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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 65<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE ON SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY  
MEASURES NOVEMBER 2015 TO JANUARY 2016**

The following communication, received on 3 March 2016, is being circulated at the request of OIRSA.

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

1.1. In El Salvador, technical staff and producers received training in dealing with the yellow sorghum aphid pest.

1.2. A regional workshop on the integrated management of the rice mite was held in San Salvador, El Salvador. The workshop was attended by delegates from the Ministries and Secretariats of Agriculture of Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama and the Dominican Republic, as well as local producers.

1.3. Virtual training was provided in the use and management of the CABI and CAB-Abstracts databases.

1.4. Virtual training concerning the early warning system for coffee rust was provided for technical staff from Agrocalidad, Ecuador.

1.5. A training workshop on preventive measures for FOC R4T was held for technical staff from SEPA and SITC Honduras.

1.6. Virtual training in the IT system developed for planning, monitoring and evaluating OIRSA projects was provided for regional international organizations and coffee institutes.

1.7. A training workshop entitled "Techniques for breeding and reproducing parasitoids for biologically controlling the coffee borer: an environmentally friendly control strategy" was held for technical staff from the Ministry of Agricultural Development and the Dominican Coffee Council.

1.8. In El Salvador, a training workshop on phytosanitary management in the coffee sector was held for technical staff (25 outreach workers) from the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock and the Coffee Division of the National Agricultural and Forest Technology Centre (CENTA).

1.9. In Belize, training was provided in shoot tip grafting and the production of healthy citrus plants.

1.10. One workshop on healthy citrus plant production and four on recognition of the symptoms of HLB were held in Guatemala.

1.11. Two training workshops on healthy citrus plant production and regulations and one on the integrated management of citrus HLB were held in Honduras.

1.12. Seven training workshops on the symptomatology of HLB and control strategies were organized in El Salvador.

1.13. Eight training workshops on the identification of the disease citrus HLB and recognition of the vector were conducted in Nicaragua.

1.14. Three training workshops on recognition of the symptomatology, control strategies and monitoring of the psyllid in HLB were held in Panama.

1.15. Nine training workshops relating to the diagnosis and management of citrus HLB were held in the Dominican Republic.

1.16. A regional course on training for trainers in good agricultural and manufacturing practices and the safety of fresh fruit and vegetables was delivered in Honduras for a total of 67 technical personnel in the public and private sectors.

1.17. A regional course on training for trainers in good agricultural and manufacturing practices and the safety of fresh fruit and vegetables was delivered in the Dominican Republic for a total of 40 technical personnel, including safety inspectors, MAG staff responsible for organization and training, agronomy faculty lecturers, and technical staff employed by companies producing fresh fruit and vegetables for export.

1.18. A regional course on the inspection of bovine meat and bovine meat products, for purposes of export to the European Union, was delivered in Nicaragua and attended by a total of 11 technical specialists from the public and private sectors of the member countries and OIRSA.

1.19. A training course on the validation of tests for generic E. coli and Salmonella and 45 pesticides in fruit and vegetables using the QuEChERS method was held in the Dominican Republic for three LAVECEN laboratory technicians, three specialists in generic E. coli and Salmonella, and three specialists in pesticide residues in fruit and vegetables.

1.20. A regional refresher course on agricultural quarantine procedures in ports and airports and at land borders was held with the support of Mexico's SENASICA, providing training for a total of 55 officials from Ministries/Secretariats of Agriculture, SITC and SEPA and university lecturers.

1.21. A theoretical and practical workshop on the use of the distance diagnostics through digital imaging (DDDI) platform was held in Guatemala for 18 agricultural quarantine inspectors, three diagnostic laboratory staff and five representatives of local universities.

1.22. The Fourth Australian DAFF Standard Workshop was held in Guatemala. Training in carrying out audits on import and export fumigation procedures in connection with sanitary and phytosanitary measures was provided for 35 agricultural protection services (SEPA) officials and two officials from the Vice-Ministry of Agricultural Health and Regulations (VISAR).

