

**REPORT ON ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BY THE INTERNATIONAL
REGIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR PLANT AND
ANIMAL HEALTH (OIRSA)**

Report to be Submitted During the Meeting of
the Committee on 22-23 June 2004

The following communication, dated 16 June 2004, is being circulated at the request of the International Regional Organization for Plant and Animal Health (OIRSA).

Training and dissemination in the area of agricultural health and trade

1. A regional seminar entitled *Ensuring the Quality and Safety of Agricultural Products: Regulations, Systems and Experience in Spain* was held in Guatemala within the context of the Framework Agreement for Technical Cooperation on Animal Health between the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAPA) of Spain and OIRSA. It was attended by specialists from the public and private sectors in the region.
2. In the framework of the Regional Project for the Support of Agricultural Trade, which OIRSA implements jointly with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), national seminars were held in each of the member countries of the Organization on *Agricultural Regulations, Problems and Forward-Looking Strategies*.
3. In El Salvador, under the auspices of the same project, three seminars were held for the benefit of the private sector on sanitary and phytosanitary measures and their relation with international trade and on food safety, together with four training sessions on the subject of good fishing practices.
4. In Nicaragua, during the First Central American Conference on Apicultural Integration and Modernization, the keynote address was delivered on the subject of the identification and control of chemical contaminants in honey.
5. Training was provided for staff of the Quarantine Service in Belize, with emphasis on the observance of ISPM No. 15 of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) referring to the treatment of wooden pallets.

Technological master's degree in sanitary and phytosanitary measures

6. Module IV: *Epidemiology and Risk Analysis* and Module V: *Evaluation of Agrosanitary Services* were developed. The objective of the module on epidemiology is: "to learn and apply the basic concepts of animal and plant epidemiology in sanitary and phytosanitary measures and risk analysis", while the objective of the evaluation module is: "to discuss the criteria for the evaluation of

agrosanitary services and identify the basic factors so as to assess the quality of the service provided, and to acquire knowledge of sampling and geographical information systems".

Support for the prevention, control and eradication of pests and diseases

7. In Nicaragua, in response to the emergency arising from the increase in the population of locusts, a meeting was held of the Acridid Regional Technical Group, which drew up strategies and measures to mitigate the damage that might be caused by that pest.

8. In Honduras support was provided to the sanitary authorities of SENASA in drawing up a work plan and strategies to deal with bovine brucellosis in the country.

Strengthening of national sanitary institutions with a view to facilitating trade

9. Within the framework of the FAO-OIRSA project "Strengthening the phytosanitary capacities of the OIRSA member countries", evaluative studies on such capacities were finalized and proposals devised on the action to be taken.

10. Within the framework of the Regional Project for the Support of Agricultural Trade, El Salvador's quarantine information system was provided with computer equipment.

Interinstitutional coordination

11. The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and OIRSA signed a framework cooperation agreement whose aim is to extend the opportunities for trade in food and other agricultural products, and to develop sustainable agriculture, through the good management and use of technological resources in public health and agricultural health.

12. The Committee of Ministers of the region (H.CIRSA) informed officials of the Department of Agriculture of the United States of the economic, commercial, social and political impact of the presence of the Medfly and other fruit flies, with a view to coordinating efforts for their control and possible eradication.
