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Page: 1/4

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

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**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 57TH MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE
ON SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES
27 AND 28 JUNE 2013

The following communication, received on 20 June 2013, is being circulated at the request of OIRSA.

**1 TRAINING, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND DISSEMINATION ACTIVITIES RELATING
TO AGRICULTURAL HEALTH AND TRADE**

1.1. The updated food safety regulations of the United States of America (Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)), the European Union (DG-SANCO), the Codex Alimentarius and the OIE were compiled and circulated to OIRSA member countries.

1.2. In El Salvador, the Xth Central American and Caribbean Conference on Apiculture Integration and Updating was held, in coordination with the Central American and Caribbean Beekeepers' Federation (FEDECCAPI).

1.3. A strategic planning workshop for animal health diagnostic laboratories was held in El Salvador.

1.4. In Honduras, in coordination with SENASA/SAG'S Food Safety Division, training was given on food safety in connection with the project to strengthen safety certification schemes for agricultural products from small and medium-sized producers.

1.5. Also in Honduras, in coordination with officials from SENASA/SAG's Animal Health Division and the National Association of Fish Farmers of Honduras (ANDAH), the first regional simulation on the early mortality syndrome (EMS) or acute hepatopancreatic necrosis syndrome (AHPNS) in shrimps was held.

1.6. In Honduras, a technical meeting was held to analyse and communicate Annex IV on microbiological risks for melons in the Codex Alimentarius Code of Hygienic Practice for Fresh Fruit and Vegetables, in coordination with SENASA's Food Safety Division.

1.7. A training programme for technicians and producers in managing, controlling and monitoring pests and diseases in oil palms was held in Honduras.

1.8. A workshop was held in Guatemala on detecting pathogenic agents in shrimps, using fresh screening as a diagnostic tool.

1.9. Training was given in Guatemala on implementing quality assurance programmes for balanced feed.

1.10. In Nicaragua, in coordination with the Food Safety Directorate of the Directorate-General of Agricultural Protection and Health (DGSPA/MAGIFOR), a regional course was given on hazard analysis and critical control points (HACCP) for fisheries and aquaculture products: New Guidelines of the United States Food and Drug Administration.

1.11. A workshop on phytosanitary quality assurance for seeds was held in Nicaragua for producers of certified seeds of basic grains.

1.12. In the Dominican Republic, a workshop was held on basic epidemiology for epidemiologists.

1.13. National programmes for the control and eradication of Classical Swine Fever in the Dominican Republic, Belize, Guatemala and El Salvador were evaluated.

1.14. With technical support from Cuba's National Agricultural Health Centre (CENSA), OIRSA is implementing a comprehensive programme to improve milk production and quality (PROCAL), which includes: the Codex Alimentarius Good Practices for Milk Production and a move towards implementing the Code of Hygienic Practice for Milk and Milk Products in primary production and collection of milk, following a flexible approach that involves both small producers with rudimentary management practices and larger producers. At the moment, this transfer of technology is taking place in Nicaragua, El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras.

1.15. Workshops were held in Honduras, Belize and Panama on the design and regional structure for campaigns to control Huanglongbing (HLB) in citrus fruit and its vector.

1.16. Poultry-breeding health education and communication campaigns were conducted in El Salvador, Guatemala and Nicaragua.

1.17. In coordination with the National Plant Health Directorate (DNSV/MIDA), training was given in Panama on field identification and laboratory diagnosis of *Fusarium guttiforme* and application of phytosanitary epidemiological monitoring of this disease.

1.18. As part of the project on strengthening control of Huanglongbing (HLB) and implementation of integrated management of citrus fruit diseases in the OIRSA region, which OIRSA is carrying out with support from the Government of Chinese Taipei, through the International Development and Cooperation Fund (ICDF), a workshop was held there on technology for the prevention of Huanglongbing (HLB) in citrus fruit. This event was attended by 28 technicians from eight OIRSA member countries.

1.19. OIRSA provided support for participation by OIRSA member countries in the 40th Regular Meeting of the South American Commission for the Fight Against Foot-and-Mouth Disease (COSALFA).

1.20. A regional emergency plan was drawn up and national plans are being prepared to deal with Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (H7N3).

1.21. The following manuals were prepared: Shrimps, Fresh screening, Diagnostic tool; Procedures for early mortality syndrome (EMS) in shrimps; Epidemiological monitoring of the early mortality syndrome (EMS) in shrimps.

2 SUPPORT FOR THE HARMONIZATION AND EQUIVALENCE PROCESS

2.1. In its capacity as a Regional Plant Protection Organization (RPPO), OIRSA attended the annual meeting of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC).

