



ACTIONS AIMED AT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WTO AGREEMENT ON SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

INFORMATION SUBMITTED BY THE INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR COOPERATION ON AGRICULTURE (IICA)

The following communication, received on 3 June 2022, is being circulated at the request of IICA.

The observer organizations of the WTO Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Committee) are invited to submit reports on the activities they have carried out to promote the understanding and implementation of the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement). IICA would like to present some of the actions and activities that it considers relevant to the work of this Committee.

1 SUPPORT FOR MULTILATERAL FORA ASSOCIATED WITH SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

1.1 Codex Alimentarius Colloquia

1.1. IICA, in collaboration with the United States Codex Office and the AU-IBAR, continues to support its member countries in their active participation in the Codex Alimentarius, through the implementation of an annual program of colloquiums aimed at the CCLAC regions, CCAFRICA and the United States. In these colloquiums, both regions (43% of the Codex membership) discuss and exchange opinions on the various agenda items of each of the official Codex Alimentarius meetings. These meetings motivate and support developing countries to enhance their active participation both individually and regionally. The most recent colloquiums were:

- March 2022 – preparation for the 52nd Session of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH52);
- April 2022 – preparation for the 15th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Colloquium on Contaminants in Food (CCCF15).

1.2. These events provided an opportunity for delegates from these two regions and the United States to analyze issues of common interest and develop regional participation strategies prior to those Codex Committee meetings.

1.2 Regional Coordination Session on WTO SPS Matters

1.3. Adding to the regional efforts to strengthen capacities in the Hemisphere for the application of sanitary and phytosanitary measures and working in collaboration with several of its members IICA conducted last March its Third Coordination Session on WTO SPS Committee Matters. The meeting was hosted virtually with simultaneous interpretation for English, Spanish and French and was attended by 111 participants from thirty-one countries. Considering the current prominent subjects under discussion in the WTO SPS Committee, the third coordination session addressed matters related to: the SPS Committee Working Group on Approval Procedures ([G/SPS/W/328/Rev.1/Add.1](#)), the Declaration for the 12th WTO Ministerial Conference ([G/SPS/GEN/1758/Rev.10](#)) and the EU review of legislation on veterinary medicinal products ([STC 446](#)). The next coordination session

on WTO SPS Committee matters is already scheduled for 16 June in preparation for the forthcoming 83rd Session of the WTO SPS Committee.

1.3 Inter-American Coordinating Group in Plant Health (GICSV) recent activities

1.4. Since the constitution of the GICSV, IICA has exercised the Technical Secretariat on a permanent basis and currently hosts its [website](#). In recent years it has maintained an intense agenda and a work plan focused on institutional strengthening, coordination of activities and attention to the main emerging phytosanitary issues. It currently has biannual work plans and has set up Working Groups on relevant topics such as Electronic Certification (ePhyto), Fruit Fly, HLB, *Tuta absoluta*, Orthopteros Plague (Lobster) and FOC R4T. The most relevant events and activities conducted during the period covered by this report were:

- Sessions for the analysis of the documents for the 16th Commission on Phytosanitary Measures - CMF 16 - of the IPPC.

Activities of the Working Groups:

- ePhyto - contingency plan for the ePhyto system;
- Fruit fly - report on the species of economic concern present in America and the Caribbean;
- HLB - campaign for the harmonization of messages on prevention and management of HLB;
- *Tuta absoluta* - Reference Manual for Surveillance and Control of *T. absoluta*;
- FOC R4T - harmonized hemispheric campaign on the prevention and control of FOC R4T;
- Lobster - Technical sheets on the Orthoptera species present in America and the Caribbean and an updated status report of the Orthoptera species in the region.

Collaboration with the IPPC secretariat in the organization of:

- The IPPC Workshop for Latin America – analysis of the draft standards proposed for comments and approval in 2022;
- Webinar "Introduction to IPPC Implementation: Your Questions Answered".

2 INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS IN REGARD TO SPS MEASURES

2.1 Strategy Session on OIE Guidelines

2.1. Aiming at improving coordination and promoting the development of harmonized comments on the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code chapters, IICA hosted on-line, in April 2022, the tenth edition of its Strategy Session organized in partnership and sponsored by the USDA. Matters related to the OIE General Session, antimicrobial resistance and animal welfare, Venezuelan equine encephalitis and fish diseases were discussed by the veterinary services of the hemisphere. 61 delegates from 22 countries attended the Session.

3 OTHER ACTIVITIES

3.1 Expanding knowledge on the magnitude of pesticide residues in crops

3.1. IICA, together with the *Fundación de Usos Menores*, continues to carry out studies on the magnitude of pesticide residues in crops to expand the capacity development of Latin American countries in the preparation of these studies, as well as increasing the necessary information before the Codex Alimentarius to establish new MRLs. Large-scale tests on pesticide residues are currently being carried out in Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia, Peru, and Ecuador. The program will be expanded to Argentina, Honduras, and Chile this year.

3.2. As anticipated in March 2022 ([G/SPS/GEN/1995](#)) IICA and *Fundación de Usos Menores* hosted last month a workshop in the Latin American and Caribbean region to establish a new prioritization process and thus be able to advance further in these important trials. 141 delegates from 23 countries participated. Also noteworthy was the participation of the Caribbean region, which was present at the event with 25 delegates from seven countries.

3.2 African Swine Fever

3.3. Within the framework of the GFTADs, IICA has been leading training actions for the prevention of African swine fever in the countries of America and the Caribbean, which are still free of the disease. This coordination is being developed in conjunction with the different international agencies, as well as regional agencies (OIE, FAO, CVP, CAN, CAFHSA, CaribVET, OIRSA, USDA, COPEG).

3.4. Continuing with the work plan for 2022, IICA hosted last March the hemispheric Webinar on Emergency Actions in the Event of Confirmation of African Swine Fever. 284 participants from 29 countries attended the Webinar.

3.3 Dairy Hygiene and Technology

3.5. Together with the Honduran Milk Chamber (CAHLE), IICA supported capacity building on the Central American Technical Regulation (RTCA) concerning the use of dairy terms. 400 participants (producers, ranchers, processors, technicians from the official sector, academia) attended the capacity building activities held last April in the VIII Milk Congress, in Honduras.

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