

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

Report to the 41<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures  
2 and 3 April 2008

The following communication, received on 27 March 2008, is being circulated at the request of OIRSA.

**1. Specific support for production chains for agricultural products**

1. As reported at the last meeting of this Committee held in October 2007, the International Regional Committee for Plant and Animal Health (CIRSA), made up of the ministers and secretaries of agriculture and livestock of the nine OIRSA member countries, approved a new strategy for operationalizing support for agri-food chains through seven sanitary and phytosanitary programmes. Today, we are reporting on progress in the implementation of those programmes in the different member countries.

Honduras

2. The following action was taken in support of the fisheries and aquaculture chain:

- The situation diagnosis of the chain was completed;
- a workshop was held to draw up a health support programme for the fisheries and aquaculture chain and for the development of agri-food chains. This workshop produced a draft health programme and identified the different value chains.

3. A health programme was launched in support of the bovine chain with a focus on prevention, control and eradication of bovine brucellosis and tuberculosis. Seven hundred farms are soon expected to be declared free from those diseases.

El Salvador

4. The following action was taken in support of the bovine chain:

- A proposal was drafted for a national health programme in support of the chain, and was submitted to the authorities;
- in cooperation with the national authorities, support was provided to producers (breeders and processors) from Ciudad Dolores, Cabañas, in identifying better practices in the area of hygienic milking and cheese processing;

- coordination and support was provided for the visit by producers from Ciudad Dolores to rural plants in Turrialba, Costa Rica;
- work was done on a model rural plant to be proposed to the national authorities, and subsequently at the regional level.

5. Continued efforts were made on behalf of the pig production chain in the form of support for the activities of the Programme for the Prevention, Control and Eradication of Classical Swine Fever, and the disease is currently in the process of being eradicated. The outbreak reported in February in the department of San Miguel is under control.

6. In support of the fisheries and aquaculture production chain, assistance was provided to the national authorities both for the importation of high genetic and health material and for seeding and restocking of fry.

#### Nicaragua

7. OIRSA supported the implementation of the Food Production Programme, a presidential programme geared towards the promotion of production, food security, and agricultural health.

8. OIRSA also supported the national authorities in implementing an animal traceability programme for the bovine production chain.

#### Panama

9. In support of the citrus and other fruit production chain, the corresponding national commission was officially created and is now in operation. Support was also provided for the declaration of the Azuero region as a Medfly free area, and the programme for the control and eradication of *Thrips palmi* is still under way.

#### Dominican Republic

10. In support of the oriental and other vegetable production chain, technical assistance and training was provided in good agriculture practices (GAP), good manufacturing practices (GMP) and traceability, and assistance was provided in developing the phytosanitary legal and regulatory framework and preparing for the identification of improvements with a view to meeting the phytosanitary requirements for exportation to Europe.

### **2. Training, technical assistance and dissemination activities in the areas of agricultural health and trade**

11. Avian influenza prevention activities continue to include the coordinated organization, with the United States Department of Agriculture, of seminars on biosecurity in live bird markets, with the participation of the Ministries of Agriculture, Health and Labour, as well as municipal authorities, poultry producers, live bird market traders and NGOs. March of this year saw the organization of a workshop follow-up meeting, attended by leaders from each country (Public Health, Agriculture and Livestock, and Municipalities).

12. In the Dominican Republic, OIRSA organized a course on good agricultural practices in the production of plants in a controlled environment (greenhouses).

13. OIRSA participated in the Scientific Committee of the Association of Latin American Poultry Farmers and in the Seventh Meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Avian Health. Following these meetings, the delegates asked OIRSA to join the Advisory Sub-Committee on Food Safety.

14. In Panama, Honduras and Guatemala, OIRSA provided the competent national authorities with technical assistance in preparing the inspection visits of the European Union's OVA/SANCO to fisheries and aquaculture plants.

15. OIRSA drafted a technical report on the potential risks of introduction of *Raoiella indica* Hirst in the OIRSA region where it has not yet been reported.

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

16. In the Dominican Republic, OIRSA is assisting the national authorities with the recent outbreak of mildly pathogenic avian influenza (MPAI) by developing a contingency plan and providing the necessary advice.

### **4. Strategic alliances for the benefit of health and trade**

17. A cooperation agreement was concluded between the Central American Agricultural Council (CAC) and OIRSA with a view to taking action in support of the Central American Agricultural Policy (PACA) in the field of agricultural health and food safety. This led to the drafting of a work plan for 2008 to be implemented by the CAC Secretariat, OIRSA, IICA, and the Secretariat for Central American Economic Integration (SIECA).

18. A cooperation agreement was concluded between the Organization for the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector of the Central American Isthmus (OSPESCA) and OIRSA for the administration of resources for the benefit of that sector.

### **5. Transparency of animal health information**

19. The monthly Regional Epidemiological Bulletin continued to be distributed, with information on the incidence of animal diseases in the countries of the OIRSA region, in order to support transparency in epidemiological information and surveillance.

### **6. Strengthening of national institutions in order to facilitate trade**

20. In Panama, support was provided for the development of manuals on quarantine procedures: "Procedures for Sea Entry Points", "Procedures for Airport Entry Points", and "Procedures for Land Entry Points".

21. OIRSA supported the authorities of Guatemala in developing the "Manual for the Inspection of Bulk Grains and Flours in Ships".

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