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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 62<sup>ND</sup> MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE  
ON SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES  
26 AND 27 MARCH 2015

The following communication, received on 17 March 2015, is being circulated at the request of OIRSA.

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

1.1. In Panama, a workshop was organized for food safety officials and poultry specialists from the member countries on good practices and food safety and HACCP management systems for fresh produce and processed products.

1.2. In Honduras, training was organized with the support of Chinese Taipei and the authorities of the National Agricultural Health Service (SENASA) for inspectors and technicians from national laboratories responsible for rapid pesticide residue analysis in fruit and vegetables.

1.3. A follow-up technical meeting was held in Guatemala on the programme for the detection, prevention and control of the Mediterranean fruit fly (*Ceratitidis capitata*) in the free areas of Belize, Honduras, Guatemala and Mexico.

1.4. In Panama, the following events related to animal health were organized: the third theoretical and practical refresher course on white shrimp (*Litopenaeus vannamei*) pathology and immunology, aimed at aquaculture specialists from the OIRSA region and Andean countries; a workshop on shrimp traceability; a training workshop on individual bovine identification and the registration procedure for information on producers, establishments and traceability; and a workshop on pig farm bio-safety for the prevention of porcine epidemic diarrhoea (PED).

1.5. During the second International Congress on Aquaculture in Mexico, there was a lecture on OIRSA support for regional simulation on early mortality syndrome (EMS) and aquaculture health activities in 2014.

1.6. A regional workshop on capacity building for health emergency response in Latin America and the Caribbean was organized in coordination with the FAO and held in Panama.

1.7. A national workshop on good practices in animal welfare was held in Guatemala.

1.8. A training workshop on the detection of post-mortem tuberculosis lesions was organized in Honduras.

1.9. During the 25<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Rabies in the Americas (RITA) in Mexico, OIRSA gave a presentation on its operations in support of rabies control.

1.10. In connection with the Symposium on Bee Health in Latin America held in Argentina, OIRSA gave a lecture on the work of the Regional Directorate of Animal Health to support the beekeeping industry in the OIRSA region. It also participated in the OIE initiative to create a Regional Apiculture Committee.

1.11. Technical training guidelines for developing a comprehensive food safety system and good agricultural practices for the primary production of melon in Honduras were prepared.

1.12. Technical data sheets and field sheets were drawn up for the following pests: *Tuta absoluta*, *Raoeilla indica*, *Anastrepha grandis*, *Globodera rostochiensis*, *Thrips palmi* Karny, *Ceratitis capitata*, and *Bactrocera invadens*.

## **2 SUPPORT FOR THE HARMONIZATION AND EQUIVALENCE PROCESS**

2.1. OIRSA provided technical assistance during the implementation of the current national bovine traceability systems in Honduras and Panama.

2.2. The following standardized manuals were produced: the second edition of the technical guide on penaeid shrimp pathology and immunology and a manual on recommended withdrawal periods for the correct use of veterinary medicinal products.

2.3. A meeting was held with representatives of the National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs) of OIRSA member countries to discuss comments on the draft International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) addressed in the Standards Committee of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC).

2.4. A regional workshop, organized jointly with the IPPC and attended by representatives of OIRSA and COSAVE member countries, was held to revise the draft ISPMs released for consultation in 2014 by the IPPC Secretariat.

2.5. A workshop was held with the IPPC Secretariat to prepare for the March meeting of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) in Rome, Italy. It was attended by delegates from the NPPOs of OIRSA member countries, with technical assistance from IPPC training officials Ana María Peralta and Sonya Hammons.

## **3 PREVENTION, CONTROL AND ERADICATION ACTIVITIES (PROGRAMMES OR CAMPAIGNS)**

3.1. With the participation of NPPOs from Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Belize and the Dominican Republic, a monitoring programme using trapping and exploration techniques for the early detection of *Tuta absoluta* is being implemented.

3.2. OIRSA is monitoring the activities for the control and eradication of classical swine fever in Guatemala.

3.3. OIRSA supported Belize in developing a plan to control and eradicate the low pathogenic avian influenza H5N2 virus. It also helped finalize the third national screening to determine the prevalence of bovine brucellosis and tuberculosis in the country.

3.4. Together with the FAO and with support from health authorities and the private sector, OIRSA is continuing to work on the "Regional strategy for the progressive control of bovine brucellosis".

3.5. In connection with the programme for the prevention and control of Huanglongbing in citrus fruit and with the support of the Chinese Taipei International Cooperation and Development Fund, two greenhouses were built in El Salvador: one foundation block (first level) to store genetic material from the region's different varieties of citrus fruit and another for shoot multiplication (second level) for the production of healthy citrus plants. A foundation block for genetic material was also built in Honduras.

#### **4 STRENGTHENING OF NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN ORDER TO FACILITATE TRADE**

4.1. OIRSA hosts conferences at the National Agrarian University of Nicaragua and provides technical assistance in setting up a Master's Degree in Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures.

4.2. With the support of the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF), OIRSA is implementing a regional veterinary legislation project (STDF/PG/358) for OIRSA member countries. Proposals for secondary legislation (regulations) on brucellosis, tuberculosis and Newcastle disease, and a proposal for a procedural manual for Newcastle disease, have been developed over recent months. These documents have been analysed by OIRSA and submitted for review by the FAO and the OIE, which are cooperating on the project.

#### **5 STRATEGIC ALLIANCES FOR THE PROMOTION OF HEALTH AND TRADE**

5.1. International cooperation project TCP/RLA/3501 on bovine paralytic rabies has been launched in Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua and will be carried out by the FAO and OIRSA.

5.2. In Mexico a joint meeting was held between representatives of NAPPO, COSAVE, IICA and OIRSA to identify actions and projects of mutual interest.

5.3. A cooperation agreement on technical and academic support for animal welfare was signed with the University of Zacatecas in Mexico.

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

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