1.23. In Panama, a workshop on the description, use and management of distance diagnostics through digital imaging (DDDI) was organized for 13 officials from the Executive Directorate for Agricultural Quarantine.

1.24. Also in Panama, a regional workshop on the packaging and shipment of infectious samples – IATA standards was held for a total of 14 technical staff from the official laboratories of the OIRSA member countries.

## **2 SUPPORT FOR THE HARMONIZATION PROCESS AND EQUIVALENCE**

2.1. A handbook on the integrated management of the tomato moth (*Tuta absoluta*) was compiled.

- 2.2. A handbook on the complex *Bactericera cockerelli* and *Candidatus liberibacter solanacearum* (Zebra Chip) was prepared.
- 2.3. The Latin American action plan for the prevention of and preparation against Panama disease (*fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *cubense*) tropical race 4 was revised and updated.
- 2.4. An information leaflet on the yellow sorghum aphid was produced in El Salvador.
- 2.5. Outreach materials on the pests tomato moth (*Tuta absoluta*) and the *Bactericera cockerelli* and *Candidatus liberibacter solanacearum* complex (Zebra Chip) were prepared for dissemination.
- 2.6. A workshop on the preparation of a handbook on the integrated management of tar spot in maize in the OIRSA region was held in Guatemala City, Guatemala.
- 2.7. A follow-up workshop on the compilation of a regional list of regulated quarantine pests was also held in Guatemala City, Guatemala. The workshop was attended by plant health directors and officials from the risk analysis units of the epidemiological monitoring and plant quarantine departments and units of the nine OIRSA member countries.
- 2.8. A second edition of the Protocol on the production of healthy citrus plants was prepared.
- 2.9. Outreach materials relating to the use of the iodine-starch technique, healthy plant production and biological control were developed and delivered.
- 2.10. Support was provided for the VII<sup>th</sup> Round of Customs Union between Honduras and Guatemala, in which all the integrated groups set up to achieve the objective of full customs union participated.
- 2.11. A Protocol on the determination of the dose rate and exposure times for 100% methyl bromide in the treatment of roundwood and sawn timber for the purpose of eliminating immature and adult states of southern pine beetles was developed.
- 2.12. The organization of the XXI<sup>st</sup> Seminar on Harmonization of the Registration and Control of Veterinary Medicines, CAMEVET/OIE, was supported and co-sponsored.
- 2.13. Support was provided for the revision and adaptation of the handbook of procedures pertaining to the regional progressive control programme for brucellosis and bovine tuberculosis in Honduras.
- 2.14. An outline Regional Health Programme for Backyard Poultry, phase 2 (PRESAAT 2) was developed.
- 2.15. Primers on the endemic and transboundary diseases of the shrimp were prepared.
- 2.16. Outreach materials (posters) on the commonest diseases of the shrimp were developed.
- 2.17. Outreach materials (videos) to raise awareness among travelers with regard to the importance of preventing the introduction of foot-and-mouth disease, classical swine fever and screw-worm were designed.

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

- 3.1. In the annual assessment of the national fruit fly programme, carried out by the Ministry of Agricultural Development with the participation of APHIS-USDA and OIRSA, the *Anastrepha grandis* situation was addressed.
- 3.2. The Ministry of Agriculture of El Salvador received support with the development of an emergency plan before the appearance of the pest yellow sorghum aphid (*Melanaphis sacchari*).

