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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

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**STATEMENT BY ECUADOR  
PEST- AND DISEASE-FREE AREAS  
15-16 JULY 2015**

**COMMUNICATION FROM ECUADOR**

The following communication, dated 15 July 2015, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Ecuador.

1. The delegation of Ecuador hereby wishes to inform the WTO Membership of the progress made by the country in achieving recognition of pest- and disease-free areas.
2. The national entity responsible for coordination in this field is the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Aquaculture and Fisheries through the Ecuadorian Agency for Agricultural Product Quality Assurance (AGROCALIDAD). This agency is tasked with implementing national and international regulations concerning the protection and improvement of animal and plant health and food safety, safeguarding public health and the environment, and involving the private sector and other actors in the implementation of related plans, programmes and projects.
3. This work resulted in the recognition by the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) of Ecuador as a country free from African horse sickness and from the peste des petits ruminants at last year's World Assembly.
4. Furthermore, at the 83<sup>rd</sup> General Session of the World Assembly of OIE Delegates, held in Paris in May 2015, the insular territory of the Galapagos was recognized as an FMD-free zone where vaccination is not practised and continental Ecuador was recognized as an FMD-free zone where vaccination is practised, in accordance with the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code.
5. It should be stressed that this certification is the result of vigorous joint efforts by the public and private sectors to highlight Ecuador's potential as an exporter of meat and milk. These efforts have created new opportunities to improve Ecuador's economy and guarantee safe food products for its citizens.
6. In addition, in January 2014 AGROCALIDAD implemented the national fruit fly management project, the main goal of which is to reduce the presence of these pests and declare free and/or low prevalence areas in order to promote the opening of new international markets and the diversification of exportable supply. This project currently covers 17 of the country's 24 provinces.
7. The main results achieved to date under the project include the following:
  - a. Study of the country's fruit-growing areas to identify the species grown and establish the approximate production area.
  - b. Establishment of the Ecuadorian fruit fly monitoring network, composed of Jackson traps for catching the species *Ceratitis capitata* and McPhail traps for catching species of the genus *Anastrepha*. The network consists of a total of 5,254 geo-referenced traps.

- c. Monitoring is carried out in 33 dragon fruit production sites in Palora Canton, Pastaza Province (Ecuador's Amazon region), with a trap density of one trap per hectare:
    - the Productankay cape gooseberry plantation in Mejía Canton, Pichincha Province, is free from *Ceratitis capitata* and has a total of 38 traps with a trap density of one trap per hectare, which is a condition for being able to export to the United States;
    - traps are maintained at a density of one trap per hectare in papaya plantations in Santo Domingo de los Tsáchilas, Santo Domingo Province, in order to be able to export to Chile and the United States;
    - strict supervision of monitoring activities is maintained in mango production sites in the provinces of Guayas, Los Ríos and El Oro, in accordance with the work plan for exportation to the United States.
  - d. Establishment of a list of fruit fly species present in Ecuador.
  - e. Establishment of a list of fruit fly host species.
  - f. Creation of seven mobile units controlling the movement of fruit trees.
  - g. Entomology laboratory strengthening.
  - h. Organization of 240 fruit fly extension and training events nationwide, with a total of 5,067 participants.
  - i. Development of regulatory documents that support the project's goals, including:
    - fruit fly monitoring manual (currently being legally adopted);
    - guide to the supervision of fruit fly monitoring;
    - manual for quarantine fruit fly species monitoring;
    - integrated fruit fly management manual;
    - emergency plan in the event of the entry of quarantine fruit fly species;
    - emergency plan for areas of low prevalence of the fruit fly *Ceratitis capitata*;
    - guide for trapping fruit flies on cape gooseberry plantations (currently being corrected).
8. The activities undertaken in the context of the project have yielded positive results, such as the declaration of *Ceratitis capitata*-free production sites in Mejía Canton, Pichincha Province, which is a condition for cape gooseberry export, and the declaration of an *Anastrepha grandis*-free area in Santa Elena, a province mainly devoted to cucurbit production.
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