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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 COMMITTEE ON SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES,
FEBRUARY – MAY 2018

The following communication, received on 14 June 2018, is being circulated at the request of OIRSA.

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

1.1. Within the framework of the HLB Programme, and with support from Chinese Taipei/ICDF, a field day was held with Salvadoran nursery gardeners to determine the progress made in the cultivation of healthy citrus plants and to carry out pruning, irrigation, fertilization, biosecurity and other technical activities.

1.2. In Honduras, a Chinese Taipei/ICDF, SENASA (National Agriculture and Food Health and Safety Service) and OIRSA training event was held for 30 citrus producers and nursery gardeners from the municipality of Ilama in the department of Santa Bárbara, on the effects of Huanglongbing (HLB) and the production of healthy plants in Honduras.

1.3. In El Salvador, with the support of Chinese Taipei/ICDF and the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG), 30 technicians received training in the cultivation of healthy citrus plants. The training took place within the framework of the Diploma in Tropical Fruit Farming that is offered in El Salvador.

1.4. In Honduras, an "International Technical Tour" was carried out for a group of Colombian citrus producers and nursery gardeners, enabling them to find out in situ about the various aspects of healthy plant cultivation, integrated management, phytosanitary surveillance and diagnosis, as outcomes of the of the OIRSA-Chinese Taipei/ICDF HLB Project.

1.5. OIRSA gave a presentation entitled "Latent phytosanitary threats associated with climate change in the OIRSA region" during the International Congress on Agro-climatic Challenges held at the Atlantic Coast Regional University Centre (CURLA) in the city of La Ceiba (Honduras).

1.6. With support from the Chinese Taipei Banana Research Institute (TBRI), a videoconference was held on new varieties of musaceae that are resistant to *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *ubense* – Tropical Race 4 (Foc-TR4). The event was attended by over 60 professionals from America, Europe and Asia.

1.7. The first Simulation Workshop on preventing the entry of Foc-TR4, organized by the Ministry of Agricultural Development (MIDA), the Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (EMBRAPA), FAO and OIRSA, was held in Changuinola, Bocas Del Toro (Panama).

1.8. With support from Mexico's National Forestry Commission (CONAFOR), National Institute for Forestry, Agricultural and Livestock Research (INIFAP) and National University of Forestry Sciences (UNACIFOR), a workshop on the latest diploma module for the integrated management of bark insects was held, with Mexican experts providing technicians from countries of the OIRSA region with training on the monitoring of this pest and other aspects of its control.

1.9. OIRSA, MIDA and the University of Panama shared their research work on and experience with *Anatrasthepha grandis* at the Tenth International Symposium on Fruit Flies of Economic Importance, held in Tapachula (Mexico).

1.10. A technical training event was held for technicians in the Honduran MOSCAMED Programme, entitled "Importance of free areas: Mediterranean fruit fly identification, containment, control and eradication".

1.11. Within the framework of the Programme of Communication and Dissemination under the Regional Project for the Prevention and Management of the Mediterranean Fruit Fly, the countries of Central America were provided with instructional material, in Spanish and English, on the importance of "avoiding the movement of fruit and vegetable hosts of the Mediterranean fruit fly".

1.12. With the support of IICA and FAO, a simulation was carried out in the Dominican Republic for the purpose of strengthening its plant protection system against the potential introduction into the country of Moniliasis (*Moniliophthora roreri*) affecting Cocoa crops.

1.13. With the support of specialists from Mexico's National Health, Food Safety and Agrifood Quality Service (SENASICA), a videoconference was held on Oriental Thrips (Thrips palmi karny) for over 80 professionals from the American continent.

1.14. With the support of a specialist from Brazil's Federal University of Vicosa, a videoconference was held on "Characterization of new varieties of coffee rust identified in Honduras". It was attended by 95 participants.

1.15. A workshop on the integrated management of locusts was held in Nicaragua with the aim of strengthening the technical capacity of IPSA (Institute for Agricultural and Livestock Protection and Health) staff and updating theoretical and technical skills and knowledge in the integrated management of the Central American locust (*Schistocerca piceifrons*).

1.16. Four training workshops on antimicrobial resistance were held in Guatemala for the benefit of 84 persons from the country's Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Health, as well as from Guatemalan manufacturers of veterinary medicines, professional associations and universities.

1.17. The First Regional Updating Event on Hydrobiologicals was held for the benefit of heads of veterinary medicine registries in agriculture ministries and veterinary medicine industry staff from Belize, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama.

1.18. Two workshops for bovine traceability operators were held in Honduras in coordination with the LACTHOSA company, with a total of 15 beneficiaries having been trained as operators.

