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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

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**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 COMMITTEE ON SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES,
OCTOBER 2014**

The following communication, received on 10 October 2014, is being circulated at the request of OIRSA.

**1 TRAINING, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND DISSEMINATION ACTIVITIES RELATING TO
AGRICULTURAL HEALTH AND TRADE**

1.1. In Honduras, public and private sector experts were provided basic training on the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and its regulations. A regional workshop was organized in Costa Rica on strategic planning for pest diagnostic laboratories, geared towards the establishment of a quality management system. A regional workshop was organized on *Fusarium oxysporum f. sp. cubense*, also in Costa Rica.

1.2. In El Salvador, a regional workshop on agrifood law was organized jointly with the FAO, with special emphasis on phytosanitary and food safety law with respect to foods of plant origin.

1.3. In Guatemala, a training workshop was held on the molecular diagnostics of citrus Huanglongbing (HLB) using conventional PCR technology.

1.4. In El Salvador, a preparatory workshop for the 9th session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM-9) was organized with the support of the IPPC, and during the meeting of the Commission, advice was provided to the member countries present.

1.5. Technical meetings were held in Honduras and Guatemala to devise strategies to prevent the entry of the Mediterranean fruit fly (*Ceratitidis capitata*) into the free areas of Belize, Mexico, Guatemala and Honduras.

1.6. A surveillance guide for *Trogoderma granarium* Everts was developed in the OIRSA member countries, together with instructional material on HLB control.

1.7. With the technical support of SENASICA/SAGARPA of Mexico, a regional course was organized on calculation of uncertainty and validation for animal health diagnostic laboratories.

1.8. A national workshop on good practices in animal welfare was organized in Guatemala.

1.9. Twelve poultry health and management training days were organized for small producers in Guatemala, El Salvador and Nicaragua.

1.10. Nicaragua held a regional simulation for the prevention, control and eradication of exotic avian and pig diseases.

1.11. Courses were held in Guatemala and Nicaragua on pig farm bio-safety and backyard pig feeding.

1.12. OIRSA made a presentation on bovine traceability at the National Congress of Milk Producers of Guatemala.

1.13. In El Salvador, a programme for beekeepers, *Apicultores de Avanzada* (Pioneers of Beekeeping), was organized in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG), the honey subsector and the USAID scheme for the development of the SMEs. The programme consisted of theoretical and practical training sessions for 200 beekeeping SMEs, technical assistance for 25 selected beekeepers, and workshops for MAG experts, Universities and OIRSA officials. The programme was organized into three modules: (a) Beekeeping traceability and safety; (b) Apicultural health and management; (c) Productivity and running the business.

1.14. In the framework of the VI International Symposium on Aquaculture Health and Safety, OIRSA made a presentation on its strategy and implementation of health measures in response to the early mortality syndrome in shrimps.

2 SUPPORT FOR THE HARMONIZATION AND EQUIVALENCE PROCESS

2.1. OIRSA participated in the 37th session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission held in Geneva, Switzerland.

2.2. Regional standards were developed in relation to animal welfare for pigs, cattle and poultry.

2.3. OIRSA participated in the Twentieth Seminar of the Committee of the Americas for Veterinary Medicines (CAMEVET) organized by the OIE, and financed the participation of delegates from its member countries.

2.4. OIRSA helped the authorities of El Salvador to define the sanitary and documentary requirements for the importation of bovine semen and embryos originating in and consigned from countries with foot-and-mouth disease and destined for OIRSA member countries.

2.5. A training course in methyl bromide fumigation was organized with the Australian Department of Agriculture, and was attended by 60 participants from the ministries of agriculture of the member countries. A process of training trainers in methyl bromide treatment was also initiated.

2.6. The following standardized manuals were produced: a manual of good management practices for the cultivation of bivalve molluscs; a step-by-step practical manual for implementing the quality management system in animal health laboratories on the basis of OIE standards; a protocol on the prevention of outbreaks of *A. tumida* in OIRSA member countries; guidelines for epidemiological surveillance of bovine spongiform encephalopathy in Guatemala and El Salvador; a manual on cleaning and disinfection in animal health; and procedural manuals, folders and individual cattle identification posters.