- 3.3. OIRSA participated in the regional pest risk analysis workshop in Guatemala.
- 3.4. OIRSA participated in the meeting of the Honduran FOC R4T technical group.
- 3.5. Meetings were held to prepare a preliminary draft on the management of the southern pine beetle (*Dendroctonus frontalis*).
- 3.6. The SAT for coffee rust and the coffee berry borer was implemented with the CoHonducafé foundation of Honduras.
- 3.7. In view of the measures imposed by the European Union, a regional workshop on epidemiological surveillance and the diagnosis of *Xylella fastidiosa* was held in Tecámac, Mexico, in connection with the temporary interruption of exports of ornamental coffee plants from Honduras and of other species of Guatemalan and Costa Rican origin.
- 3.8. A plan for the eradication of low-pathogenicity H5N2 avian influenza was developed for Guatemala.
- 3.9. Kits for diagnosing PPC (antigen-antibody capture) and compatible diseases were acquired.
- 3.10. Follow-up was provided for inter-laboratory PPC tests between CENSA (Cuba) and the official animal health laboratories of Costa Rica, Guatemala and Honduras.
- 3.11. Support was provided for the acquisition of tissue processors for the diagnosis of bovine spongiform encephalopathy in Guatemala and Honduras.

#### **4 STRENGTHENING OF NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN ORDER TO FACILITATE TRADE**

- 4.1. In Honduras, seed potato importers were offered technical assistance with regard to the quarantine procedures applicable to such imports.
- 4.2. In Costa Rica, support was provided for a field study in connection with the formulation of the "Project for Building the Capacity of the State Phytosanitary Service for the Inspection of Containerized Cargo".
- 4.3. Belize was offered technical assistance with the analysis of information on the outbreaks of low-pathogenicity avian influenza in 2015.
- 4.4. Guatemala was offered technical assistance in connection with the programme for the eradication of classical swine fever.
- 4.5. OIRSA took part in an audit of animal welfare in the transport and slaughter of bovine cattle in Nicaragua and Panama.
- 4.6. In Honduras, the pilot project on the progressive control of brucellosis and bovine tuberculosis on farms of members of the Association of Livestock and Crop Farmers of Sula (AGAS) was revised and a meeting was held with AGAS executives.
- 4.7. Recommendations were made concerning the management of the buffer zone between Haiti and the Dominican Republic and pig farm biosecurity.

#### **5 STRATEGIC ALLIANCES FOR THE PROMOTION OF HEALTH AND TRADE**

- 5.1. OIRSA took part in the 27<sup>th</sup> Technical Consultation among Regional Plant Protection Organizations, held in Memphis, Tennessee for the purpose of reviewing the activities of the RPPOs in relation to phytosanitary measures.
- 5.2. OIRSA coordinated with the Secretariat of the Inter-American Coordinating Group on Plant Protection (ICGPP) on the organization of virtual meetings to examine the agenda for the revision

of the International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) put out for consultation by the IPPC, as well as the comments on the annexes to the standards.

5.3. A meeting was held in San Salvador with representatives of the member RPPOs to discuss comments on the draft ISPMs being processed within the remit of the IPPC Standards Committee.

5.4. A Latin American workshop was organized in Lima, Peru, jointly with the IPPC, to review first drafts of the International Standards on Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) submitted for consultation in 2015 by the Secretariat of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC). The workshop was attended by representatives of the OIRSA and Andean Community member countries and by representatives of COSAVE.

5.5. OIRSA attended the Inter-American Meeting of National Animal and Plant Health and Food Safety Services, held in Brasilia, Brazil, where it took part in panel 4, which dealt with the topic "Strategic vision of the regional organizations for addressing the challenges in the area of trade".

5.6. A Technical Meeting on Inter-Institutional Coordination and Liaison among IICA-OIRSA-CATIE-FAO was held for the purpose of expanding and improving inter-institutional coordination and liaison in order to enhance the comparative and joint advantages of technical assistance for countries and the region.

5.7. OIRSA took part in a virtual meeting on initiatives to prevent and mitigate FOC R4T in Latin America and the Caribbean.

5.8. An OIRSA-SENASICA/SAGARPA/Mexico meeting was held to coordinate phytosanitary measures applied in the OIRSA region.

5.9. A workshop on agency integration for formulating the 2015-2016 action plan of the regional strategy for strengthening coffee growing, an initiative led by the Central American Agricultural Council and PROMECAFE, was held in Managua, Nicaragua.

5.10. OIRSA and FEDAVICAC signed an agreement on strengthening the region's avian health programmes.

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