



8 March 2017

(17-1377)

Page: 1/5

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: Spanish

**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 68<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE ON  
SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES,  
OCTOBER 2016-FEBRUARY 2017

The following communication, received on 7 March 2017, is being circulated at the request of OIRSA.

---

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

1.1. In cooperation with the Guatemala Mediterranean fruit fly programme (MOSCAMED), a seminar/workshop on maintenance and use of a Medfly-free area was held in the department of Petén, Guatemala. Training was provided for 25 professionals from the OIRSA region and Ecuador.

1.2. An induction workshop for new users of the Mesoamerican early warning system was held in Boquete, Chiriquí Province, Republic of Panama.

1.3. In conjunction with Mexico's National Forestry Commission (CONAFOR), Autonomous University of Chapingo (UACH) and National Polytechnic Institute (IPN), a regional training workshop on diagnosis of pine beetle and borer species and other quarantine pests was conducted for nine Central American technical professionals.

1.4. A regional workshop on Central American locust (*Schistocerca gregaria*) management was held in Mérida, Yucatán, Mexico. The workshop provided training for 37 phytosanitary professionals coordinating or working on locust control campaigns and agronomy professionals from Mexico and the OIRSA region.

1.5. A course/workshop entitled "Introduction to Pest Risk Assessment" was held in El Salvador to present pest risk assessment tools in the international regulatory framework stemming from the WTO and SPS Agreement. It was attended by officials from the Ministries of Agriculture of El Salvador and Guatemala and by technical staff from Bolivia's pest risk assessment unit.

1.6. A workshop to revise, update and publish the contingency plan for a potential Foc R4T outbreak, revise, update and publish the regional plan of action to prevent the entry, and contain a potential outbreak, of Foc R4T, and schedule training and simulation exercises for 2017 was held in Panama.

1.7. Training was provided for around 40 third-year students at the University of El Salvador in order to update the new professionals on citrus huanglongbing (HLB) control and management.

1.8. OIRSA set up an information booth at the XVII<sup>th</sup> Orange Festival in the municipality of San Juan Opico, El Salvador, to provide and hand out information on HLB disease and related activities being promoted in the region.

1.9. An intensive training day on the production of healthy citrus plants in accordance with the principles of the OIRSA-Chinese Taipei/ICDF HLB project was held in Honduras for 44 students and teaching staff from the Western Regional University Centre (CUROC) in the department of Copán.

1.10. An HLB training event was held in the Dominican Republic to update 23 leaders on the new requirements for the production of healthy citrus plants.

1.11. At the Orange Fair in Coclé Province, Panama, OIRSA provided training for 50 citrus producers and technical staff on topics relating to the production of healthy citrus plants.

1.12. The fourth theoretical and practical refresher course on white shrimp pathology and fish immunology was held in Panama for Panamanian producers and officials.

1.13. The third regional online course on transboundary animal diseases for official veterinarians from OIRSA countries was held with support from the United States Department of Agriculture and Iowa State University.

1.14. In El Salvador, technical and financial support was provided for the Second National Apiculture Congress, which was attended by 300 producers.

1.15. With support from the Organization for the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector of the Central American Isthmus (OSPESCA) and the Directorate-General of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development (CENDEPESCA), OIRSA produced a manual of good non-industrial maritime fisheries practices.

1.16. With support from the Mexican National University (UNAM) and Mexico's National Health, Food Safety and Agri-Food Quality Service (SENASICA), OIRSA produced manuals of good livestock, manufacturing in relation to beef, pork and poultry meat, and HACCP practices.

1.17. With support from the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Centre (CATIE) and Honduras' National Agricultural Health Service (SENASA), OIRSA produced a regional manual of good agricultural, processing and packaging practices for cocoa (*Theobroma cacao*).

1.18. OIRSA drew up and circulated a regional manual of good agricultural and manufacturing practices for cashew nuts (*Anacardium occidentale*).

1.19. With support from the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the FAO and Mexico's SENASICA, OIRSA ran a workshop on agri-food safety risk assessment, which was attended by 23 agri-food safety officials from the OIRSA region.

