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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 67TH MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE ON
SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES,
JUNE-SEPTEMBER 2016

The following communication, received on 12 October 2016, is being circulated at the request of OIRSA.

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

1.1. A training course was held in the Departments of Atlántida and Colón, Honduras, on healthy citrus plant production. The course was designed for 33 nursery gardeners and technical staff from the area, in the framework of the OIRSA-Chinese Taipei/ICDF HLB Project.

1.2. "Field days" (national workshops) were organized in El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala and Panama on "Greenhouse Management for the Production of Healthy Citrus Plants (Level 3)", with the participation of producers and exporters of fresh citrus fruit, academics, and representatives of the Ministries of Agriculture.

1.3. In Nicaragua, OIRSA participated in the "Plant Health Congress" for producers, nursery gardeners and technical staff, which examined the preliminary results of the study on the phytosanitary status of citrus greenhouses in the country, and stressed the importance of producing healthy plants.

1.4. Training was provided in Panama for second year students studying environment and watershed management at the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences of the University of Panama. This involved a "field day" at the Cítricos Gabriela farm (a model farm for the HLB Project in Panama), during which students were provided comprehensive information on HLB and its vector.

1.5. In El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Panama, specialists from Chinese Taipei provided citrus fruit growers, nursery workers and technical staff with technical advice on healthy plant production, integrated HLB management, and phytosanitary surveillance and diagnosis, in the form of a national workshop in each country in the framework of the OIRSA-Chinese Taipei/ICDF HLB Project.

1.6. In El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Panama, technical staff in charge of the official laboratories of the agriculture ministries and secretariats received training in basic diagnostic techniques for HLB under the Chinese Taipei protocol, and DNA extraction in specific laboratory procedures.

1.7. Three online training events were offered to the national coordinators of seven countries participating in the OIRSA-Chinese Taipei/ICDF HLB Project, covering the production of healthy citrus plants and integrated Huanglongbing management.

1.8. A Market Expo Fair was organized in Belize, with a stand at which the OIRSA-Chinese Taipei/ICDF HLB Project was able to promote integrated HLB management and the different techniques implemented by the HLB Project in the country.

1.9. In El Salvador, technical staff from the CENTA-CAFÉ programme received training on extension, management and nutrition of coffee plantations and the epidemiology of coffee pests and diseases.

1.10. In El Salvador, technical assistance was provided in connection with the invasion of locusts (*Schistocerca piceifrons*) with a view to developing an emergency plan and training people to identify and manage the pest.

1.11. Technical surveillance staff from the OIRSA member countries were given regional online training in the management of locusts (*Schistocerca piceifrons*).

1.12. A workshop was organized in Guatemala for technical staff and producers on integrated management of the yellow sorghum aphid pest (*Melanaphis sacchari*).

1.13. Videos were produced on best livestock practices in relation to cattle, pigs and poultry; to the manufacturing of beef, pork and poultry meat; and to HACCP.

1.14. A virtual course for training trainers in good livestock, manufacturing and HACCP practices (cattle, pigs and poultry) was set up and launched in cooperation with the IICA, UNAM and SENASICA. 438 selected participants attended.

1.15. A videoconference entitled "Authorization and approval of food safety cooperation agencies" was organized with the assistance of SENASICA of Mexico. 82 contact points reported.

1.16. A videoconference was organized on "Verification and inspection of compliance with the Contamination Risk Mitigation Systems (SRRC) in the regulations for aquaculture pesticides and SRRCs of recognized companies in the primary processing of aquaculture products". 177 contact points reported.

1.17. With the support of SENASICA, a videoconference was organized on the topic "National Toxic Residue and Meat Contamination Programme". More than 250 contact points reported.

1.18. Translation and publication of five handbooks on good animal welfare practices in cooperation with the Research, Education and Extension Support Foundation (FUNDEP) of Brazil.

1.19. Organization of four workshops on "The Importance of Antimicrobial Resistance for Human Health and Animal Health", in keeping with the tripartite WHO/OIE/FAO One Health approach. These workshops were held in four countries of the OIRSA region: El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Panama.

