

10 October 2018

(18-6284)

Page: 1/6

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 COMMITTEE ON SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES
JUNE-SEPTEMBER 2018

The following communication, received on 9 October 2018, is being circulated at the request of OIRSA.

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

1.1. With support from OIRSA and the General Secretariat of the Andean Community (CAN), the Agency for Phytosanitary and Animal Health Regulation and Control of Ecuador (Agrocalidad) organized the first international workshop on the use of pheromones for pest control in sustainable agriculture.

1.2. A technical tour was organized in Honduras with officials from the Ministry of Agricultural Development of Panama (MIDA) to demonstrate the integrated management of Huanglongbing (HLB) using methodology developed by the Chinese Taipei ICDF.

1.3. An interinstitutional task force was established to support the transfer of technology to citrus producers and nursery workers with a view to addressing the effects of HLB in Nicaragua.

1.4. OIRSA presented a global and regional strategy for preventing the introduction of the pest *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *cubense* – Tropical Race 4, at a seminar organized by the Brazilian Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Supply (MAPA).

1.5. A regional training workshop on new diagnostic techniques for citrus pathogens such as citrus variegated chlorosis (CVC), *Leprosis* (CiLV), *Xanthomonas axonopodis* pv. *citri* and the citrus tristeza virus (CTV), was organized for laboratory technicians from the Central American region.

1.6. Support was provided to facilitate the participation of nine professionals from phytosanitary risk analysis units in the first risk analysis forum-workshop for *Trogoderma granarium*, a quarantine pest for the OIRSA region. The event was held in Mexico.

1.7. OIRSA helped the official veterinary services of El Salvador to prepare and finalize two procedural manuals for the progressive control of brucellosis and tuberculosis (June-August 2018).

1.8. Three training workshops on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) were held in Guatemala within the framework of the AMR prevention and control network. The 96 beneficiaries of these events included staff from the Ministries of Agriculture and Health, veterinary drug manufacturing companies, professional associations, and universities.

1.9. As part of the project on the accreditation of diagnostic tests for animal diseases (STDF/PG/495), a theoretical and practical course on serological techniques for the diagnosis of brucellosis was held at the OIE reference laboratory in Costa Rica. Training was provided for laboratory representatives from Argentina, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, and the Dominican Republic.

1.10. OIRSA helped to raise awareness of the Programme for the Progressive Control of Brucellosis and Tuberculosis through presentations and lectures at meetings of trade unions and associations, and field day events, in El Salvador and Guatemala. 135 livestock producers attended these events with a view to participation in the programme.

1.11. A first regional symposium was organized on challenges and opportunities in respect of the new approach for good manufacturing practices for veterinary drugs. Ninety-three people from Belize, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama took part in the event, including heads of the veterinary drug registries of Ministries and Secretariats of Agriculture and veterinary drug industry personnel.

1.12. A presentation on vesicular diseases was organized for producers in the department of Rivas, in Nicaragua. Another presentation on how to deal with reports of suspected transboundary diseases was attended by officials from the Institute for Agricultural and Livestock Protection and Health (IPSA). In total, 44 participants attended these events.

1.13. A virtual training course on bee health and the diagnosis of bee diseases was organized for 75 professionals from the Ministries of Agriculture and Livestock of the nine countries in the region and other South American countries, and professionals from the beekeeping sector.

1.14. A second training workshop for 44 veterinarians from the National Programme for the Progressive Control and Eradication of Bovine Brucellosis and Tuberculosis was held at the faculty of veterinary medicine and animal husbandry of the San Carlos University in Guatemala.

1.15. In Honduras, staff from the International Quarantine Treatment Service (SITC) and the Agricultural Protection Service (SEPA) were recertified in methyl bromide fumigation in accordance with the Australian Fumigation Accreditation Scheme (AFAS) standard.

1.16. In Panama, SITC staff received training on methyl bromide fumigation in accordance with the AFAS standard, and on the calibration of concentration-monitoring equipment.

1.17. In the Dominican Republic, SITC staff received training on methyl bromide fumigation in accordance with the AFAS standard.

1.18. Staff from phytosanitary diagnostic laboratories in OIRSA member countries received training on identifying molluscs, with particular emphasis on the giant African snail.

1.19. As part of their safety diploma training, officials from Ministries and Secretariats of Agriculture in the OIRSA region took part in virtual tutored courses entitled "Introduction to food safety" and "Good aquaculture practices aboard small artisanal fishing vessels, and good manufacturing practices".

1.20. A workshop on aquatic health and fisheries was held in El Salvador with the support of Mexico's National Agriculture and Food Health, Safety and Quality Service (SENASICA). Participants included technical staff from the Directorate-General of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development (CENDEPESCA) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG), and tilapia and shrimp producers.

1.21. In El Salvador, OIRSA disseminated a diagnostic study on the safe handling of artisanal fishery products throughout the harvesting, unloading, processing and transportation process and in collection centres and points of sale. It also disseminated a handbook of good practices applicable to artisanal fishery products throughout the chain, from harvesting through to points of sale.

