

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

Report to the 52nd Meeting of the Committee
on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures,
19-20 October 2011

The following communication, received on 12 October 2011, is being circulated at the request of OIRSA.

1. Specific support for agricultural production chains

1. In coordination with national sanitary and phytosanitary authorities and the private sector, OIRSA is continuing to implement sanitary and phytosanitary programmes in support of agrifood chains. The following action has been taken over the past three months.

Phytosanitary programme in support of the citrus fruit production chain

2. OIRSA coordinated a visit by a technical mission of experts from the Government of Chinese Taipei's International Cooperation and Development Fund (ICDF) with a view to assessing the situation in the region as regards the citrus fruit disease Huanglongbing (HLB) and jointly preparing a regional project for HLB control.

3. In Mexico, OIRSA supported the participation of regional technicians in the Second International Workshop on Citrus Quarantine Pests.

4. In Panama, OIRSA held the Second International Panel of Experts on Fruit Flies, in alliance with the Ministry of Agricultural Development, the University of Panama, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

5. In Costa Rica, support was given to FAO at the International Meeting of Experts on the Biological Control of the Vector of the Citrus Disease Huanglongbing.

6. In Nicaragua, technical and financial support is ongoing for the programme to maintain the northern part of Lake Xolotlán as an area free of the Mediterranean fruit fly (*Ceratitidis capitata*).

Phytosanitary programme in support of the vegetable production chain

7. Contact has been established with the North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO) with a view to analysing strategies to prevent tomato leafminer (*Tuta absoluta* Meyrick).

8. In Panama, OIRSA evaluated the national programme for the control of tomato leafminer (*Tuta absoluta* Meyrick).

9. OIRSA continues to support the implementation of the programme to eliminate the South American cucurbit fruit fly, *Anastrepha grandis*, in the Panamanian province of Darién.

10. In coordination with the National Agriculture and Food Health, Safety and Quality Service (SENASICA) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food (SAGARPA), a regional training workshop was held in Mexico to strengthen the phytosanitary monitoring of tomato leafminer (*Tuta absoluta* Meyrick).

Phytosanitary programme in support of the palm production chain

11. In Honduras, a regional congress on palm oil was held in coordination with the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock and other organizations.

12. OIRSA, through the technical assistance of a red palm mite (*Raoiella indica*) expert, assisted the phytosanitary monitoring programmes of Mexico, the Dominican Republic and Honduras.

Swine health programme

13. In the context of the PREFIP III Project, which OIRSA is implementing with support from the Government of Chinese Taipei, health risk analysis studies on classical swine fever were conducted for Nicaragua and Honduras.

14. As part of the same project, manuals were published on biosecurity measures for small and medium-sized semi-industrial farms and on cysticercosis control. National courses on artisanal sausage preparation were held in the Dominican Republic, Honduras and Panama.

Bovine health programme

15. OIRSA supported a national study to determine the prevalence of bovine brucellosis and tuberculosis in Guatemala.

16. In Mexico, an international course on the gross pathology of ruminants was organized in coordination with SENASICA/SAGARPA.

2. Training, technical assistance and dissemination activities relating to agricultural health and trade

17. In Honduras, logistical and technical support was provided for the Eighth Central American and Caribbean Congress on Apicultural Integration and Modernization, organized by the Agricultural Health Service (SENASA) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (SAG), the National Beekeepers Association of Honduras (ANAPIH) and the Central American and Caribbean Beekeepers Federation (FEDECCAPI). OIRSA gave a presentation on its principal activities in favour of Central American and Caribbean apiculture.

