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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 64TH MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE
ON SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES
14-16 OCTOBER 2015

The following communication, received on 29 September 2015, 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, a training course on Mediterranean fruit fly surveillance and control (including diagnosis and data management) was organized for technical staff from the fruit fly control programme.

1.2. In Tapachula, Mexico, a regional course on the identification of fruit fly species of economic significance was organized for technical staff from the fruit fly control programmes of OIRSA member countries.

1.3. A workshop on *Fusarium oxysporum* Tropical Race 4 and its threat to musaceae was held in Guatemala for producers, traders, universities, and public and private sector technical officials.

1.4. In Guatemala, training workshops took place on the epidemiology and recognition of citrus huanglongbing (HLB) and on healthy citrus plant production and regulations. These workshops were attended by technical staff from the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food and producers.

1.5. A training workshop on integrated pest management (IPM) for citrus HLB was held in El Salvador for technical staff from the National Agricultural and Forestry Technology Centre (CENTA) at the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock.

1.6. In Honduras, a training workshop on HLB and HLB vector control and IPM strategies was organized for producers and technical staff from the National Agricultural Health Service.

1.7. In Belize a training workshop on the status of HLB in Mullins River and Maya Mopan, integrated pest management and health management in citrus, the general perspective of replanting/renewing, and iodine testing, was organized for producers and technical staff from the Ministry of Agriculture.

1.8. A training workshop on HLB prevention and surveillance activities was held in Panama for technical staff from the Ministry of Agricultural Development.

1.9. In the Dominican Republic and Panama, an outreach workshop on phytosanitary coffee management, entitled "Improved agricultural practices and outreach: the region's greatest challenge", was organized for technical staff from the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Agricultural Development, respectively.

1.10. Also in the Dominican Republic, a meeting was held with coffee growers to discuss suggestions and alternatives in respect of the revival and modernization of coffee production in the Dominican Republic.

1.11. A regional workshop on transboundary diseases was organized in Panama. It focused on porcine epidemic diarrhoea, avian influenza and foot-and-mouth disease, and the use of the incident management system. The workshop was organized in conjunction with APHIS, the IICA, FAO and the OIE and was aimed at technical staff from the veterinary services of member countries.

1.12. An online course on epidemiological surveillance in shrimp farming was completed by 70 technical officials from 11 countries (Belize, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Mexico, Panama and Peru).

1.13. Students from nine countries (Belize, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua and Panama) attended a regional course on epidemiological surveillance in shrimp farming that took place in Panama.

1.14. In El Salvador and Nicaragua, small-scale producers from rural communities attended talks on backyard poultry management and nutrition.

1.15. In the Dominican Republic, a talk was given to producers and professionals from the Dominican Republic and Central America on the steps countries must take to be declared free of classical swine fever and the steps they must take after such a declaration has been made.

1.16. In Honduras, a training workshop for trainers on bovine paralytic rabies was organized by FAO, OIRSA, SENASA and the public health authorities. The workshop was attended by SENASA technical staff and public health officials.

1.17. OIRSA participated in the 15th Meeting of Directors of Rabies Control Programmes in Latin America (REDIPRA) with a talk on OIRSA support activities for member countries. The talk was attended by directors of the rabies control programmes of REDIPRA member countries and officials from Ministries of Health and Agriculture.

1.18. In Honduras, support was provided for a national simulation exercise on avian influenza in which both the public and private sectors participated.

1.19. In Guatemala, a bovine traceability operator training course was organized for technical staff from the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food (MAGA), producers, and Guatemalan agricultural sector officials.

1.20. In Panama, OIRSA took part in the national dairy farming congress organized by the Panamanian Dairy Farmers' Association (APROGALPA), with a talk on the importance of traceability in the implementation of bovine health programmes.

1.21. In Guatemala, OIRSA took part in the EXPOLECHE 2015 event organized by the Chamber of Milk Producers, with a talk on the Guatemalan bovine traceability system. The same talk was given to the Guatemalan Association of Brahman Cattle Farmers (ASOBRAHMAN).

1.22. A regional training course for inspectors on good agricultural and manufacturing practices and the safe production of fresh fruit and vegetables was held in Costa Rica. The course was aimed at public and private sector officials from OIRSA member countries.

1.23. In Guatemala, a regional course was organized to train trainers on good agricultural and manufacturing practices and the safe production of fresh fruit and vegetables. The course was aimed at safety officers from companies producing fresh fruit and vegetables for export, faculty of agronomy lecturers and agricultural extension workers from member countries.

2 SUPPORT FOR THE HARMONIZATION PROCESS (INCLUDES THE DEVELOPMENT AND REVIEW OF STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES, NEGOTIATIONS AND AWARENESS-RAISING, AND TECHNICAL MEETINGS, INCLUDING RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS)

2.1. Development and reproduction of three technical protocols: Diagnostic Protocol on Huanglongbing in Citrus Leaves, Protocol on the Integrated Management of Huanglongbing, and Protocol on the Production of Healthy Citrus Plants.

2.2. In Panama, OIRSA participated in the Porcine Technical Commission (COTENAPOR) working group to help develop technical documents and determine areas in which the pig farming sector requires support.

2.3. The Regional Apicultural Traceability Standard, developed by the OIRSA Ad Hoc Group as a contribution to its member countries, was reviewed, circulated and approved.

2.4. Guidelines on poultry, drawn up by OIRSA, were printed out and distributed to public and private sector technical staff from Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama and the Dominican Republic.

2.5. The regional protocol on the recognition of areas free of avian influenza and Newcastle disease was revised.

2.6. The handbook of procedures for Newcastle disease was revised within the framework of the Regional Veterinary Legislation Project (STDF-PG-351).

