

**TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK
OF THE WTO AGREEMENT ON THE APPLICATION
OF SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES**

Communication from Peru

The following communication, dated 22 June 2005, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Peru.

I. BACKGROUND

1. On 6 March 2003, Peru submitted a questionnaire on technical assistance (G/SPS/295/Add.31) in which it requested support in specific areas relating to the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS). The questionnaire made particular reference to technical assistance requirements for the proper implementation of the SPS Agreement and for food safety and animal and plant health.
2. In the present document, we would like to define our request for cooperation in more specific terms to reflect the current reality of SPS management in Peru.

**II. SYSTEM FOR THE MONITORING AND CONTROL OF CONTAMINANTS IN
PRIMARY AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION**

3. Through its national agrarian health authority, Peru is implementing a system to monitor and control agricultural safety. To this end, a new regulation on the organization and functions of the National Agrarian Health Service (SENASA) was approved under Supreme Decree No. 008-2005-AG, thereby establishing the Directorate of Agricultural Inputs and Food Safety. This new directorate houses the Department of Food Safety, the aim of which is to contribute to the protection of consumer health and the competitiveness of the agricultural sector, whilst improving the safety of agricultural production.
4. A new state-of-the-art reference centre for the control of toxic residues and the quality of agricultural inputs is being set up in order to lend scientific support to SENASA in ensuring the safety of agricultural production.
5. For the new reference centre to become operational, Peru requires technical cooperation in the following specific areas:
 - (a) Assistance from international experts to establish and implement methods and protocols for sampling and analysing chemical contaminants (veterinary drugs,

chemical pesticides, heavy metals, etc.). Such methods and protocols must be consistent with the official standards and procedures of our trading partners.

- (b) Expert technical assistance to implement HACCP, ISO 9000, ISO 17025 and other quality assurance systems for the components of the system to monitor and control the safety of agricultural production.
- (c) Internships in recognized laboratories for specialists from the Reference Centre for the Control of Toxic Residues and the Quality of Agricultural Inputs.

6. This support would allow the quality and safety of agricultural products to be ensured, both for domestic and foreign consumers, and would help to overcome restrictions on Peruvian agricultural exports.

III. RISK ANALYSIS IN ANIMAL HEALTH AND ZOOSES

7. Peru has been making significant efforts to improve animal health and support international trade in agricultural products by eradicating priority diseases and reinforcing its quarantine control and protection systems.

8. For instance, since 1998, within the framework of OIE (World Organization for Animal Health) standards and guidelines, Peru has been implementing a plan to control and eradicate foot-and-mouth disease throughout the national territory, its aim being to gain and maintain status as a country free from the disease. In Peru, the current situation as regards this disease is as follows: (i) 97.6 per cent of the territory is recognized under a national standard as free from foot-and-mouth disease without vaccination; (ii) 2.4 per cent of the territory is recognized under a national standard as free from foot-and-mouth disease with vaccination. In May 2005, the entire southern region of Peru¹, comprising ten departments, was recognized by the OIE as a **foot-and-mouth disease-free zone where vaccination is not practised**.²

9. Peru's specific technical cooperation requirements are as follows:

- (a) It is essential to strengthen networks and systems for health emergency response and the maintenance of foot-and-mouth disease-free zones where vaccination is not practised³, for instance by training veterinary surgeons in the public and private sectors, implementing timely notification mechanisms and carrying out and assessing simulated health emergencies.
- (b) Identification of the main risks of entry and spread of exotic diseases, information on the worldwide distribution of zoonoses, and the implementation of preventive measures aimed at protecting the country's livestock heritage and its exports.

¹ This region is home to 45 per cent of Peru's bovine population, 60 per cent of its ovine population, 35 per cent of its caprine population, 29 per cent of its swine population and 94 per cent of its South American camelid population.

² Adopted by the OIE International Committee on 25 May 2005, pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 2.2.10 of the Terrestrial Code.

³ The participation of professionals from the Bolivian, Chilean and Ecuadorian health services, as well as the assistance of the Pan-American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Centre (PANAFTOSA/WHO/PAHO), would be desirable.

- (c) Training for monitoring and quarantine experts on electronic information systems used to identify and analyse animal health risks; implementation of animal health emergency plans.
- (d) Strengthening of mechanisms for liaison between the priorities and activities of animal health research centres and the prevention and control duties of the official agrarian health authority.

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