1.20. OIRSA took part in the 5<sup>th</sup> international forum on food safety, which was attended by food safety directors from eight OIRSA countries.

1.21. The online course for training trainers in good livestock, manufacturing and HACCP practices (in relation to cattle, pigs and poultry) was finalized with the approval of Course No. 141 out of a total of 306.

1.22. OIRSA conducted a videoconference, entitled "Association Agreements between Central America and the European Union, and the SPS Agreement", for food safety directors and officials from the region.

1.23. It also conducted a videoconference to train technical staff from the region's testing laboratories in mass spectrometry for food analysis.

1.24. OIRSA ran an online course on good livestock and manufacturing practice requirements for beef exports to the European Union and other demanding markets.

1.25. The online course on how to structure contaminants and residue monitoring programmes provided training for 83 officials. Each country developed and shared a contaminants monitoring programme.

1.26. OIRSA issued the "Quick start guide for statistical sampling in epidemiological surveillance programmes: microbiological agents and toxic residues".

1.27. A workshop on legislation, control and analysis of residues in fruit and vegetables for export was held in Honduras. It was attended by 22 agri-export companies and officials from the Ministry of Agriculture.

1.28. Developed with the help of El Salvador's Francisco Gavidia University, the second online diploma for advanced online tutors and digital content producers, aimed at technical staff of the Ministries and Secretariats of Agriculture and Livestock and OIRSA officials, was finalized.

1.29. OIRSA ran a course on the development of agricultural quarantine management skills for directors and heads of plant and animal quarantine services in the Ministries and Secretariats of Agriculture and Livestock of the nine member States, Agricultural Protection Service (SEPA) managers, and International Quarantine Treatment Service (SITC) managers. The course was attended by 21 officials.

1.30. A refresher course on transboundary diseases such as foot-and-mouth disease and classical swine fever, endemic diseases such as brucellosis, inspection of means of transport and goods of animal origin, disease control, and internal and external quarantine was held in Panama City. It was attended by 31 participants.

1.31. Also in Panama City, the fifth course on quarantine treatment brought together 15 assistants from the Panama's International Quarantine Treatment Service (SITC), eight officials from the Executive Directorate of Agricultural Quarantine, eight officials from the National Plant Health Directorate in the Ministry of Agricultural Development, five officials from the Panamanian Food Safety Authority, and two agro-quality officials from the Republic of Ecuador.

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

2.1. Guatemala received support in revising and adapting the health risk assessment for swine fever developed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food (MAGA)'s Vice-Ministry of Plant and Animal Health and Regulations (VISAR).

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

3.1. OIRSA updated the contingency plan for an outbreak of *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *cubense* tropical race four in an OIRSA member country.

3.2. In El Salvador, three demonstration plots for integrated pest - Huanglongbing management were set up in the municipalities of San Antonio Pajonal, Tacuba and San Juan Opico, in order to begin demonstrating integrated citrus pest management and build up technical capacity for the monitoring of *Diaphorina citri* and the detection of suspected symptoms of the disease inside the plots.

3.3. In Belize, 90 Shoot Tip Grafting (STG) trials were conducted as a strategy for obtaining clean citrus material of cultural, national or regional importance in the context of Huanglongbing (HLB) control.

3.4. In Panama, the harvesting of healthy citrus shoots was demonstrated in the greenhouses (level 2) of the OIRSA - Chinese Taipei/ICDF - Ministry of Agricultural Development (MIDA) HLB project. Thanks to the training provided, 2,000 healthy Persian lime shoots were harvested and certified material was supplied to Panamanian nurseries for propagation.

3.5. Teaching materials (booklets, teaching guides and flip charts) developed by the project on strengthening the bovine paralytic rabies prevention and control system (FAO-OIRSA project

TCP/RLA/3501) were reproduced in support of the veterinary services of Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua.

3.6. OIRSA developed the computer-based bovine health module for brucellosis-tuberculosis, which ensures the elimination of infected animals and achieves the objective of national control and eradication programmes.

3.7. Guatemala received support in laying the foundations of the programme for the gradual eradication of bovine brucellosis, with the participation of organized and industrial producers (ASOBRAHAMAN and DELICARNES), the MAGA and OIRSA.

