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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

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**TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND CO-OPERATION  
INFORMATION FROM MEMBERS**

FORMAL MEETING OF THE WTO SPS COMMITTEE – 12 JULY 2018

*Communication from Belize*

The following communication, received on 24 July 2018, is being circulated at the request of the Delegation of Belize.

1. Belize was able to attend a workshop on "Regional Pest Risk Analysis for the Khapra Beetle (*Trogoderma granarium*)" which was held in Veracruz, Mexico on 25-26 June 2018. This workshop was attended by all the International Regional Organization for Agricultural Health (OIRSA) member countries except Costa Rica. During the workshop, each representative of the respective participating countries gave a presentation that covered the following: (i) phytosanitary requirements for the importation of commodities that originate from countries where *T. granarium* is present or suspected to be present; (ii) actions that are officially carried out for the detection of the pest; (iii) the history of interceptions of *T. granarium*; (iv) capacity for detection and timely action that guarantees the exclusion of the pest from his/her country; (v) notification; and (vi) actions taken when *T. granarium* is intercepted in imported commodities at points of entry.
2. A preliminary list of experts (in diagnostics, control of outbreaks, surveillance, pest risk analysis, and phytosanitary treatments) from the OIRSA region, was compiled in an effort to eventually form a Regional Commando Group for khapra beetle.
3. During that same week (27-29 June 2018), an epidemiological simulation exercise, pertaining to the same pest, was conducted in and near the Port of Veracruz. Participants in this event included: OIRSA's Regional Group for Pest Risk Analysis; Veracruz's State Committee for Plant Health; Directorate of the National Centre for Phytosanitary Reference of Mexico; National Service for Agricultural Health, Food Safety and Food Quality (SENASICA); Sub-Directorate of Inspection of Ports and Airports of Mexico; and the Office of Inspection of Agricultural Health of Veracruz, among others.
4. After several presentations that focused on the khapra beetle, participants were taken to the Port of Veracruz and surrounding areas where pheromone traps (Storgard KB/WB with Dome) were set near grain silos, and buildings used to store hosts of the khapra beetle. The traps were inspected the following day and the insects captured were viewed and discussed. The program used to record the surveillance data, and how the data was linked and captured on the map of the area, was demonstrated and appreciated.
5. Belize thanks OIRSA for sponsoring its participation in both events which was important in trying to keep the OIRSA region free from the khapra beetle (*Trogoderma granarium*).
6. Belize thanks the WTO for funding Belize and the other 18 participants to be able to return to Geneva and attend the Follow-up Session of the 2017 Advanced Course on the WTO Agreement on the Application of SPS measures. Participants of the Advanced Course were able to return and report on the positive efforts made and being made in their respective countries as a result of the

knowledge gained during the SPS Advanced Course. Each participant presented on advancements made in carrying out their action plans. Participants of the Advanced Course were able to participate actively in the Workshop on Control, Inspection and Approval Procedures, as well as the informal and formal meetings of the SPS Committee.

7. Finally, Belize would like to express sincere gratitude to the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) for partial funding to assist the SPS Committee meeting.

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