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**Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures**

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Spanish

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

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

Observer organizations are asked to present reports on activities implemented to promote greater understanding and implementation of the WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures. Some of IICA's efforts in this field, either already carried out or due to be implemented in the near future, are described below.

**Action in support of the Regional Codex Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean**

1. A coordination meeting of Enquiry Points will be held 3-5 November at IICA Headquarters for the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean. Representatives from some 29 Latin American and Caribbean countries and officials from the FAO and the Pan American Health Organization have been invited. The event is being held in collaboration with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

**Support for the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)**

2. The Latin American and Caribbean Regional Technical Consultation on phytosanitary measures related to the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) was held 8-10 October in Costa Rica. The participants studied two proposed new standards and two additions to existing ones. IICA and the USDA/APHIS supported the event. Experts from five countries in the region took part.

**Module on "Tourism and Food Safety" of the Executive Series on Leadership in Food Safety**

3. The fourth module of the Executive Series on Food Safety, "Food Safety and Tourism," was held 14-20 September in the Dominican Republic. Some of the topics covered were: risk analysis, leadership for the future, tourism, international standards organizations, biotechnology products, and consumers and domestic consumption. The World Trade Organization (WTO) was actively involved. The participants are currently implementing 16 food safety projects formulated during the executive series.

**Support for the active participation of the countries of the Americas in the WTO SPS Committee**

4. IICA and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) facilitated the participation of two experts from the countries of the Americas (up to 32 developing nations) in meeting of the WTO

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures. The objective of this effort is to promote more active participation and foster dialogue within the member countries.

### **Activities in the Caribbean**

5. The project "Strengthening Agricultural Quarantine Services in the Caribbean" got under way. It began on 1 September 2002 and will last 30 months. The aim is to improve compliance with the WTO SPS Agreement. National seminars on SPS and food safety will be held in 15 CARIFORUM member countries during the months of October, November and December. The European Union is providing financial assistance.

6. A workshop on pest risk analysis for plant protection officials in the Caribbean was held 24-28 June, in Trinidad and Tobago. The event was organized by IICA. Financial and training resources were provided by USDA-APHIS.

7. A second meeting of the Canada/CARICOM Alliance of Food Control Systems was held 3-7 July, in Belize. The activity was sponsored and organized jointly by IICA, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Health Canada and the Agricultural Health Authority of Belize.

8. A workshop to review the implementation of international phytosanitary standards in the Caribbean was held 9-11 October, in Trinidad and Tobago. The objective was to promote the harmonization and modernization of the regulatory framework in the Caribbean region. The activity was sponsored by the IPPC and organized jointly by IICA and the IPPC.

### **Training in HACCP**

9. IICA will provide food safety courses for the agrifood industry, with emphasis on HACCP, by means of videoconferences linking Bolivia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Nicaragua and the United States. Six sessions will be held in November and two in December.

### **Information**

10. Animal and plant health and food safety information is made available through the Andean Agricultural Health Information Network (<http://www.iicasaninet.net/>) and the Agrosalud XXI Network ([www.infoagro.net/salud](http://www.infoagro.net/salud)). Press releases, publications and weekly bulletins are posted on these web sites. The two networks currently receive over 3000 hits per day. There are 4000 registered users in 48 countries.

For further information about these events, contact: [ebolanos@iica.ac.cr](mailto:ebolanos@iica.ac.cr) (Eric Bolaños) or [kwalker@iica.ac.cr](mailto:kwalker@iica.ac.cr) (Kevin Walker)

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