2.2. At the IPPC's invitation, OIRSA attended the meeting of the IPPC's Standards Committee as an observer.

2.3. The Inter-American Development Bank (IaDB) conducted a mid-term evaluation of the project on the definition of regional standards and public capacity building for the development and implementation of compatible bovine traceability systems in Central American countries, which is being implemented by OIRSA with support from the IaDB. The results achieved show that OIRSA is becoming a regional authority on bovine traceability and both the public and private sectors have confidence in the work undertaken.

2.4. In connection with the aforementioned project, the Dominican Republic, Belize, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama approved the regional standard for bovine traceability.

3 SUPPORT FOR REGIONALIZATION (ESTABLISHMENT OF PEST-/DISEASE-FREE AND LOW-PREVALENCE AREAS, DEVELOPMENT OF PROTOCOLS FOR THEIR RECOGNITION)

3.1. In Nicaragua, technical and financial support is still being provided for the programme to maintain the area north of Lake Xolotlán as an area free from *Ceratitis capitata*, the citrus leprosis-free area programme and the programme to maintain Nicaragua's status as a country free from the pink bollworm.

3.2. A contingency plan has been drawn up for *Fusarium oxysporum* R4T.

3.3. A permanent monitoring programme has been introduced in countries in the OIRSA region for tomato leaf miner (*Tuta absoluta*), using trapping and exploration for its early detection.

3.4. In Belize, under the project on strengthening control of Huanglongbing (HLB) and implementation of integrated management of citrus fruit diseases in the OIRSA region, a greenhouse was inaugurated to supply Belize's citrus industry with 110,000 certified citrus plants each year.

3.5. In Honduras, support was given to SENASA/SAG for preparing a disease risk analysis in order to enable palm oil seeds to be allowed into Mexico, and also for the revision of the dossier of technical documents submitted to the phytosanitary authorities in Mexico and the United States with a view to recognizing the area of the Valle del Aguán as free of Moscarded.

3.6. Support was given to El Salvador's sanitary authorities for classification of the eastern part of the country as a zone of low prevalence of brucellosis and bovine tuberculosis in order to support exports of live bovine animals to Mexico for fattening.

4 PREVENTION, CONTROL AND ERADICATION ACTIVITIES (PROGRAMMES OR CAMPAIGNS)

4.1. The following activities were undertaken in connection with implementation of the regional programme to provide support for control of coffee leaf rust (*Hemileia vastatrix* Berk): (a) workshop for communicators to define and harmonize a regional phytosanitary communication and disclosure plan for the prevention and control of coffee leaf rust; (b) transfer of phytosanitary campaign methodology for control of coffee leaf rust; and (c) training of technical personnel at the Honduran Coffee Institute (IHCAFE) in drawing up a communications strategy.

4.2. As part of the TCP/RLA 3311 project on support for OIRSA member countries for the control of Huanglongbing (HLB) of citrus fruit, a manual was prepared on taking, forwarding and processing samples for the detection of HLB in countries in the OIRSA region ("<http://www.oirsa.org/aplicaciones/subidoarchivos/BibliotecaVirtual/Manual-colecta-envio-y-proc.-de-muestras-para-el-diag.-del-HLB.pdf>"). In addition, an early warning platform was designed to identify and map citrus plantations, the presence of the vector insect and of HLB; this is a technology that could be repeated for the control of other diseases. For this purpose, smart phones and yellow traps have been acquired so that countries use the platform.

4.3. In Panama, support is still being given to the campaign to control *Anastrepha grandis*.

4.4. In OIRSA, in coordination with the authorities in its member countries, a regional emergency plan for the prevention, control and eradication of the early mortality syndrome (EMS) in shrimps has been developed.

5 STRENGTHENING OF NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN ORDER TO FACILITATE TRADE

5.1. Under the project on the definition of regional standards and public capacity building for the development and implementation of compatible bovine traceability schemes in Central American countries, Nicaragua received technical assistance for the development of its national bovine traceability scheme. A pilot project for controlling the movement of cattle was introduced.

6 STRATEGIC ALLIANCES FOR THE PROMOTION OF HEALTH AND TRADE

6.1. OIRSA collaborated with the North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO) in preparing a monitoring protocol for tomato leaf miner (*Tuta absoluta*).

6.2. OIRSA, in coordination with the Autonomous University of Honduras (UNAH), prepared the diagnostic for "bud rot in palmas" (association with the *Phytophthora* sp., *Thielaviopsis paradoxa* and a bacteria combination), using the RT-PCR technique.

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