

**REPORT ON ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BY THE OIRSA
IN RELATION TO THE AGREEMENT ON SANITARY
AND PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES**

Statement by the International Regional Organization for Plant and Animal
Health (OIRSA) at the Meeting Held on 24-25 June 2003

**Auditing of control, inspection and approval procedures in Annex C to the Agreement on
Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS)**

1. The results of the audit of control, inspection and approval procedures in the eight member countries of OIRSA, which was completed in February 2003, can be found on the OIRSA website at www.oirsa.org.sv, and we informed this Committee of the audit at the meeting of April 2003.

**Project in support of agricultural trade through the harmonized implementation of sanitary
and phytosanitary measures in Mesoamerica**

2. March of this year saw the launching of the project developed by the OIRSA in cooperation with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) in the framework of the Puebla Panama plan. The main objective of this project is to contribute to boosting trade in agricultural products from the countries of the regions through the harmonization of agricultural health requirements and the strengthening of the countries' organizational structures in that respect.

Preparation of technical documents

3. Information posters and leaflets were issued on the subject of West Nile Disease specifying the origin and distribution of the disease, characteristics of the infective agent, epidemiology, clinical signs, differential diseases, laboratory diagnosis, and prevention and treatment.

4. Food News bulletins (*Actualidad Alimentaria*) were issued compiling and analysing United States Public Law 107-188 - Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act. Information campaigns concerning this Law have also been organized in Honduras and El Salvador.

5. A document was published under the title "*Claras de los productos alimenticios almacenados en la Región del OIRSA*".

New executive directorship for the OIRSA

6. Since 1 April of this year, the post of Executive Director of the OIRSA has been occupied by Mr Oscar Manuel Gutiérrez R., a Salvadoran, who will be responsible for managing the organization over the next four years. From now on, the OIRSA's new vision will be based on the development of the following strategic areas:

- (a) Institutional consolidation;
- (b) impact of science and technology;
- (c) strategic services;
- (d) agricultural health and trade;
- (e) alliance and partnership;
- (f) institutional sustainability.

Support for the strengthening of the countries' institutions

7. With the OIRSA's support, El Salvador engaged in a process of institutional strengthening of sanitary and phytosanitary services, conducting workshops with the participation of the country's public sector, private sector and academic circles. This should lead to the definition of a new organizational structure and the development of strategic programmes for the institution.

OIRSA membership for the Dominican Republic

8. At the Lth Ordinary Meeting of the Honourable Committee of the International Regional Organization for Plant and Animal Health (H. CIRSA), made up of the representatives of agriculture, livestock, fisheries, food, rural development and agricultural development from the OIRSA region, the Dominican Republic was officially admitted as a full member of the OIRSA.
