

**SANITARY INFORMATION**

Communication from Haiti

The following communication, received on 13 June 2008, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Haiti.

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1. Surveillance and testing activities carried out over a period of approximately one year had indicated that the Republic of Haiti was free from avian influenza. However, at the end of May 2008, a number of suspected cases were identified. These involved chickens and a turkey infected with the H5N2 virus (low pathogenic virus). The cases were confirmed on 5 June 2008 by the laboratory in Ames, Iowa, in the United States.<sup>1</sup> The eleven cases are spread throughout the following towns and areas: Tilory (Centre), Baskin (Sud), Vertières, Saint Michel and Tozen (Nord).

2. Measures have already been taken to contain these outbreaks of avian influenza with a view to collecting and destroying the suspect or dead poultry. This will be no easy task given the type of farming practised by the inhabitants of the towns and areas affected. Financial resources have been made available to the Animal Health Directorate to undertake the various activities planned.

3. It should also be noted that the Fruit Fly (*Anastrepha obliqua* species) Control Programme continues to be highly effective. Francisque mangoes are once again being exported to the American and other markets (Canada, France, Spain, etc.). The interest shown by some is an encouraging sign which calls for positive results in the activities to be carried out.

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<sup>1</sup> OIE reference laboratory.