

**PHYTOSANITARY STATUS REPORT**

Statement by Paraguay at the meeting held on 27 and 28 June 2006

The following communication, received on 6 July 2006, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Paraguay.

1. On 28 December 2005 the National Plant and Seed Quality and Health Service (SENAVE) of the Republic of Paraguay and the National Agriculture and Food Quality and Health Service (SENASA) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries of the Argentine Republic signed, in the framework of the Cooperation Agreement between the two countries, a Letter of Agreement with two annexes:

**I. PROGRAMME OF BILATERAL TECHNICAL COOPERATION FOR THE ELIMINATION OF THE PEST KNOWN AS THE MEXICAN COTTON BOLL WEEVIL**

2. This Agreement was signed with a view to making the fullest possible use of the human and material resources in order to carry out programmes, projects and measures of common interest, which, on account of their objectives and functions, are necessary to preserve the phytosanitary resources of both countries. The objectives set for this programme are:

- (a) To strengthen mutual cooperation by the plant health services of both countries in devising common control strategies and compatible phytosanitary regulations, with a view to improving the phytosanitary situation in the cultivation of cotton and its by-products; and
- (b) to control the Mexican cotton boll weevil (*Anthonomus grandis*) within Paraguay.

3. The programme strategies will include the commitment of technical and financial resources from official sources, in accordance with provisions of the Annual Operational Plan (AOP), and negotiations to obtain resources from the private sector in both countries with a view to implementing Integrated Pest Management (IPM) programmes, which will include pest monitoring, crop control, legal supervision (quarantine measures), chemical monitoring, ethological monitoring, training of technicians and producers and dissemination of the programme, in order to eliminate populations of the cotton boll weevil.

4. The programme will be implemented in several stages: the first will take place in the Department of Ñeembucú and the second and subsequent stages will be carried out in other departments of the Oriental Region of Paraguay.

**II. PROTOCOL FOR THE EXPORT OF *CUCÚRBITA MOSCHATA* (COURGETTE) FROM THE REPUBLIC OF PARAGUAY TO THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC**

5. This Protocol sets out the terms agreed to implement the procedures for a "systems approach" in dealing with the pest known as the South American cucurbit fly, *Anastrepha grandis*, in fresh produce of *Cucúrbita moschata*, and will cover the exports of this product originating in four districts of the Department of Concepción of the Republic of Paraguay to the Argentine Republic, with a view to ensuring that the deliveries of the product present no quarantine risk with regard to the disease.

6. The implementation of this Protocol will ensure the equality of the criteria used in the procedures and in the application of the risk-mitigation measures agreed therein, on the basis of the principles of non-discrimination, harmonization, equivalence, transparency and confidentiality. It is now in the process of being implemented and it is expected that the first consignment will be exported in the course of the months of October and November this year.

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