2.7. Regional guidelines on poultry were revised with the assistance of the subcommittees of the Regional Technical Committee on Poultry Health (CTRSA).

2.8. The handbook of procedures pertaining to the regional progressive control programme for bovine tuberculosis was revised within the framework of the Regional Veterinary Legislation Project (STDF-PG-351).

2.9. Assistance was provided in the drafting of a handbook of procedures for implementing the Honduran national bovine traceability system.

2.10. A proposed epidemiological surveillance system was devised for bovine brucellosis with a view to Belize's self-declaration as a country free of the disease.

3 PREVENTION, CONTROL AND ERADICATION ACTIVITIES (PROGRAMMES OR CAMPAIGNS)

3.1. Support continues to be given to the Ministry of Agriculture of the Dominican Republic in its efforts to stop the spread of Mediterranean fruit fly and in the implementation of a joint eradication plan.

3.2. With a view to monitoring the presence, or absence, of the psyllid that transmits citrus HLB, four monitoring routes, covering a distance of 458 km and comprising 126 traps, i.e. one trap every 3.6 km, have been set up in the Panamanian provinces of Chiriquí, Veraguas, Coclé and Bocas del Toro.

3.3. Steps have been taken to strengthen control of the coffee berry borer in Panama. 200,000 *Cephalonomia stephanoderis* parasitoids, biological control agents of the coffee berry borer, were sent to Panama with a view to the establishment of artisanal breeding laboratories.

3.4. Technical assistance continues to be provided to the programme for the control and eradication of classical swine fever in Guatemala.

3.5. Small-scale producers in El Salvador have received technical assistance in the areas of poultry health, prophylaxis, handling and nutrition.

3.6. OIRSA, in conjunction with FAO, APHIS, the IICA, the OIE and CARIBET, has provided technical assistance to Cuba, Haiti and the Dominican Republic for the progressive control of classical swine fever.

3.7. Technical assistance has been provided for the implementation of the Honduran national traceability and livestock registration system (SINARP).

3.8. Technical assistance has been provided to the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food (MAGA), the Chamber of Milk Producers and the National Cattle Farmers Association, with a view to the implementation of the Guatemalan national bovine traceability system (SINAT-GT).

3.9. Support has been provided to El Salvador, Guatemala and Belize for the drafting of national avian influenza control and eradication plans.

3.10. The second phase of the Regional Health Programme for Backyard Poultry (PRESAAT) has now been prepared and will be managed through international financial cooperation.

4 PREPARATION OF TECHNICAL MATERIALS (INCLUDING MANUALS, TECHNICAL DOCUMENTS, POSTERS, ETC.)

4.1. Newly developed outreach materials on the prevention, management and control of citrus HLB have been distributed to countries participating in the OIRSA ICDF HLB project (Belize, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama and the Dominican Republic).

4.2. The following proposals have been drafted: pig farm certification regulations; Porcine Technical Commission (COTENAPOR) regulations; and a form for assessing pig farm biosafety.

4.3. An information leaflet on transboundary and endemic shrimp diseases has been prepared and distributed.

4.4. 1,000 copies of a guide to surveillance, detection and response in respect of equine encephalomyelitis have been printed out and distributed.

4.5. Handbooks have been prepared on the segregated production of bovine meat and bovine meat products.

4.6. The following outreach materials have been distributed: a technical document on the integrated management of the coffee berry borer; a practical guide to sampling for the chemical analysis of soil in coffee plantations; and a poster detailing recommendations for the manual and cultural control of the coffee berry borer.

5 STRENGTHENING OF NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN ORDER TO FACILITATE TRADE

5.1. Support was provided to help the National Animal Health Directorate (DNSA) at the Ministry of Agricultural Development (MIDA) of Panama to conduct a review of the current situation.

5.2. Support was provided, in the form of biological products for diagnosing Newcastle disease and avian influenza, to public sector diagnostic laboratories and epidemiological surveillance systems in Belize, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama.

5.3. Support was provided to assist in managing the purchasing of reagents for the diagnosis of bovine brucellosis, within the framework of the national bovine brucellosis control and eradication programme in El Salvador.

6 STRATEGIC ALLIANCES FOR THE PROMOTION OF HEALTH AND TRADE

6.1. OIRSA and the Agricultural and Forestry Development Centre (CEDAF) of the Dominican Republic have signed a letter of understanding with a view to the development of technical and financial cooperation activities that promote research, knowledge management and the production of healthy citrus plants that are free of HLB and other pathogens of economic significance to the Dominican Republic.

6.2. OIRSA and the International Atomic Energy Agency have formed a strategic alliance to support a Latin American fruit fly surveillance and control programme.

6.3. The Ministry of Agricultural Development (MIDA) and OIRSA have signed an interinstitutional agreement on the operation and administration of the Panamanian national bovine traceability programme.

6.4. An agreement has been signed with the National Agrarian University (UNA) of Nicaragua to provide online courses on safety issues.

6.5. The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food (MAGA) and OIRSA have signed an interinstitutional agreement on the operation and administration of the Guatemalan national bovine traceability system.

6.6. A cooperation agreement has been signed by APHIS/USDA and OIRSA.

6.7. A technical cooperation agreement has been signed by OIRSA and the rector of the National Agrarian University (UNA) of Nicaragua.

6.8. An agreement has been signed by OIRSA and the Central American Higher University Council (CSUCA).

6.9. A letter of intent has been signed by OIRSA and the deans and directors of faculties and schools of veterinary medicine in OIRSA member countries.