1.19. In Honduras, two training events were attended by 65 livestock farmers and technical officials from SENASA, in coordination with the Choluteca and San Marcos de Colon livestock producers' associations.

1.20. A training workshop on carcass sampling to monitor E. coli was held in Honduras. It was attended by 11 laboratory technicians.

1.21. In Honduras, 14 quarantine inspectors from the Agricultural Protection Service were trained in the sampling of food in containers.

1.22. In Guatemala, the "Workshop on implementation of the national programme for the progressive control and eradication of brucellosis and tuberculosis", based on the regulatory framework and approved technical procedures, was held for the benefit of 35 veterinarians from the official, private and academic sectors.

1.23. An updated version of the virtual tutored course entitled "Training for trainers in good agricultural practices", which forms part of the OIRSA-USAC Diploma in Food Safety, was provided to officials from the OIRSA region.

1.24. An updated version of the self-managed virtual course entitled "Training for trainers in good agricultural practices" was provided to public, private and academic sector participants from the OIRSA region and from Bolivia, Ecuador, Peru and Colombia.

1.25. The virtual course "HACCP in honey" was provided to officials from Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic and Panama.

1.26. The self-managed virtual course entitled "Training for trainers in good livestock practices, good manufacturing practices and HACCP" was provided to participants from the OIRSA region and from Ecuador and Colombia.

1.27. Support was provided for the participation of public sector officials from the region in the workshop on "Antimicrobial resistance" and in the "Sixth International Forum on Food Safety", held from 29 May to 1 June 2018 in San Luis Potosí (Mexico).

1.28. A videoconference entitled "Diagnosis of *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter*", involving over 50 participants from the OIRSA region, was held with support from a specialist from Mexico's SENASICA.

1.29. A videoconference entitled "Critical points of animal welfare in the slaughtering process", involving over 60 official, private and academic sector participants from the OIRSA region, was held with support from Mexico's SENASICA.

1.30. A videoconference entitled "TIF certification in milk and milk-based product processing plants", involving over 85 technicians from different sectors within the OIRSA region, was held with support from Mexico's SENASICA.

1.31. A videoconference entitled "National programmes for the control and monitoring of toxic residues", involving over 100 professionals from OIRSA member states, was held with support from Mexico's SENASICA.

1.32. In Mexico, training was provided to staff of the International Quarantine Treatment Service (SITC) in the use, handling and repair of compressors for self-contained breathing equipment, and on topics relating to phytosanitary treatments.

1.33. In Costa Rica, SITC staff received training on the Australian AFAS standard.

1.34. In Honduras, SITC staff received training on health and safety in the workplace.

1.35. In Nicaragua, training was provided to traceability teams, staff from IPSA's traceability department and traceability operating companies in use of the Trazar-Agro platform's module for registering individuals and establishments engaged in agriculture, aquaculture and fishing.

1.36. In Panama, training in bovine traceability was provided to technicians from Banca Agropecuaria, technicians from MIDA and producers as State operators.

1.37. Within the framework of the "Honey chain traceability in Guatemala project" (STDF/PG/15), training was provided in Guatemala to 65 beekeepers from the POVAS Agricultural Group.

1.38. In Guatemala, 19 individuals received training through the Petén bovine traceability operator course.

2 SUPPORT FOR THE HARMONIZATION AND EQUIVALENCE PROCESS

2.1. OIRSA, as a regional plant protection organization (ORPF), participated in the 13th session, in Rome, of the Committee on Phytosanitary Measures, which addressed specific issues including: the

reorganization, harmonization and minor technical updating of the International Standards on Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM) applicable to fruit flies; the pine wood nematode; the application of ISPM 15; and matters relating to ePhyto and electronic commerce.

2.2. As an ORPF, OIRSA participated in the meeting, in Rome (Italy), of the Inter-American Group for Coordination on Plant Protection (GICSV) within the framework of the Committee on Phytosanitary Measures. Also participating in the meeting, which addressed matters of concern for the group, were delegates from CAN, COSAVE, NAPPO, IICA and CAHSFA.

2.3. Organization of eight working sessions of the National Veterinary Drug Committee in Guatemala, for the purpose of harmonizing criteria for the interpretation and implementation of the Central American Technical Regulations on Veterinary Drugs.

2.4. The Regional Commission for Veterinary Medicines and Animal Feed (CORMEVA), comprising representatives of the public and private sectors of member countries, was established.

2.5. The laboratory for aquaculture pathologies and water quality of the Honduran Institute of Veterinary Medical Research was provided with inputs, materials and reagents for the accreditation of diagnostic tests.

