

**ACTIONS AIMED AT IMPLEMENTING THE AGREEMENT ON  
SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES**

Information presented by the Inter-American Institute  
for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)

The observer organizations have been invited to present written reports on the activities undertaken to promote awareness and implementation of the WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures. Accordingly, IICA presents the following descriptions of some of the initiatives already undertaken or to be undertaken in pursuit of this objective:

**Module on "Public/Private Coordination" of the Executive Series on Leadership in Food Safety**

1. With the attendance of persons from the public and private sectors of 20 countries of the Americas, the first module of the Executive Series on Leadership in Food Safety was held in Costa Rica from 23 to 29 June. This is the first of four modules to promote leadership in carrying out comprehensive policies in the field of food safety. Former Heads of State, high-ranking staff from private companies and senior officials from public institutions were among those who analysed successful cases where intersectoral coordination was crucial in achieving the planned objectives. The collaboration of the Food and Drug Administration and the Department of Agriculture of the United States in this first module were of great importance. The next module will be held in October 2001 in Canada in conjunction with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and the emphasis will be on the laws, regulations and ethics relating to food safety. (Training and service infrastructure)

**Strengthening of the CARICOM countries in the *Codex Alimentarius* and modernization of the inspection systems**

2. From 29 May to 1 June 2001 workshops on the *Codex Alimentarius* for the CARICOM countries and on the modernization of food inspection systems were held in Guelph, Canada. They were the result of collaboration between the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), Health Canada (HC) and IICA and involved 10 CARICOM countries.

3. In the workshop on the *Codex Alimentarius* presentations were given on the level of development of food safety in the various countries, the main problems confronting the region in achieving active participation in the *Codex Alimentarius* were identified and specific measures were proposed in order to solve such problems. The workshop on modernization focused on the new challenges of institutionalization and its implications for achieving competitiveness in the field of food safety. (Training and service infrastructure)

**Seminar on foot-and-mouth disease and bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE)**

4. On the initiative of the private sector in Costa Rica and in collaboration with IICA a seminar was held on 4 June on the technical and trade implications of foot-and-mouth disease and BSE, and

on the challenges for the public and private sectors with regard to the use and state of advance of the science in these fields. The event was organized in conjunction with Harvard University, the Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries of Uruguay and the public and private sector in Costa Rica. (Service infrastructure)

#### **Bovine spongiform encephalopathy and international trade**

5. With the participation of the national animal health authorities of the countries of the enlarged MERCOSUR and the private sector an international symposium was held in Asunción, Paraguay, on 28-30 March 2001 to draw up a plan of action for the development and implementation of policies and technical procedures for the prevention of BSE through a system of active epidemiological surveillance and the introduction of an early warning health system. (Service infrastructure)

#### **Meeting on animal and plant health and food safety for Canada, the United States and Mexico**

6. This meeting took place on 6 June 2001 in Washington D.C. with the participation of the Governments of these three countries and in conjunction with IICA. As a result of their discussions the participants agreed to work together for future meetings on subjects such as equivalent standards between North America and the MERCOSUR countries, certification, biotechnology and the interpretation of special and differential treatment for the developing countries with regard to sanitary and phytosanitary measures. (Service infrastructure)

#### **II Seminar-Workshop on "International Negotiations on Agriculture"**

7. This event took place from 22 to 24 May in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and was co-sponsored by IICA, LAIA, IADB-INTAL and CABEI. For this workshop IICA prepared regional studies on the state of implementation of the Agreement on Agriculture and the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures. (Training)

#### **Training in HACCP**

8. At IICA's headquarters in Costa Rica the "International Course for Trainers in the Development and Implementation of Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) Plans for the Food Industry" was held from 21-24 May 2001. The course, its contents and instructors are accredited by the International HACCP Alliance and the Food Processors Institute. It is the second year that such a course has been held on this subject, attended by participants from various countries of the Americas. (Service infrastructure)

#### **Seminar on dairy product hygiene and production in Central America**

9. As a result of an initiative by the FDA of the United States and the private sector of Central America a training seminar on dairy product hygiene and production for Central America and the Dominican Republic will be held from 6 to 10 August 2001 in Costa Rica with the coordination of IICA. Its subject-matter will include a review of the dairy inspection programmes of the United States, the application of sound manufacturing practices in the processing of milk and cheese, good practices for packaging and HACCP principles and auditing systems for dairy plants. (Service infrastructure)

10. If you require further information on any of these events, please contact:

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