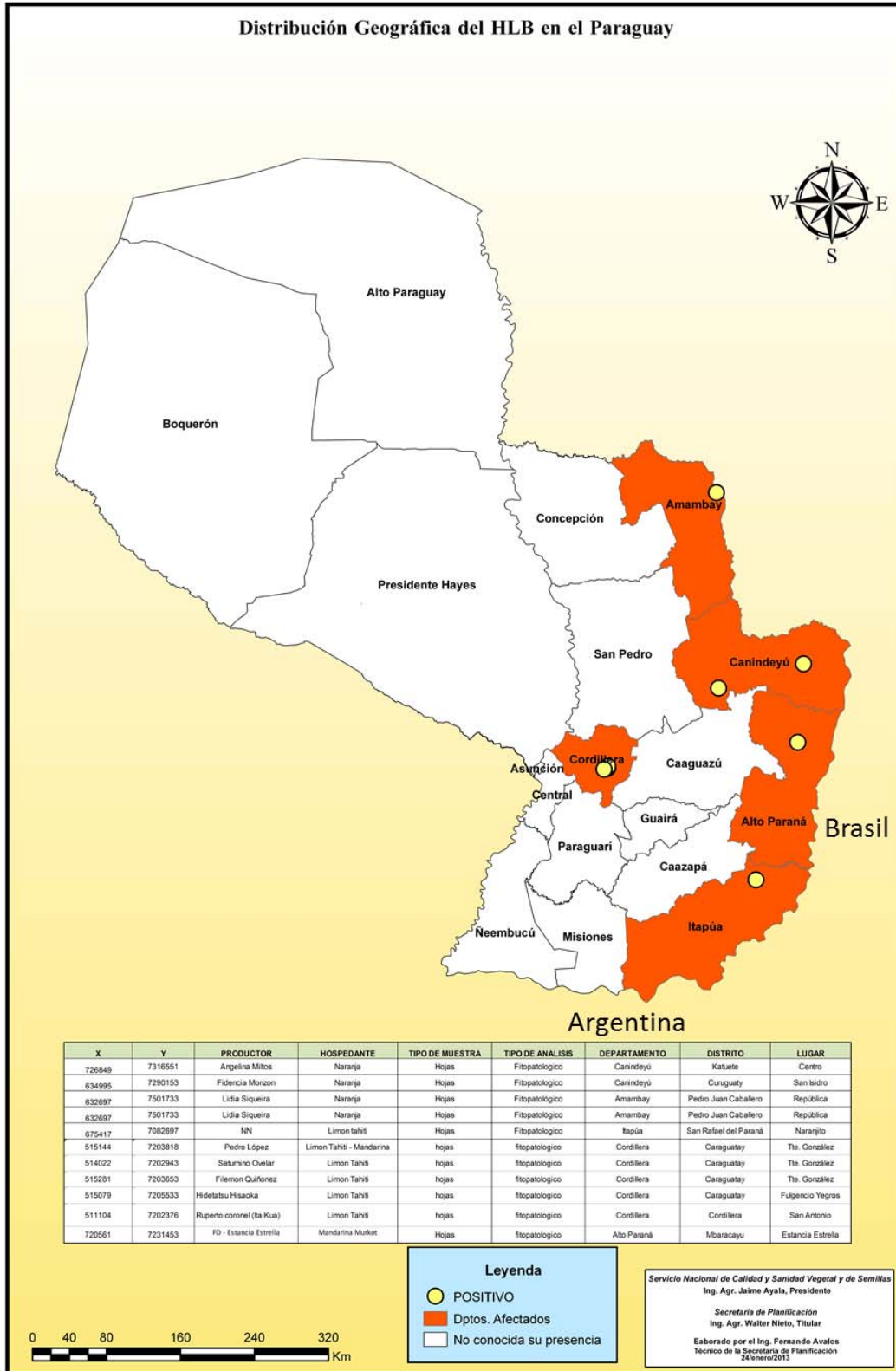
COMMUNICATION FROM PARAGUAY

The following communication, dated 6 March 2013, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Paraguay.

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1. Pursuant to Article 6 of the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement), Paraguay hereby notifies WTO Members that a phytosanitary emergency has been declared throughout national territory with regard to *Candidatus Liberibacter spp.*, the causal agent of citrus greening disease (Huanglongbing, HLB).
 2. The phytosanitary emergency was notified in document G/SPS/N/PRY/24 ("Notification of Emergency Measures").
 3. In 2006, the Paraguayan phytosanitary authority began phytosanitary monitoring work to ensure the early detection of HLB disease and the vector *Diaphorina citri*, and introduced the requirement to report the presence of any suspected symptoms of HLB (*Candidatus Liberibacter spp.*).
 4. In 2008, the presence of *Diaphorina citri* was detected in a species of the ornamental plant orange jessamine (*Murraya paniculata*). In 2009, it was detected in mandarin orange trees (*Citrus reticulata*).
 5. In January 2013, the laboratory of the Paraguayan phytosanitary authority confirmed the detection of the causal bacteria of HLB on the basis of 28 samples presenting characteristic symptoms of the disease (14 positive samples, from five departments in Paraguay, grouped into six outbreaks). Samples were collected mainly from backyards and farm roads.



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6. In order to protect national citrus fruit production, Paraguay issued Resolution No. 80/2013 "Declaring a phytosanitary emergency throughout national territory on the basis of the presence of citrus greening disease (Huanglongbing, HLB)", which ensures the adoption of measures throughout national territory to prevent the establishment and spread of the disease through the implementation of a national citrus greening disease containment plan and relevant procedures. These measures include the following:

- removal and destruction of infected plants;
- intensive monitoring in the control zones surrounding the foci of infection;
- restrictions on the movement of citrus propagation material;
- ban on the production and marketing of plants of the species *Murraya paniculata* (orange jessamine) and on their movement between HLB-infected areas and disease-free areas;
- control of the vector *Diaphorina citri*;
- declaration of and large-scale awareness-raising campaign relating to the emergency; and
- implementation of citrus seedling certification programmes.

7. Resolution No. 80/2013 "Declaring a phytosanitary emergency throughout national territory on the basis of the presence of citrus greening disease (Huanglongbing, HLB)" is available in Spanish at <http://www.senave.gov.py> or from hlb@senave.gov.py, ucii.dgp@mag.gov.py or notificación.msf@mag.gov.py.

8. Lastly, Paraguay wishes to state that this communication is being made for purposes of transparency within the framework of the SPS Agreement.