2.6. Diagnostic laboratories were supported with OIE reference laboratories, according to the disease, in the process of transmitting inter-laboratory tests.

2.7. Guatemala was officially provided with the latest, corrected version of the Procedural Manuals on the National Programme for the Progressive Control of Brucellosis and Tuberculosis.

2.8. The Project for the Accreditation of Diagnostic Tests for Animal Diseases (STDF/PG/495) was implemented for the Newcastle, avian influenza and classical swine fever (CSF) diseases.

2.9. Support was provided for the assessment of services for the accreditation of the Central Investigation Laboratory of the Belize Agriculture Health Authority (BAHA), in the interests of achieving accreditation of the diagnostic testing methodology for *Salmonella* spp in food, under the international standard ISO/IEC 17025.

2.10. Ongoing support is being provided to the Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) working group in the process of deep integration towards the free movement of persons and goods between Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador.

2.11. During the meeting of the Joint (OSPESCA/COPACO/CRFM/CFMC) Working Group on Caribbean Spiny Lobster of the Western Central Atlantic Fisheries Commission, presentations were given on the progress made with the harmonized traceability system for aquaculture and fisheries products, and with IT developments in the aquaculture and fisheries modules of OIRSA's Trazar-Agro platform.

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

3.1. An event was held in Honduras to mark the launch of certified citrus plants and the conclusion of the UNAH, SENASA, Chinese Taipei/ICDF and OIRSA HLB project. The event highlighted what can be achieved with the technically advanced production of HLB-free citrus material.

3.2. An OIRSA-IHCAFE-SENASA technical meeting was held in Honduras to analyse the incidence of coffee rust and ascertain the current status of this pest within the country.

3.3. A self-diagnosis workshop was held for Guatemala on an early warning system (EWS) for coffee, the objectives of which were to share the progress made on development of the EWS and of the Regional Early Warning Network (RRAT), to carry out EWS institutional mapping for coffee in Guatemala and to conduct a review of strategic planning.

3.4. A technical document was drawn up on risk analysis in regard to *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *ubense* Tropical Race 4 for the OIRSA region.

3.5. A technical report on the current status of the Pink Hibiscus Mealybug *Maconellicoccus hirsutus* (Green) in the countries of the OIRSA region was drawn up and distributed to member countries.

3.6. Five meetings were held with animal health epidemiologists from the countries of the region for the purpose of revising manuals on tuberculosis and brucellosis and on appropriate farm management.

3.7. Support was provided to FAO's TCP/RLA/3502 project for the Dominican Republic and Republic of Haiti aimed at improving the plant and animal health situation in the border area.

3.8. Support was provided to SENASA (Honduras) in the form of equipment for the taking, preservation and dispatch to the reference laboratory in Panama of vesicular samples.

3.9. Support was provided to SENASA (Honduras) in the form of equipment for capturing vampire bats for the campaign against bovine paralytic rabies in areas of the country in which it is endemic.

3.10. Support was provided to the national bovine traceability programme in Honduras through the provision of materials and equipment for bovine tracing.

3.11. In Guatemala, OIRSA, together with the Technical Commission on Bovine Health (private and official sectors), has provided technical assistance in relation to the following: Plan for the implementation of the National Brucellosis and Tuberculosis Programme; Elaboration of the budget and costing for the Project/Programme for the Progressive Control of Brucellosis and Tuberculosis; and the OIRSA-MAGA-ASOBRAHMAN joint work plan.

3.12. The LX Regional Climate Forum held in San Salvador (El Salvador) from 17 to 19 April included the Seventh Regional Table on Climate Applications in Plant and Animal Health, in which the phytosanitary and meteorological services of the nine member countries of OIRSA participated.

3.13. A bulletin of general recommendations was drawn up for the period May-July 2018, concerning the prevention and control of, and adaptation to, pests and diseases which could result from the climatology foreseen for the period in question.

3.14. With support from the Sugarcane Research Institute and the Belize Agriculture Health Authority (BAHA), a climatic variables risk map for the sugarcane spittlebug was produced.

4 STRENGTHENING OF NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN ORDER TO FACILITATE TRADE

4.1. OIRSA participated in the regional workshop for discussion and validation of the proposal for a regional programme for the strengthening of plant and animal health services in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. This activity is organized by FAO in Panama City.

4.2. Together with FEDAVICAC-OIRSA, a meeting was held of the Regional Technical Committee on Poultry Health (CTRSA). It was attended by technicians from veterinary services and from the private sector of El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, Belize, Guatemala and the Dominican Republic.

