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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

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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 8 November 2023, 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, the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean (CCLAC) and the African Union's Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (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 and the CCAFRICA countries 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:

- October 2023 - preparation for the 33rd Session of the Codex Committee on General Principles (CCGP33);
- October 2023 - preparation for the 46th Session Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC46).

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

1.2 Codex Alimentarius Colloquia for the Private Sector

1.3. In partnership with the United States Dairy Export Council (USDEC), IICA hosted the following colloquiums aimed at private sector stakeholders, from Latin America and the Caribbean Regions, involved in Codex Alimentarius activities:

- October 2023 - preparation for the 46th Session Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC46).

1.4. Those activities were held virtually, with simultaneous interpretation English/Spanish and counted with presentations from renowned experts from the Americas.

1.3 Regional Coordination Session on WTO SPS Matters

1.5. 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 in June and November 2023 its Seventh and Eighth Coordination Session on WTO SPS Committee Matters. The meetings were hosted virtually with simultaneous interpretation for English, Spanish and French. Considering the current prominent subjects under discussion in the WTO SPS Committee, the coordination sessions addressed matters related to the Draft Report on the Work Program of the SPS Declaration for the 12th WTO Ministerial Conference ([G/SPS/W/344](#)) and related revisions ([G/SPS/W/344/Rev.1](#) and [G/SPS/W/344/Rev.2](#)).

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

1.6. 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. The most relevant events and activities conducted during the period covered by this report were:

- *Tuta Absoluta* Working Group Meeting;
- Coordinating Committee Meeting;
- Locust Workshop;
- Workshop - Analysis of Acrididae Pest Status in America;
- Webinar - International and Regional Trade in Seeds;
- ePhyto Working Group Meeting;
- Phytosanitary Emergency Working Group Meeting;
- FOC R4T Working Group Meeting;
- HLB Working Group Meeting;
- Fruit-fly Working Group Meeting.

2 INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS IN REGARD TO SPS MEASURES

2.1 Strategy Session on the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) Guidelines

2.1. Aiming at improving coordination and promoting the development of harmonized comments on the WOAH Terrestrial Animal Health Code chapters, the fifteenth edition of its Strategy Session to be organized in partnership and sponsored by the USDA is scheduled for 28, 29 and 30 November. Matters related to glossary/poultry definition; foot-and-mouth disease; bovine spongiform encephalopathy; Scrapie; aquatic animal diseases and *Trypanosoma evansi*.

3 OTHER ACTIVITIES

3.1 African Swine Fever

3.1. Within the framework of the Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs), IICA has been leading training actions for the prevention of African Swine Fever (ASF) in the countries of the Americas 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 (WOAH, FAO, CVP, CAN, CAFHSA, CaribVET, OIRSA, USDA, COPEG).

3.2. Continuing with the work plan for 2023, IICA recently hosted the following webinars:

- July 2023 - Webinar series - "Preparing for ASF - Notification and Surveillance of Transboundary Diseases";
- September 2023 - Webinar series - "Preparing for ASF - Incident Command System";
- October 2023 - Webinar Series - "Risk Communication for African Swine Fever";
- October 2023 - Webinar series - "Preparing for ASF - Epidemiologic Surveillance".

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