1.20. Organization of the "First Course on Fish Pathology" in Tecámac, State of Mexico, at the Integral Unit for Service, Diagnosis and Verification (UISDC). The objective of this event was to build up the capacity to prevent and control the risk of diseases in fish farms. The course was attended by 57 participants from the public and private sectors and academic circles of the OIRSA member countries.

1.21. Design and launching of the "First online course in basic epidemiology". 290 students participated.

1.22. Participation of OIRSA in the "Second Congress of Livestock Breeders from the Central American Beef Federation" to look at the bovine health situation in the region.

1.23. Finalization, with Francisco Gavidia University, of the online diploma in teacher training and the administration of virtual classrooms. The course lasted 180 hours, and was designed for technical staff of the Ministries and Secretariats of Agriculture and Livestock as well as OIRSA officials in order to train tutors to run courses in OIRSA's virtual classroom.

1.24. An international course on the identification of weed seeds of quarantine concern was organized in Tecamac, Mexico, and was attended by 11 officials from the Ministries and Secretariats of Agriculture and Livestock and the Agricultural Protection Services (SEPA) and International Quarantine Treatment Services (SITC) of the OIRSA member states.

1.25. Training was provided for 23 staff members of the Institute for Agricultural and Livestock Protection and Health (IPSA) under the auspices of the FAO and OIRSA. The course was conducted by OIRSA entomologist Mauricio Lagos.

1.26. Training was provided for 30 officials from the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food, representatives of the universities of San Carlos, Landívar and Valle, and the Agricultural Protection Service. The training was conducted by experts from the University of Georgia.

1.27. Training was organized for 64 technical staff from the SITC in San Marcos, Guatemala, near the Mexican border.

2 SUPPORT FOR THE HARMONIZATION AND EQUIVALENCE PROCESS

2.1. OIRSA took part in the 9th Meeting of Caribbean Directors on the subject Foc TR4.

2.2. It also took part in the national simulation exercise "Prevention of Outbreaks of Foc TR4", in Mexico.

2.3. A handbook was drawn up on animal welfare procedures during the pre-slaughter and slaughtering of cattle, with a view to exporting meat and meat products to the European Union.

2.4. A handbook of good practices was drawn up for establishments engaged in slaughter, cutting and boning.

2.5. An OIRSA representative lectured at the workshop "Implementation of the Codex Alimentarius knowledge base to strengthen national food safety systems in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean region: risk-based approach". This workshop was organized by the FAO, the Executive Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the Swiss Confederation, and the lecture topic was "Risk-analysis and Food Safety: Experiences in the OIRSA Region".

2.6. OIRSA participated as an observer in the 39th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission in Rome, Italy.

2.7. Support was provided in the area of sanitary and phytosanitary measures, the 9th round of the process of integration towards the free movement and free transit of consignments, goods and natural persons between the Republics of Guatemala and Honduras.

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

3.1. In Nicaragua, a greenhouse for the multiplication of citrus shoots (level 2) and the production of healthy citrus plants (level 3) was inaugurated on the premises of the National Agrarian University (UNA) located at Km 30 on the Tipitapa-Masaya highway, with a production capacity of 40,000 certified healthy citrus plants per year.

3.2. The molecular diagnostics laboratory of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food in Guatemala was upgraded with reagents and specialized equipment as well as capacity building for five new types of diagnosis (*Xylella fastidiosa*, the citrus leprosis virus, the citrus psorosis virus, the citrus canker bacterium, the citrus tristeza virus (CTV), and the citrus exocortis viroid).

3.3. A technical audit was conducted in the Medfly-free area in the Aguan Valley in Honduras, in support of the international recognition process by Mexico and Guatemala.

3.4. A review was conducted of the dossier put together by Nicaragua for the international recognition of the Medfly-free area of lake Xolotlan.

3.5. A tri-national meeting was held between El Salvador, Nicaragua and Panama to assess the current status of programmes for the control and eradication of fruit flies.

