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Page: 1/2

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

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

COMMUNICATION FROM PARAGUAY

The following communication, received on 7 October 2014, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Paraguay.

1. Pursuant to Article 6 of the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement), Paraguay hereby notifies WTO Members of the activities carried out in national territory within the framework of the phytosanitary emergency measure relating to *Candidatus Liberibacter spp.*, the causal agent of citrus greening disease (Huanglongbing, HLB).

2. At the 58<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Committee) held in October 2013, Paraguay submitted to the plenary a detailed report on the situation regarding the phytosanitary emergency that had been declared in January 2013 due to the presence of citrus greening disease (HLB) caused by *Candidatus Liberibacter spp.*

3. At this 61<sup>st</sup> meeting of the SPS Committee, we would like to describe the work carried out by both the Government and citrus producers to contain the disease. The following specific measures have been taken:

- Destruction of 68,000 infected adult citrus plants in 2013 and 2014.
- Collection and PCR analysis of 2,818 samples of plant tissue and 608 samples of the vector insect. On average, 12% of the samples were found to be positive.
- Inspection of 320 nurseries holding a total of around 800,000 seedlings.
- Destruction of approximately 2,500,000 citrus seedlings belonging to some 320 producers.
- Compensation for destroyed seedlings amounting to approximately US\$1,000,000.
- Accreditation of three entities producing certified citrus seedlings, one belonging to the Paraguayan Agricultural Technology Institute (IPTA) and the other two to producer companies. Other producer business units are also going undergoing accreditation and will soon begin producing officially certified seedlings.
- Training and operational coordination events for producers and technicians from citrus companies and State bodies, at central, regional and local levels.
- FAO technical cooperation mission aimed at supporting emergency activities based on operational experiences in other areas of Latin America and the Caribbean and at establishing lines of support, especially in the fields of risk communication and training, for technicians from the National Plant and Seed Quality and Health Service (SENAVE). Two technical cooperation activities took place, the first in March, with FAO technicians, to evaluate the start of the phytosanitary emergency campaign and adjustments to the

implementation of the containment plan, and the second, relating to the epidemiological study of citrus greening disease in Paraguay, in November, with technicians from the College of Postgraduates of Mexico (COLPOS). Paraguay, in conjunction with FAO, organized the first South American workshop on citrus greening disease.

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

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