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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 66<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE ON  
SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES  
FEBRUARY-MAY 2016

The following communication, received on 16 June 2016, is being circulated at the request of OIRSA.

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

1.1. In El Salvador, technical staff and producers received training on 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 the Agricultural Protection Service (SEPA) and the International Quarantine Treatment Service (SITC) of Honduras.

1.6. Virtual training on 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 organized 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 on shoot tip grafting and the production of healthy citrus plants.

1.10. A workshop on healthy citrus plant production and four workshops on recognizing the symptoms of HLB were held in Guatemala.

1.11. Two training workshops on healthy citrus plant production and regulations and one on integrated citrus HLB management 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 identifying citrus HLB and recognizing its vector were held in Nicaragua.

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

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

1.16. In El Salvador, Panama, Guatemala and Honduras, specialists from Chinese Taipei provided technical advice on healthy plant production, integrated HLB management, phytosanitary surveillance and diagnosis to citrus fruit growers, nursery workers and technical staff within the framework of the OIRSA-Chinese Taipei/ICDF HLB project.

1.17. A regional workshop on healthy citrus plant production, looking at integrated pest management (IPM) and the results of the 2016 OIRSA-Chinese Taipei/ICDF HLB project, was held in the city of La Ceiba, Honduras. It was attended by technical staff representing the OIRSA member country beneficiaries of the HLB project.

1.18. In Panama, a workshop on HLB management and healthy plant production was organized for regional coordinators and technical staff from the Ministry of Agricultural Development (MIDA).

1.19. In El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Panama, technical staff from the official laboratories of the Ministries of Agriculture of these countries received training in the following areas: basic diagnostic techniques for HLB under the Chinese Taipei protocol; the sterilization of material for DNA extraction; and specific laboratory procedures such as the treatment of incoming samples, the preparation of samples, and DNA extraction.

1.20. A workshop on citrus HLB diagnosis and management was organized in the Dominican Republic for 14 producers and 13 specialists working in citrus fruit production.

1.21. At the national poultry seminar in Panama, OIRSA gave a presentation to more than 200 officials from the public and productive sectors on epidemiological surveillance for strengthening poultry production units.

1.22. Three OIRSA officials took part in a training session on strengthening the laboratory diagnosis of diseases in the livestock sector (poultry farming, pig farming, aquaculture and beekeeping). The event was held at the Integral Unit for Service, Diagnosis and Verification (UISDC) in Tecámac, Mexico State.

1.23. In El Salvador, the second "Pioneers of Beekeeping" programme was organized for producers and technical staff from the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG), the honey subsector, the USAID scheme for the development of SMEs, and OIRSA.

1.24. The first workshop on anti-microbial resistance, entitled "Monitoring of the resistance of important anti-microbial agents in human and veterinary medicine", was held in Guatemala. It was attended by 60 experts in human and veterinary medicine, including pharmaceutical chemists and biologists.

1.25. OIRSA took part in the Agromercados international agricultural fair in San Pedro Sula, Honduras, with a presentation on the progressive control of bovine brucellosis and tuberculosis in the region.

1.26. In El Salvador, at the request of the veterinary services, OIRSA took part in the departmental meeting of the San Miguel Livestock Producers Association (AGES), where it gave a presentation on the regional strategy for the progressive control of bovine brucellosis, with a view to regionalizing, promoting and re-orientating the current bovine brucellosis and tuberculosis control programme.

1.27. OIRSA worked together with the IICA to design and hold an online training course for trainers in good agricultural practices. 204 Latin American participants from the public, private and academic sectors, and professional associations in the fields of agronomy, veterinary medicine and animal husbandry, benefited from the course.

1.28. Six courses on risk analysis in respect of foodborne diseases were organized in coordination with PRACAMS. The courses were attended by 116 people, including Ministry of Agriculture and public health officials, research centre staff, university professors and technical staff from eight countries in the OIRSA region.

1.29. In El Salvador, 32 veterinarians from the beneficiary countries participated in a regional workshop on the epidemiological surveillance of transboundary diseases using mobile communication devices.

1.30. Audiovisual material was designed and produced to raise the awareness of travellers and field technicians in respect of the importance of preventing the entry of foot-and-mouth disease, screw worm and classical swine fever.

## 2 SUPPORT FOR THE HARMONIZATION PROCESS AND EQUIVALENCE

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

2.2. A handbook was prepared on the *Bactericera cockerelli* and *Candidatus liberibacter solanacearum* complex (Zebra Chip).

2.3. The Latin American action plan to prevent and prepare for 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 tomato moth (*Tuta absoluta*) and the *Bactericera cockerelli* and *Candidatus liberibacter solanacearum* complex (Zebra Chip) were prepared for dissemination.

2.6. A workshop was held in Guatemala City, Guatemala, to prepare a handbook on the integrated management of tar spot in maize in the OIRSA region.

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. OIRSA drafted a second edition of the protocol on the production of healthy citrus plants.

2.9. Outreach materials on the use of the iodine-starch technique, healthy plant production and biological control were developed and delivered.

2.10. Three documents on acute hepatopancreatic necrosis disease (AHPND) in shrimp have been updated: the Regional AHPND Prevention and Control Plan, the Regional AHPND Plan Procedural Manual, and the AHPND Epidemiological Surveillance Programme.

2.11. Biosecurity inspection forms for broiler chickens from the countries of the OIRSA region were harmonized at a regular meeting of the Regional Technical Committee on Poultry Health (CTRSA) in San Salvador, El Salvador.

2.12. OIRSA is revising the first chapter of the first draft of the document that is being prepared by the Nicaraguan Animal Health Directorate to request that the country be internationally recognized by the OIE as free from classical swine fever.