3 SUPPORT FOR REGIONALIZATION (ESTABLISHMENT OF PEST-/DISEASE-FREE AND LOW-PREVALENCE AREAS, DEVELOPMENT OF PROTOCOLS FOR THEIR RECOGNITION)

3.1. A project financed by the European Union involving the coordinated efforts of authorities from BAHA/BLPA and OIRSA was launched with a view to monitoring, evaluating, and cooperating in the screening of the national herd to determine the prevalence of bovine brucellosis and tuberculosis in Belize prior to the finalization of the second national screening, the ultimate aim being self-declaration as a country free of the diseases.

4 FOR PREVENTION, CONTROL AND ERADICATION ACTIVITIES (PROGRAMMES OR CAMPAIGNS)

4.1. OIRSA is currently implementing the following programmes: the regional programme for the prevention of regional quarantine pests *T. granarium*, *FOC R4T*, *Fusarium gutiforme*, *M. cribraria*, *Bactrocera dorsalis*, *B. invadens*, *A. suspensa*, *B. cucurbitae*; the regional programme for the

control of regional pests of limited distribution: *T. absoluta*, *G. rostochiensis*, *C. capitata*, *T. palmi*, *R. indica*, *M. hirsutus*; the regional programme for the control of coffee leaf rust; the regional programme for the control of citrus HLB; and the regional emergency programme to contain *A. grandis* in Panama.

4.2. OIRSA produced a proposal for the eradication of classical swine fever in Guatemala in 2015.

4.3. Belize was provided support in declaring areas free from tuberculosis and brucellosis and in revising traceability procedures for bovines.

4.4. The activities of the classical swine fever programme in Nicaragua and in El Salvador were monitored, supervised and assessed.

5 STRENGTHENING OF NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN ORDER TO FACILITATE TRADE

5.1. The Emergency Health Programme launched in response to the appearance of *Aethina tumida* in El Salvador was completed, and the beetle brought under control.

5.2. A technical tour was organized for government officials and producers in Nicaragua in order to share Mexico's experience in exporting bovine meat to the European Union.

5.3. The health authorities of Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Panama were provided with diagnostic kits for classical swine fever, African swine fever, PRRS, Aujeszky's disease, West Nile disease, and swine transmissible gastroenteritis.

5.4. The study to determine the presence or absence in El Salvador of *Brucella abortus* in goats and sheep, tuberculosis in goats and sheep, and caprine arthritis encephalitis, was completed (2013-2014).

5.5. The Bovine traceability information and registration platform (SARB) was developed.

5.6. In the Dominican Republic, the national system of bovine traceability, individual identification, and registration of cattle through the SARB platform was implemented and officially launched.

5.7. In El Salvador, the research project to determine the presence or absence of American foulbrood was completed.

5.8. Countries were provided support in connection with serological and virological sampling for research on antigens and antibodies for classical swine fever.

5.9. With the support of the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF), OIRSA is implementing a regional veterinary legislation project (STDA/AG/358) for OIRSA member countries, under which national workshops were held in El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala in order to enhance understanding and establish common criteria among veterinary surgeons, producers and legal representatives at the central and regional levels in each country, as well as to introduce them to the procedures for drafting national standards and to identify potential means of communicating national standards from the central to the regional level.

6 STRATEGIC ALLIANCES FOR THE PROMOTION OF HEALTH AND TRADE

6.1. Panama hosted the annual meeting of the Central American Beef Federation (FECESCABO), which examined the status and progress of the Regional Programme for the Progressive Control of Brucellosis in Central America, a project led by the FAO and OIRSA. A similar event was held on the premises of the unionized dairy sector at the Central American Federation of the Dairy Sector (FECALAC).

6.2. Together with other public and private organizations and institutions, OIRSA participates in the regional cooperation network for the prevention of *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *cubense*.

We invite you to visit our website at: <http://www.oirsa.org>.

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