

**REPORT ON ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN WITH A VIEW TO DECLARING
THE ENTIRE TERRITORY OF MEXICO FREE FROM
CLASSICAL SWINE FEVER**

Communication from Mexico

The following communication, received on 24 February 2009, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Mexico.

1. On 30 January of this year, Mexico declared its entire territory to be free from classical swine fever (CSF). As a testimony to this progress in the animal health area, Mr Alberto Cárdenas Jiménez, Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food, speaking in Guadalajara, Jalisco, officially declared that Mexico was free from classical swine fever, having made its pig farming healthier and more competitive.
2. The efforts date back to 1973, with control and eradication measures in the north-western states, subsequently extending to the entire territory with the launching of the National Campaign Against Hog Cholera published in the *Diario Oficial de la Federación* (Official Journal) in 1980. This involved the introduction of prevention and control measures focussing on two main strategies, namely diagnosis and massive vaccination campaigns. The 1990s saw an increase in eradication efforts, with emphasis on introducing the necessary adjustments to the campaign's regulatory framework, the participation of the State Committees for Livestock Promotion and Protection, strengthening the National Epidemiological Surveillance System, upgrading infrastructure, improving biological diagnosis and control techniques, and introducing the Approved Veterinary Doctors Programme. In order to speed up this campaign, the Integral Swine Health Programme 2003-2006 was established to validate the status of the different states in the short, medium and long-term. Thanks to these efforts it was possible to attain the target of total eradication of CSF in January of this year.
3. Although it is not a disease that is officially certified by the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), the notice of declaration of free status with the supporting epidemiological information will shortly be submitted to the OIE, and will constitute Mexico's notification to the members of this body of its self-declaration.
4. This new and favourable health status in Mexico facilitates access to new international markets for swine and swine products. Mexico will continue ensuring confirmation of this status through active epidemiological surveillance throughout its territory as a means of guaranteeing that it is free of the disease, and its veterinary services are prepared to respond to any health emergency that may arise. Thus, any outbreak will be controlled and eradicated rapidly and the free status restored.

5. In view of the foregoing, Mexico would ask all of its trading partners to remove any current CSF-related restrictions on imports of swine, swine genetic material, and swine meat and meat products.