4.3. Eight socialization meetings were held with producer organizations and officials of SENASA (Honduras) on the subject of the management and use of the TRAZAR-AGRO platform, for the aquaculture and fisheries safety component, with a total of 180 beneficiaries and 32 users.

4.4. Support was provided for establishment of the agreement to facilitate trade in broodstock, larvae and nauplius of shrimp between Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua y Panama.

4.5. In Guatemala, support was provided for the training of a canine binomial for non-intrusive inspection tasks targeting agricultural goods in airports.

4.6. Support was provided to El Salvador's Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG) for the development of a real-time phytosanitary surveillance application which enables the automated reporting of the monitoring results obtained by epidemiologists around the country.

4.7. Similarly, support was provided to Guatemala's Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food (MAGA) for the development of an application for the health surveillance of animal diseases.

5 STRATEGIC ALLIANCES FOR THE PROMOTION OF HEALTH AND TRADE

5.1. OIRSA is signing a technical agreement with the North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO) to collaborate in activities that facilitate the safe movement of regulated plants, products and other items in North and Central America and the Dominican Republic.

5.2. OIRSA participated in the first annual meeting of the Technical Committee of the Regional Cooperative Programme for the Technological Development and Modernization of Coffee Production (PROMECAFÉ), held in San Pedro Sula (Honduras), where the discussion focused on the most noteworthy phytosanitary activities being carried out by PROMECAFE and OIRSA within the region.

5.3. With the support of Agroclick (Colombia) and Chinese Taipei/ICDF, a videoconference was held on the integrated management of HLB and cultivation of certified healthy citrus plants. The event, which was attended by some 70 individuals from 12 countries of Central and South America, focused on matters such as integrated pest management and the cultivation of healthy citrus plants in the context of the threat posed by HLB.

5.4. A technical and financial administration agreement was drawn up for the delegation by SENASA, to OIRSA, of the Aquaculture Pathology and Water Quality Laboratory in Choluteca (Honduras).

5.5. Implementation of the Regional Project for the Accreditation of Laboratory Diagnostic Tests for Animal Diseases (STDF/PG/495) is continuing in eight countries of the region.

5.6. OIRSA and the Guatemalan Association of Breeders of Brahman Cattle and derived products (ASOBRAHMAN) signed the "Administrative technical cooperation agreement" for implementation of the National Programme for the Progressive Control of Brucellosis and Tuberculosis in herds belonging to their associates or members.

5.7. OIRSA and the Dairy Development Association (ASODEL) signed the "Administrative technical cooperation agreement" for implementation of the National Programme for the Progressive Control of Brucellosis and Tuberculosis in herds belonging to their associates or members.

5.8. In Guatemala, the "National Programme for the Progressive Control of Brucellosis and Tuberculosis" was delegated to OIRSA on the basis of the "Administrative Technical Cooperation Agreement signed between MAGA and OIRSA".

5.9. The agreement between the Federation of Poultry Farmers of Central America (FEDAVICAC) and OIRSA was renewed in the interests of working together for the prevention, control and eradication of avian diseases and facilitating trade within and outside the region.

5.10. A partnership was established with ILSI (International Life Sciences Institute) Mesoamerica to enable the participation of food safety directors from Belize, Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic, as well as OIRSA staff, in the course entitled "Training on Codex processes and regulations for Central America and the Dominican Republic", with attendees from the public, private and academic sectors, aimed at strengthening active and effective participation in the national Codex Alimentarius committees.

5.11. Agreements were established with the boards of directors of the agronomy and veterinary faculties of the San Carlos de Guatemala University to support the "Diploma in food safety" project through academic backing, on the basis of the letters of understanding already in existence between OIRSA and the two faculties.

5.12. A cooperation agreement was signed for the implementation of Nicaragua's national system of agricultural, aquaculture and fisheries traceability and for use of the harmonized regional system of agricultural, aquaculture and fisheries traceability (Trazar-Agro), between IPSA and OIRSA.

5.13. Technical cooperation agreements were signed for the development and implementation of the Honduran traceability, health and safety module within the Trazar-Agro system, as was a technical and financial cooperation agreement for the development and implementation of the computerized agri-food traceability and safety module (*Trazar Agro - Inocuidad Agroalimentaria*), between SENASA, OIRSA and the National Association of Fish Farmers of Honduras (ANDAH).

5.14. OIRSA participated, together with universities and other international entities, in the creation of the Consortium for Food Safety Risk Analysis, with the aim of training professionals to carry out risk analysis in the area of food safety, in the interests of fostering safe trade and achieving sustainable food systems.
