

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

The following communication, received on 23 June 2005, is being circulated at the request of OIRSA.

**Training and dissemination in the area of agricultural health and trade**

1. In Costa Rica, a presentation entitled "SPS Measures and International Trade" was given at the meeting of the Mesoamerican Competitiveness Council (CMC). The CMC is composed of presidential delegates and officials from multilateral and international agencies such as the IDB, ECLAC, SIECA and OIRSA. Its aim is to promote the competitiveness of the Mesoamerican region (which stretches from Puebla, Mexico, to Panama).
2. In El Salvador, a presentation entitled "the Importance of Applying the Good Apicultural Practices Manual in the Production of Natural Honey" was given within the framework of the second Central American Congress on Apicultural Integration and Modernization. A presentation entitled "the Importance of Good Agricultural and Manufacturing Practices for the Salvadoran Agro-Export Sector" was also given.
3. Mexico hosted the 14<sup>th</sup> Inter-American Meeting at Ministerial Level on Health and Agriculture (RIMSA), which was attended by public health and agriculture officials from the American hemisphere. The Executive Director acted as a panel member in the discussion of "Intercountry Cooperation in the International Food Trade – Implications for Health and Development".
4. In El Salvador, OIRSA, in conjunction with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA-APHIS) and the University of Yucatán, Mexico, organized a regional course on veterinary epidemiology and risk analysis.

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

5. In Panama, a pilot scheme covering 400 km<sup>2</sup> in Parita and its surrounding area has been implemented, with the assistance of the Ministry of Agricultural Development (MIDA), as a first step in the project to establish an area free of the Mediterranean fruit fly in the Azuero region.

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

6. Publication of the OIRSA Regional Standard on Plant Health (NRSV) - "Guidelines for Drafting and Disclosing Lists of Regulated Pests" (2005).

### **Strengthening national sanitary institutions to facilitate trade**

7. In OIRSA member countries, seminars and workshops have been held on sanitary and phytosanitary capacity building in national services, with a view to drafting a strategic plan for such services.

8. Furthermore, within the framework of the Central American Customs Union negotiating process, technical assistance has been given to the Sub-Group on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures and the Records Group.

### **Strengthening OIRSA's relations with other international agencies**

9. Within the framework of the 73<sup>rd</sup> General Session of the OIE, the Director of the OIE invited the Executive Director of OIRSA to give a presentation on OIRSA's role in the region's agricultural health. A new technical agreement was also signed, broadening the scope of the cooperation between the organizations.

10. Cooperative ties with the Spanish Government have also been reinforced, most notably with the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (MAPA) and the Spanish Food Safety Agency (AESA). This endeavour may result in fresh support for countries in the region in the field of plant health (prevention, control and eradication of pests, with emphasis on the Mediterranean fruit fly and other fruit flies, and plant traceability); animal health (project on classical swine fever and traceability in products of animal origin); and food safety (a course on food safety will take place in Guatemala in November 2005 and OIRSA will receive technical assistance in this field).

11. An agreement has been signed between OIRSA and the PAHO/WHO defining the work programme for 2005 (Masters' Degree for Managers of Food Safety Programmes) and for 2006-2007.

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