1.22. Two officials from the National Laboratory for Residue Analysis (LANAR) of the Honduran Ministry of Agriculture were provided with training on analysing pathogens in foods of animal and

plant origin. The training activity took place at SENASICA's TECAMAC and CENAPA laboratories in Mexico.

1.23. In collaboration with SENASICA (Mexico), the following videoconferences were organized for countries in the region: "Hygiene for meat industry workers and manufacturers"; "Good practices for the prescription and use of pharmaceutical products in the production of food of animal origin"; "The role of veterinarians in the inspection of meat processing plants (Federal Inspection Type (TIF) establishments)"; and "Updating the scheme for the certification and recognition of contaminant risk reduction systems (SRRC)".

1.24. A working group on climatic variables and agricultural health (*Mesa de Variables Climáticas y Sanidad Agropecuaria*) met within the framework of the Central American Regional Climate Forum. A bulletin was produced containing the climate outlook for August to October for the nine countries in the region and explaining its implications in terms of agricultural health.

1.25. Technical support was provided to the Honduran Coffee Institute (IHCAFE) to facilitate a technical analysis of the requirements for implementing a traceability system, and the design and preparation of forms pertaining to coffee production.

1.26. A training course for bovine traceability operators was held in Petén, Guatemala. Nineteen new operators completed the course.

1.27. El Salvador hosted its first course for bovine traceability operators. Twenty-one operators received accreditation.

1.28. Panama was provided with support in the form of training and technical and operational assistance to help it identify 52,000 bovine animals and register 1,160 establishments as part of the country's bovine brucellosis eradication programme.

1.29. Training was provided to veterinarians under the Trazar-Agro bovine health module as part of a course on the harmonization of criteria and certification for the Programme for the Progressive Control of Bovine Brucellosis and Tuberculosis. The event was held with the support of OIRSA and the University of San Carlos (Guatemala).

1.30. A workshop on the plan for the gradual implementation of traceability and health programmes in the livestock (poultry, bovine animals and swine) and aquaculture sectors was held with a view to the drafting of Government Decisions on the creation of the National System for Agricultural, Aquaculture and Fishery Traceability (SINART-GT) and the Regulation on the movement of animals and agricultural, aquaculture and fishery products and by-products.

2 SUPPORT FOR THE HARMONIZATION AND EQUIVALENCE PROCESS

2.1. OIRSA helped to organize six working sessions of the National Veterinary Drug Committee. The purpose of these sessions was to harmonize criteria for the interpretation and implementation of the Central American Technical Regulation on veterinary drugs. The beneficiaries of these sessions included staff from veterinary drug registries and industries manufacturing, importing and marketing these products in Central America.

2.2. OIRSA is working with eight countries in the region to validate regulations for the prevention, control and eradication of the Newcastle disease virus and bovine brucellosis and tuberculosis.

2.3. The Guatemalan Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food (MAGA) was provided with the second versions of the procedural manuals for the National Programme for the Progressive Control of Brucellosis and Tuberculosis.

2.4. OIRSA took part in the negotiations of the Honduras-Guatemala-El Salvador customs union as part of the working group on sanitary and phytosanitary measures.

2.5. OIRSA worked with Honduras on the drafting of Executive Decree PCM-032-2018, which establishes the National System for Agricultural, Aquaculture and Fishery Traceability and Registration (SINART) under the National Agriculture and Food Health and Safety Service (SENASA).

2.6. The SENASA-SAG-OIRSA technical cooperation agreement for the administration and operation of the National System for Agricultural, Aquaculture and Fishery Traceability and Registration (SINART) was signed.

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

3.1. Advisors from the Guatemalan Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food (MAGA) were provided with support to conduct a drone assessment of the cultivated areas affected by the eruption of the Volcán de Fuego volcano on 3 June 2018.

3.2. In Honduras, a simulation exercise on the prevention of banana fusarium wilt disease Foc TR4 was carried out with a view to evaluating the response capacity of the surveillance, quarantine and diagnostic services in the event of an outbreak of the disease in the country.

3.3. Citrus HLB continues to be controlled and managed in Sonaguera, Honduras, with help from the Honduran Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (SAG) and technical assistance provided by the Chinese Taipei ICDF. Fifty-five producers have received assistance as part of the immediate response to HLB damage to orange crops.

3.4. OIRSA worked with Panama's Ministry of Agricultural Development (MIDA) to carry out simulation exercises on citrus HLB and banana fusarium wilt disease TR4 in Panama. The aim of these exercises was to evaluate the country's capacity to detect, diagnose and respond to an outbreak of unrecorded quarantine pests.

3.5. OIRSA continued to support and monitor epidemiological surveillance activities for classical swine fever and related diseases in El Salvador, Nicaragua, Panama and the Dominican Republic.

3.6. Following Panama's declaration of emergency due to the detection of cases of brucellosis in provinces bordering Costa Rica, OIRSA provided support to implement an emergency plan and supplied indirect ELISA kits to the Animal Health Directorate of the MIDA to assist in diagnosing brucellosis.

