



23 October 2014

(14-6149)

Page: 1/1

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: English

INFORMATION ON ACTIVITIES

COMMUNICATION FROM BELIZE

The following communication, received on 17 October 2014, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Belize.

The delegation of Belize would like to take this opportunity to inform Members of the following activities that were conducted this year.

1 OIE PVS FOLLOW-UP MISSION

1.1. During the period 13-25 July 2014, an OIE PVS follow-up mission was conducted further to the 2008 PVS evaluation. This mission was carried out by both Dr. Sarah Kahn and Dr. Barry Stemshorn. The mission also included the application of the PVS aquatic evaluation. Both reports were received electronically by Belize's Chief Veterinary Officer on 10 October 2014 and are currently under review. Belize thanks the OIE for their support in conducting this mission.

2 FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE SIMULATION

2.1. The Belize Agricultural Health Authority (BAHA) held a Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) simulation workshop on 15 to 17 September 2014 at Central Farm, Cayo District. The exercise codenamed "Baymen's Clan" was conducted in collaboration with the Belize Agricultural Health Authority, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO), the Centro Panamericano de Fiebre Aftosa (PANAFTOSA) who either provided financial or technical assistance. The programme included the review and finalization of a draft FMD procedural manual, presentations on procedures contained in the manual and visits to four cattle farms with a hypothetical suspect case of FMD. The farm cases included significant epidemiological factors such as a commercial slaughter house, on-farm slaughter and sale of meats to butchery, a government farm with many workers and high risk service provision for cattle farmers, and a cattle dealer. Outputs of the workshop included:

- a. a Belize FMD Procedures Manual;
- b. BAHA's on-farm response to suspect FMD cases strengthened;
- c. FMD awareness among key interested parties;
- d. FMD publicity materials; and
- e. strengthened FMD emergency capability.

2.2. Participants included officers from the Animal Health, Food Safety and Quarantine Departments of the Belize Agricultural Health Authority, personnel from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Agriculture, in particular the livestock officers, public health inspectors from the Ministry of Health, representatives of the Belize Livestock Producers Association, the Belize Pig Council, the Veterinary Association of Belize, the Regional International Organisation for Agricultural Health (OIRSA) and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA).