3.6. Support was provided in drawing up a short-term action plan for pine beetle prevention, control and management in the countries of the OIRSA region.

3.7. Procurement and distribution of mist nets for vampire bats in order to strengthen the epidemiological surveillance of the disease in the official veterinary services in Belize, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua.

3.8. Supportive management for the procurement of 10,000 doses of Bovine PPD for the Bovine Tuberculosis Control Programme.

3.9. Support for the Department of Epidemiology and Quarantine of the Ministry of Agricultural Development (MIDA) of Panama in coordinating the actions of the Panama-United States Commission for the Eradication and Prevention of Screwworm (COPEG) with a view to strengthening the epidemiological surveillance of vesicular diseases and screwworm.

3.10. Support for the shrimp farming sector and professionals from Panama's aquaculture sector (APAPROC and APAPROEA) in seeking mechanisms for the prevention and control of acute hepatopancreatic necrosis disease (AHPND).

3.11. Drafting of an epidemiological surveillance survey proposal for Panama's shrimp farming sector with the support of OIRSA's ad hoc aquaculture group, from May onwards.

3.12. Support for Guatemala in following up the classical swine fever eradication plan and drafting a self-declaration as a CSF-free country.

4 STRENGTHENING OF NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN ORDER TO FACILITATE TRADE

4.1. Coordination with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) in helping to seek funding from the International Atomic Energy Agency (AIEA) for the strengthening of programmes to control and eradicate brucellosis and tuberculosis.

4.2. Drafting and submission of the proposed Animal Welfare Code for Cattle Producers for the National Livestock Commission of Nicaragua (CONAGAN).

4.3. Support for Panama in its efforts to build up the Epidemiological Department of MIDA's National Animal Health Directorate, with the renewed publication of the weekly and monthly epidemiological bulletin.

4.4. The Regional Animal Health Reference Laboratory (LARRSA) of the University of San Carlos de Guatemala received support for the introduction of a neutralizing peroxidase-linked antibody (NPLA) and virus serum neutralization assay.

5 STRATEGIC ALLIANCES FOR THE PROMOTION OF HEALTH AND TRADE

5.1. A virtual meeting was organized between the FAO, the CCAD and OIRSA to coordinate action plans for the integrated management of pine beetle.

5.2. A regional workshop was organized for the Technical Group for the revision of the IPPC proposals for phytosanitary standards (ISPM) to be submitted at CPM-12.

5.3. OIRSA participated in the Latin American Workshop on the revision of the IPPC's phytosanitary standards.

5.4. A report was submitted on the results of the work of the Interamerican Group for Coordination on Plant Protection (GICSV).

5.5. The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food (MAGA) received support in coordinating the implementation of the project on honey chain traceability in Guatemala (STDF/PG/515).

5.6. The OIRSA-USDA cooperation agreement on the "Strengthening of epidemiological surveillance for foot and mouth disease, screwworm and other transboundary animal diseases" was implemented.

5.7. The "Regional project for the accreditation of laboratory diagnostic tests for animal diseases" (STDF/PG/495) was implemented.

5.8. The FAO Action Plan on antimicrobial resistance, Regional Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean, was reviewed and comments submitted.

5.9. The implementation of technical cooperation project TCP/RLA/3502 "Strengthening of Agricultural Health Services between the Republic of Haiti and the Dominican Republic" was coordinated with the FAO.

5.10. OIRSA participated in the NAPPO workshop on the implementation of ISPM 15 "Regulation of wood packaging material in international trade", with emphasis on the Americas, in coordination with the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), the Andean Community (CAN) and the Southern Cone Plant Health Committee (COSAVE).

5.11. Staff from the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) of Australia conducted an audit on compliance with the methyl bromide fumigation standard at certain border posts in El Salvador, Mexico and Panama.

5.12. In Costa Rica, a diagnosis was conducted of the state of operation of the spraying devices at Moín and Muelle Alemán terminals, both located at Puerto Limón, as well as the one located at the Paso Canoas land border between Costa Rica and Panama, with a view to upgrading them.
