

CURRENT STATUS OF FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE

Communication from Peru

The following communication is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Peru.

1. Since 1998, Peru has been conducting a plan to control and eradicate foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) throughout the national territory, in accordance with the standards and guidelines of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE). The objective is for Peru to gain and maintain its status as a country free from the disease.
2. The authorities and livestock farmers throughout the country have supported and actively participated in the eradication process led by the National Agrarian Health Service (SENASA). The situation in Peru as regards this disease of global concern is currently as follows:
 - 97.6 per cent of the territory is recognized under a national standard as free from foot-and-mouth disease without vaccination;
 - 2.4 per cent of the territory is recognized under a national standard as free from foot-and-mouth disease with vaccination.
3. Peru has created the legal basis for these results to be achieved; it has established a cold chain within the national territory; the national epidemiological surveillance system has been upgraded, expanded and refined; and intensive vaccination campaigns have been conducted since 1998, with extensive participation from livestock farmers. Strategic vaccination campaigns are currently being conducted only in areas considered to be at high risk of foot-and-mouth disease and quarantine protection measures have been put in place in the departments that have been declared free from the disease.
4. In March 2004, Peru applied to the OIE for the southern part of the country to be recognized as an FMD free zone where vaccination is not practised.
5. This zone, comprising the departments of Ica, Ayacucho, Huancavelica, Apurimac, Madre de Dios, Arequipa, Moquegua, Tacna, Cusco and Puno, is home to 45 per cent of bovine population, 60 per cent of the ovine population, 35 per cent of the caprine population, 29 per cent of the swine population and 94 per cent of the South American camelid population in Peru.



6. Following the meeting of 13-19 January 2005, the OIE Scientific Commission has accepted the recommendation made by the ad hoc group tasked with evaluating countries' FMD reports and is proposing that the International Committee should recognize southern Peru as an **"FMD free zone where vaccination is not practised, according to the provisions of Article 2.2.10.4 of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code of the OIE"**.

7. Following the period of consultation or comments by Member Countries, the Scientific Commission will table a resolution with the list of FMD free countries or zones, which will be submitted to the International Committee for approval at the 73rd General Session in May 2005.
