

ASPARAGUS INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT

Communication from Peru

1. The National Agrarian Health Service (SENASA), in conjunction with the Peruvian Asparagus Institute (IPE), has launched the project "Asparagus integrated pest management, with particular emphasis on *Copitarsia incommoda* in Peru's main agro-exporting valleys", the objective of which is to improve the competitiveness of fresh asparagus destined for international markets.
 2. This is a particularly relevant project, given that Peru has more than 20 thousand hectares planted with this crop and is the leading exporting country of high-quality fresh asparagus to over 40 countries worldwide (25 per cent of fresh fruit and vegetable exports). However, Peru currently faces cost overruns of approximately US\$2 million per year as a result of the quarantine treatment of fresh asparagus exports for the pest *Copitarsia incommoda*, which is exotic to the United States of America.
 3. The project, in order to achieve its stated objective, involves the following, *inter alia*:
 - (i) Organizing and training teams of specialists in integrated pest management (IPM) with a view to solving the problem of *Copitarsia incommoda* in all asparagus production areas;
 - (ii) negotiating the lifting of the quarantine restriction imposed by the United States Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS);
 - (iii) creating a coordinated system of smallholdings and packaging plants with a view to managing phytosanitary information which supports appropriate decision-making and enhances the traceability of production and export processes;
 - (iv) strengthening the public-private partnership to ensure efficient control of phytosanitary problems.
 4. Project costs will amount to approximately US\$1,400,000 and will be co-financed by the SENASA, asparagus producers and the United States' PL-480 (Public Law 480) Programme.
-