3.8. Guatemala was given support in restructuring its national bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) surveillance programme, with the help of organized producers.

3.9. Technical support was also provided so that the Guatemalan department of Petén could declare itself as an area free from low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI) H5N2 virus.

3.10. El Salvador received technical assistance to develop a sampling design for determining the circulation of LPAI H5N2 virus.

3.11. Belize was given technical and financial support to ascertain the magnitude of the *Aethina tumida* outbreak detected in September 2016.

3.12. The classical swine fever regional emergency plan was updated in accordance with good emergency management practices (GEMP).

3.13. OIRSA participated in the training seminar for veterinary legislation and biological risk reduction experts organized by the OIE in the framework of the Veterinary Legislation Support Programme (VLSP) in the Americas.

3.14. The Veterinary Diagnostic and Veterinary Research Laboratory (LADIV) of the Ministry of Agricultural Development of Panama was recognized as the regional reference laboratory for Central America, Panama and the Dominican Republic for the diagnosis of Eastern, Western and Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis.

3.15. With financial support from OIRSA, the Regional Animal Health Reference Laboratory (LARRSA) of the Guatemalan University of San Carlos was recognized in November 2016 as the reference laboratory for Central America, Panama and the Dominican Republic for the diagnosis of classical swine fever.

3.16. OIRSA gave support to Belize in designing and installing large billboards at Belize International Airport and the Benque Viejo land border, to promote a health-oriented culture among the population and tourists arriving all year round.

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

4.1. Guatemala's Phytosanitary Laboratory received support for the molecular diagnosis of *Xylella fastidiosa* and its sub-species.

4.2. OIRSA helped countries build up their diagnostic capacities by means of ELISA kits and supported their action plans for the management of *Xylella fastidiosa*.

4.3. Diagnostic kits, such as the Banana Plant Tissue DNA Extraction & Purification kit and the Real-Time PCR Foc TR4 diagnostic kit, for the detection of *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *cubense* were purchased for the countries of the region.

4.4. Training in extension, nutrition and epidemiology was provided to strengthen the capacities of the rust disease control programme in El Salvador.

4.5. Seven monitoring routes for the prevention of HLB are maintained under the HLB project as a strategy for early detection and control of outbreaks, if citrus greening is detected in areas free from HLB.

4.6. In Panama, support was provided for the launching of the tandem mass (MS/MS) spectrometry detector at the MIDA's Toxic Residue Laboratory. This will allow the detection of analytes such as sulphonamides and ivermectin.

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

5.1. With support from OIRSA, IAEA, USDA, FAO and the trinational MOSCAMED programme, the Dominican Republic was able to resume its fruit and vegetable exports to the United States in 2016.

5.2. An agreement was signed with Guatemala's ANACAFE and PROMECAFE to coordinate the work on coffee integrated pest management.

5.3. 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).

5.4. The OIRSA-USDA cooperation agreement on the strengthening of epidemiological surveillance of foot-and-mouth disease, cattle screwworm and other transboundary animal diseases is being implemented.

5.5. The regional project for the accreditation of laboratory diagnostic tests for animal diseases (STDF/PG/495) is being implemented.

5.6. FAO-OIRSA technical cooperation project TCP/RLA/3502, "Strengthening of Agricultural Health Services between the Republic of Haiti and the Dominican Republic", is being implemented.

5.7. Regional project RLA/5/067, "Strengthening of capacities for the prevention and gradual control of cattle screwworm in Latin America and the Caribbean", is being implemented jointly with the IAEA.

5.8. A cooperation agreement in support of OIRSA countries and their animal and human populations was signed between OIRSA and the Central American Veterinary Industry Federation (FIVETCA) to promote the correct use of veterinary drugs and antimicrobial resistance monitoring (ARM).

5.9. Establishment of the Regional Veterinary Drugs Commission following approval by the International Regional Committee for Plant and Animal Health (CIRSA).

5.10. OIRSA took part in the Global Meeting of Food Safety Regulators to discuss the positions of country regulatory authorities on private certification schemes.

---