2.13. Technical support was given to Guatemala to implement epidemiological surveillance activities with a view to the country declaring itself free of classical swine fever.

2.14. In Panama, OIRSA, in conjunction with the National Technical Commission on Swine (COTENAPOR), has developed rules on import requirements for live pigs.

2.15. A handbook of good practices was drawn up to ensure animal welfare during the pre-slaughter process for cattle and has been distributed to OIRSA member countries.

2.16. A handbook of good practices was drawn up for establishments engaged in the slaughter, cutting and boning of cattle, with a view to the exporting of meat and meat products to the European Union. This handbook has been distributed to OIRSA member countries.

2.17. A variety of training materials have been prepared (3,000 leaflets on traceability and a beekeepers handbook).

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

3.1. The situation regarding *Anastrepha grandis* was addressed in the annual assessment of the Panamanian national fruit fly programme, carried out by the Ministry of Agricultural Development with the participation of APHIS-USDA and OIRSA.

3.2. The Ministry of Agriculture of El Salvador received support in developing an emergency plan to deal with the yellow sorghum aphid (*Melanaphis sacchari*).

3.3. OIRSA took part in a 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 text on southern pine beetle (*Dendroctonus frontalis*) management.

3.6. The early warning system for coffee rust and the coffee berry borer was implemented with the CoHonducafé foundation of Honduras.

3.7. A regional workshop on epidemiological surveillance and the diagnosis of *Xylella fastidiosa* was held in Mexico.

3.8. In Honduras, a healthy citrus plant production greenhouse (level 3) was opened at the Atlantic Coast Regional University Centre (CURLA) in the city of La Ceiba. The greenhouse has a production capacity of 60,000 certified healthy citrus plants a year.

3.9. In Panama, OIRSA supported the implementation of an action plan for controlling the HLB outbreak in the province of Bocas del Toro, and field studies for the detection of symptoms in various areas of the province.

3.10. A document was drawn up entitled "Work plan for the eradication of low-pathogenicity H5N2 avian influenza in Guatemala".

3.11. In El Salvador and Nicaragua, traps for controlling *Aethina tumida* were purchased and distributed with a view to strengthening the epidemiological surveillance of this pest.

3.12. OIRSA monitored epidemiological surveillance programmes for classical swine fever in El Salvador, Nicaragua and Panama.

3.13. A final workshop for the project on strengthening the bovine paralytic rabies prevention and control system (FAO/OIRSA/OIE/PANVET, FAO project TCP/RLA/3501) was held at OIRSA headquarters. Participants included the official veterinary services of Bolivia, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Peru.

3.14. A study was carried out to determine the animal population and risk areas around sites where waste from ports and airports of the participant countries is deposited.

3.15. Materials and reagents were purchased and distributed to prepare for the transportation of vesicular disease samples (phosphate-buffered glycerol).

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

4.1. A regional fund was established for maintaining greenhouses built under the OIRSA-ICDF-Chinese Taipei project on foundation stock, healthy HLB-free plant production and shoot multiplication.

4.2. Support has been given to Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador and Mexico for submitting project profiles to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on the strengthening of actions to control bovine brucellosis in Central American countries.

4.3. OIRSA has worked with FAO to develop diagnostic surveys for the implementation of a plan to support the progressive control of bovine brucellosis in the countries of the OIRSA region.

4.4. In Panama, support was provided to upgrade Ministry of Agricultural Development (MIDA) laboratory equipment used to analyse residues in products of animal origin.

4.5. OIRSA began implementing the project on honey chain traceability in Guatemala (STDF/PG/515) in order to support the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food (MAGA).

4.6. OIRSA launched a regional project for the accreditation of laboratory diagnostic tests for animal diseases (SDTF/PG/495).

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

5.1. A meeting was held in San Salvador with representatives of the national plant protection organizations (NPPOs) of member countries to discuss comments on the draft ISPMs being processed within the remit of the IPPC Standards Committee.

5.2. 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.

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

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

5.5. The Central American Bank for Economic Integration (BCIE) and OIRSA held a meeting to coordinate the development of phytosanitary projects for the region.

5.6. 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 (CAC) and PROMECAFE, was held in Managua, Nicaragua.

5.7. In Nicaragua, a specific agreement on technical and academic cooperation was concluded between the Catholic University of Dry Tropic Farming and OIRSA, within the framework of the OIRSA-Chinese Taipei-ICDF HLB project. This agreement concerned the installation of a

greenhouse (net house) for the transfer of production technology and the sale of healthy citrus plants.

5.8. Implementation of the OIRSA-USDA cooperation agreement on the strengthening of epidemiological surveillance for foot-and-mouth disease, screwworm and other transboundary animal diseases.

5.9. The handbook on taking and forwarding samples for vesicular diseases was revised and updated.

5.10. Evaluation of the application of Standard CWA 15793:2013 (Laboratory Biorisk Management Standard) by the Diagnostic Laboratory for Vesicular Diseases (LADIVES) in Panama.

5.11. Evaluation of LADIVES infrastructure (Panama), with a view to ascertaining the level of compliance of the BSL-3 laboratory, on the basis of the World Health Organization's Laboratory Biosafety Manual, in order to ensure the proper management of foot-and-mouth disease.

5.12. OIRSA is working with the University of Minnesota in the United States and the Andrés Bello University in Chile to prepare a protocol that makes it possible to examine and determine the risk factors that contribute to the development of a number of diseases in farmed shrimp in the region.

5.13. Training was given at OIRSA headquarters in San Salvador, El Salvador, to veterinary medicine and animal husbandry students from the University of San Carlos of Guatemala (USAC) as part of their professional work experience. 38 students and three teachers participated in this activity.

5.14. Integration of the 2016-2017 CAC–OIRSA–IICA regional action plan on agricultural health and food safety.

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