



16 October 2019

(19-6723)

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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: English

SPS ACTIVITIES OF THE CARIBBEAN AGRICULTURAL HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY AGENCY (CAHFSA)

REPORT TO THE COMMITTEE ON SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

The following communication, received on 15 October 2019, is being circulated at the request of CAHFSA.

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 seventy-sixth regular meeting of the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, summarising key activities and providing updates on CARICOM SPS work programme for the period April to October 2019.

2 COLLABORATION WITH INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN THE AREA OF AGRICULTURAL HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

2.1. CAHFSA continues its engagement with the OIE, IPPC and the Codex Alimentarius Commission through meeting participation and regional coordination.

2.2. As the Regional Plant Protection Organization for the Caribbean, CAHFSA has once again, collaborated with the IPPC to organise the 2019 IPPC regional workshop for the Caribbean. The workshop, which was held 10-12 September 2019, also included a one-day seminar on the Fusarium Wilt of Bananas, Tropical Race 4.

2.3. The Institution has expanded its engagement with the IAEA to include collaboration on various activities including:

1. Regional coordinator on the Interregional Project for SIDS on Soil, Water and Nutrient Management;
2. Development of a regional project to *Facilitate the development of human resource and capacity building in member states in the use of nuclear technology for application in agriculture*;
3. Development of a Regional Strategic Profile (RSP) for the CARICOM IAEA members.

2.4. CAHFSA has signed a new Letter of Agreement (LOAs) with the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Sub-Regional Office for the Caribbean to:

1. Provide *Technical Support to Pilot the Technical Working Group for pesticides registration evaluation for CGPC countries*;
2. Support *capacity building for the monitoring and surveillance of two pests of quarantine importance in Grenada*.

3 STANDARD SETTING AND IMPLEMENTATION

3.1. The Ministers of Agriculture of the CARICOM have approved the formation of a Caribbean Taskforce on Food Safety. The primary responsibility of the group will be to provide advice and guidance to CAHFSA on the enhancement of coordination and harmonisation of food safety interventions, including food safety standards.

4 CAPACITY BUILDING

4.1. A workshop on *Regional Food Safety Standards Coordination* was held in Paramaribo, Suriname from 23-25 July 2019 targeted at Food Safety Regulators of all 15 CARICOM member States. This workshop was organized by CAHFSA in collaboration with FAO and agreed on a set of key recommendations to enhance coordination of food safety measures among the member countries and to work together towards harmonized food safety standards for the region.

4.2. 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 TECHNICAL RESOURCES AND INFORMATION EXCHANGE

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