



**SPS ACTIVITIES FROM CARIBBEAN AGRICULTURAL HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY  
AGENCY (CAHFSA) TO THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION SANITARY AND  
PHYTOSANITARY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**REPORT TO THE COMMITTEE ON SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES**

The following communication, received on 21 June 2018, is being circulated at the request of CAHFSA.

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**1 INTRODUCTION**

1.1. The Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency (CAHFSA) was established by the Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) to perform a coordinating and organizing role in the establishment of an effective and efficient regional sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) regime and to execute on behalf of member States such SPS actions and activities that can be more effectively and efficiently executed through a regional mechanism.

1.2. CAHFSA is pleased to provide this report to the 72<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the SPS Committee summarising key activities and providing updates on CARICOM's SPS standard-setting work programme for the period January to June 2018.

**2 DEVELOPING LINKAGES WITH INTERNATIONAL SPS-RELATED ORGANIZATIONS**

2.1. CAHFSA is delighted to announce that the institution was recognized as the 10<sup>th</sup> Regional Plant Protection Organization during 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM-13), held in Rome 16-20 April 2018.

2.2. The Institution also continues its engagement with the OIE and the Codex Alimentarius Commission through meeting participation and regional coordination.

**3 REGIONAL COLLABORATION**

3.1. CAHFSA has signed two Letters of Agreement (LOAs) with the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Sub-Regional Office for the Caribbean, to:

- provide services towards strengthening the plant and animal quarantine capacities of three member States based on specific priorities identified by these countries in their respective Country Programming Frameworks;
- strengthen the capacity of Governments in the CARICOM region to meet their reporting obligations under the IPPC and the WTO SPS Agreement and to improve the awareness among CARICOM National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs) of the SPS Agreement.

**4 STANDARD SETTING AND IMPLEMENTATION**

4.1. The Regional Biosafety Policy was approved by the Council on Trade and Economic Development (COTED) and a road map for its implementation developed. This includes the review of member States biosafety legislation and the development of a draft model legislation.

4.2. A draft specification for cassava flour has been developed by CAHFSA to ensure that cassava flour produced in the region conforms with international standards.

4.3. A guideline for preparing market access proposals was adopted as a Regional Guideline at the Seventy First (71<sup>st</sup>) Special Meeting of the COTED.

4.4. Six member States have received approval from COTED to export pork and poultry products to the region, following risk assessments that were coordinated by CAHFSA.

## **5 CAPACITY BUILDING**

5.1. CAHFSA continues to provide training in pest risk analysis to CARICOM member States, towards improving the competence of analysts in the region and to build a cadre of risk assessment professionals.

5.2. Four trainings on monitoring and surveillance for plant pests and animal diseases were facilitated by CAHFSA.

5.3. CAHFSA continues its collaboration with regional partners in facilitating the annual regional workshop on Plant Quarantine Principles and Procedures.

5.4. CAHFSA partnered with the FAO and the Government of Switzerland to stage a Food Safety Capacity Building Workshop on Foods of Animal Origin in Saint Lucia. The main objective of the workshop was to heighten and increase awareness for food safety particularly in the meat sector (beef, pork, lamb, poultry) with the use of Codex food safety standards, and to have an open discussion on issues of antimicrobial use and antimicrobial resistance within this sector.

## **6 TECHNICAL RESOURCES AND INFORMATION EXCHANGE**

6.1. The Information Portal developed on CAHFSA's website continues to provide weekly updates on WTO notifications as well agricultural health and food safety alerts.

6.2. Several databases related to agricultural health and food safety have been developed to improve the delivery and sharing of information across the region. These databases, which are still in the developmental stage, are available from the CAHFSA website and provide information on:

- List of pesticides registered by CARICOM member States;
  - Risk analyses completed;
  - Regionally regulated pests;
  - Regional trade issues;
  - Import and export requirements of the member States;
  - Food safety, animal and plant health practitioners in the region.
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