18. In Panama, training was provided on rapid bioassays for the determination of pesticide residues (organophosphates and carbamates) with the support of the Programme for Pesticide Residue Control in Fruit and Vegetables. The recipients of the training were official technicians responsible for inspection, laboratories and the export sector, from Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Panama and the Dominican Republic.
19. In Panama, technical assistance was given to companies in the fisheries sector through pre-inspection relating to good manufacturing practices (GMP), sanitation standard operating procedures (SSOP) and hazard analysis and critical control points (HACCP) for farmed shrimp, in accordance with US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) requirements.
20. In Honduras, in coordination with the Food Safety Division of SENASA/SAG, pre-audits were conducted on the health and safety of fisheries products (farmed shrimp and tilapia), in accordance with European Union requirements.
21. In Honduras, support was given to the Food Safety Division of SENASA/SAG through an evaluation of the Fisheries Department Inspection Service.
22. In Honduras, a second theoretical and practical course was held on white shrimp (*Penaeus vannamei*) pathology and immunology.
23. In Nicaragua, the Comprehensive Programme for Improvement of Milk Production and Quality (PROCAL) continues to be implemented in coordination with the Directorate-General of Agricultural Protection and Health (DGPSA) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Forestry (MAGFOR), the National Agrarian University of Managua, the National Autonomous University of Nicaragua and milk producers cooperatives, and with support from the National Agricultural Health Centre of Cuba (CENSA).
24. In Nicaragua, support was given to the national authorities in the preparation of an action plan to enhance trade in fisheries and aquaculture products between Nicaragua and its Central American neighbours.
25. In Guatemala, in coordination with the Animal Health Directorate of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food (MAGA) and the Regional Avian Disease Programme (PREA), an assessment was made of the health situation with regard to *Salmonella enteritidis* in poultry.
26. In Guatemala, OIRSA organized a workshop on current quality and safety trends in the preparation of balanced foods for animals, and pharmacovigilance.
27. A protocol on the prevention of outbreaks of *Aethina tumida* was drawn up and made available to member countries. The document was prepared by the OIRSA Ad Hoc Group on Apicultural Health and Safety.

3. Strengthening of national institutions in order to facilitate trade

28. STDF project 284, "Strengthening the Honduran National Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (CNMSF)", continues to be implemented with the support of the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF)/WTO. The following documents have been prepared in recent months: "An evaluation of the economic impact of the application of phytosanitary measures on trade in strategic products of plant origin" and "Communication and dissemination programme for the CNMSF". National workshops were held on the IPPC and the application of ISPM No. 15 (Regulation of Wood Packaging Material in International Trade), and the Honduran national committee heard about the experiences of the National SPS Committee of the Dominican Republic.

29. OIRSA supported the participation of delegates from the National Codex Alimentarius Committees of Central America at the 34th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. OIRSA also participated in this event as an observer organization.

4. Support for regional trade facilitation

30. With a view to facilitating trade in dairy products between El Salvador and Nicaragua, OIRSA continues to facilitate the exchange of official information on dairy plant inspection under the sanitary protocol to facilitate bilateral trade between the two countries.

31. OIRSA has promoted technical meetings between the Mexican health authorities and their Central American counterparts, with a view to the harmonization of animal health requirements for importing live cattle from Central America into Mexico.

5. Support for the harmonization and equivalence process

32. In the context of the cooperation agreement on food safety signed with the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) and the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), both of which are agencies of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and with the participation of an expert from the International Commission of Microbiological Specifications for Foods (ICMSF), a third technical meeting was held to review Central American Customs Union regulations (RTCA) on the sanitary registration of foods and microbiological criteria for food safety and their equivalence with the regulations of the United States.

33. Within the framework of the Central American Customs Union, through the OIRSA Ad Hoc Group on Veterinary Medicines, support was given for the revision of Central American technical regulations on veterinary medicines and animal food.

34. In Viet Nam, OIRSA took part in the 23rd Technical Consultation among Regional Plant Protection Organizations (RPPO).

35. In El Salvador, OIRSA held a regional workshop to review the ISPM drafts submitted by the IPPC. Support was also provided for the participation of delegates from the National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPO) of the OIRSA region in a Latin American workshop for the review of ISPM drafts, held in Costa Rica.

6. Strategic alliances for the promotion of health and trade

36. Within the framework of the programme for cooperation with the Chilean Agricultural and Livestock Service, officials from the Service visited the Dominican Republic and Panama where the respective agricultural health cooperation plans were drawn up with the national authorities and OIRSA.

37. In Panama, FAO and OIRSA signed a Letter of Agreement for the provision of technical services aimed at supporting the Central American countries and the Dominican Republic in the control of citrus Huanglongbing.

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We invite you to visit our website: <http://www.oirsa.org>