3.7. OIRSA continues to support vesicular disease surveillance in countries in the CA-4 region by supplying bottles of glycerol phosphate, cool boxes, specimen bags and special containers.

3.8. A refresher course on African swine fever was held in Guatemala for 70 veterinarians from the official, private and academic sectors.

3.9. Two sanitary alert bulletins were prepared, one on African swine fever and the other on foot-and-mouth disease, with general recommendations on how to prevent these diseases in the countries of the region.

4 STRENGTHENING OF NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN ORDER TO FACILITATE TRADE

4.1. A meeting on phytosanitary surveillance in coffee production was held with officials from the National Agriculture and Food Health and Safety Service (SENASA) and the Honduran Coffee Institute (IHCAFE). Issues raised included the need to work on pesticide residue analysis and measurement in coffee production in Honduras, as well as technical capacity-building in the country.

4.2. The Honduran national phytosanitary surveillance system, which SENASA implements in its various plant health programmes, was reviewed and updated. There was a particular need to update the application of the climatic variables and agricultural health platform that allows for the analysis or interpretation of information generated in the field by the national surveillance system.

4.3. OIRSA developed a regional aquatic health project for farmed products with high commercial value (shrimp and tilapia), with a view to establishing an epidemiological surveillance system that would favour beneficiary countries in terms of increased access to domestic, regional and international markets, and food safety.

4.4. In El Salvador, OIRSA is working on the registration of beekeepers, apiaries and beekeeping establishments using the Trazar-Agro platform. Part of this activity consists of providing training on the use of the platform (agricultural registration and apicultural traceability modules).

4.5. Support was provided for the accreditation of the Regional Animal Health Reference Laboratory (LARRSA) in accordance with the requirements of standard COGUANOR NTG ISO/IEC 17025 (haemagglutination inhibition for Newcastle disease, avian influenza; real-time PCR for classical swine fever).

4.6. OIRSA organized a regular meeting of the Regional Technical Committee on Poultry Health, at which a guide to biosafety evaluation on poultry layer farms was approved. Participants included heads of Central American poultry health programmes and poultry industry representatives from each country.

4.7. A canine unit for non-intrusive quarantine inspection was established in Guatemala.

4.8. OIRSA continues to support member countries in the area of distance diagnostics through digital imaging (DDDI), with a view to reducing the time taken to diagnose pests intercepted at border control points.

4.9. A course on the development and discussion of Codex Alimentarius standards and related processes was held in Guatemala with a view to increasing active and effective private and academic sector participation in the National Codex Committee.

4.10. A technical cooperation agreement concerning the administration and operation of the National System for Agricultural, Aquaculture and Fishery Traceability and Registration of El Salvador (SINART-SV) has been concluded between OIRSA and the Salvadoran Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG).

5 STRATEGIC ALLIANCES FOR THE PROMOTION OF HEALTH AND TRADE

5.1. OIRSA participated in the working group on European regional regulations for HLB, in which technical staff with extensive experience in the prevention and control of citrus HLB provided recommendations for the development of European regulations on the disease. Experts from the United States, Argentina, France, Portugal, Spain and Central America (through OIRSA) participated in this working group.

5.2. OIRSA also participated in the 2018 International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) Regional Workshop for Latin America, an event at which draft International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) were presented and examined.

5.3. A framework agreement on institutional cooperation was concluded with the University of California, Davis (UC Davis). This agreement covers cooperation on issues relating to research and training in respect of citrus pests, including leprosis and HLB.

5.4. A technical cooperation agreement was signed by OIRSA and the Chinese Taipei ICDF with a view to improving the certification of healthy citrus plants in Central America through Ministries of Agriculture.

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 in the region.

5.6. The low-pathogenicity H5N2 avian influenza eradication project is being implemented for El Salvador and Guatemala.

5.7. Within the framework of the MAGA-OIRSA technical administrative cooperation agreement on the National Programme for the Progressive Control of Brucellosis and Tuberculosis, progress has been made in respect of the strengthening of diagnostic capacity, coordination with the National Traceability Programme, technical training for official and private veterinarians, and the elimination of cattle that test positively for these diseases.

5.8. OIRSA participated in an International Cargo Cooperative Biosecurity Arrangement (ICCBA) workshop to review proposed international standards for phytosanitary measures.

5.9. OIRSA helped organize the IV Regional Meeting of International Organizations for Integration and Cooperation in Agricultural Health and Food Safety. The outcomes of this event included the forming of alliances with OSPESCA with a view to participation in the regional aquatic health project, and with PAHO/PANAFTOSA with a view to the publication of a veterinary handbook on taking and forwarding samples.

5.10. The regulations on climatic variables and agricultural health were updated and approved for implementation. They establish the bodies, roles and responsibilities of the various stakeholders, with a view to ensuring that clear and timely climate and epidemiological data is provided to Ministries and Secretariats of Agriculture for decision-making purposes.
