

**REPORT ON ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BY THE INTERNATIONAL REGIONAL  
ORGANIZATION FOR PLANT AND ANIMAL HEALTH (OIRSA)  
IN RESPECT OF THE AGREEMENT ON THE APPLICATION  
OF SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES**

Communication from OIRSA

The following communication, received on 4 March 2005, 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. The **Regional Seminar on the Traceability of Animals and Food of Animal and Plant Origin** was held in Guatemala. This event was made possible by the cooperation agreement between OIRSA, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAPA) and the Spanish International Cooperation Agency (AECI). It was attended by specialists from the region's public and private sectors.
2. Seminars geared towards both the public and private sectors on the Monitoring of Dairy Products and Good Practices for the Production of Honey were organized in El Salvador through the Project for the Support of Agricultural Trade, which is jointly implemented by OIRSA and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).
3. OIRSA participated in the Regional Congress on Organic Production, which was held in Panama, and delivered master lectures on the following: (a) the importance to the region of food quality and safety assurance and control systems; (b) institutional and legal constraints in the region as regards food safety, with a special focus on Good Agricultural Practices (GPA) / Integrated Pest Management (IPM) / Organic Farming; (c) biopesticides and biofertilizers and their significance with regard to food safety; and (d) the production, processing, labelling and marketing of organic products.

**Technological master's degree programme in sanitary and phytosanitary measures**

4. The graduation ceremony of the Third Cycle of the Master's Degree Programme was held in Guatemala. As mentioned on other occasions, this programme is a joint endeavour of member countries, OIRSA and the Colegio de Postgraduados de México (Postgraduate College of Mexico). A total of 23 public sector professionals graduated on this occasion.

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

5. The National Programme for the Control and Eradication of Classical Swine Fever was launched in El Salvador. The aim of this programme, which receives technical and financial support from Chinese Taipei, OIRSA and the government of El Salvador, is for the country to be declared free from this disease by 2009.

6. At the time of the outbreak of Venezuelan equine encephalitis (VEE) in Belize, local authorities were provided with technical advice on aspects of vaccination, diagnosis and viral isolation.

### **Support for the dissemination of international standards**

7. A regional workshop was sponsored to review the draft International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) released for country consultation in 2004 by the IPPC Secretariat. The revised draft ISPMs included: (a) Amendments to ISPM No. 5 (Glossary of phytosanitary terms); (b) Guidelines for consignments in transit; (c) Guidelines for inspection of consignments; (d) Revision of ISPM No. 3 (Guidelines for the export, shipment, import and release of biological control agents and beneficial organisms); (e) Guidelines on the concept of equivalence of phytosanitary measures and its application in international trade; and (f) Requirements for the establishment, maintenance and verification of areas of low pest prevalence (July 2004).

8. The second edition of the OIRSA Regional Plant Health Standard (NRSV) entitled "Guidelines for the drafting, approval, publication, adoption and revision of OIRSA Regional Plant Health Standards" was approved and published (November 2005).

### **Strengthening of national health institutions with a view to facilitating trade**

9. Within the framework of the Regional Project for the Support of Agricultural Trade, the Nicaraguan and Costa Rican quarantine information system was provided with computer equipment.

---