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Page: 1/2

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

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REPORT ON SPS ACTIVITIES

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CARIBBEAN AGRICULTURAL HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY AGENCY (CAHFSA)

The following communication, received on 12 October 2017, is being circulated at the request of the Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency (CAHFSA).

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1. The Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency (CAHFSA) was established by the Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) to perform a coordinating and organizing role in the establishment of an effective and efficient regional sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) regime and to execute on behalf of member States such SPS actions and activities that can be more effectively and efficiently executed through a regional mechanism.

1.2. CAHFSA is pleased to provide this report to the 70th meeting of the SPS Committee summarising key activities and providing updates on CARICOM SPS standard-setting work programme for the period July to September 2017.

2 DEVELOPING LINKAGES WITH INTERNATIONAL SPS RELATED ORGANIZATIONS

2.1. CAHFSA collaborated with the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and regional partners to organize and implement the IPPC Regional workshop for the Caribbean, held on 13-15 September in Christ Church Barbados.

3 REGIONAL COLLABORATION

3.1. CAHFSA has been designated to replace the abolished Caribbean Plant Protection Commission as the Regional Plant Protection Organization (RPPO) and has been given approval by the Seventy-First Special Meeting of the Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED)-Agriculture to write to the FAO seeking official recognition as the RPPO for the Caribbean.

3.2. CAHFSA continues work on the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Regional Project for provision of "*Services towards strengthening agricultural quarantine capacities in Dominica, Grenada and St. Kitts and Nevis*". The objective of the Agreement is to strengthen the plant and animal quarantine capacities of the three countries based on specific priorities identified by these countries in their respective *Country Programming Frameworks*.

4 STANDARD SETTING AND IMPLEMENTATION

4.1 Market Access

4.1.1. The guideline for preparing market access proposals has been adopted as a regional (CARICOM) document.

4.2 Pest Risk Analysis

4.2. The *Guideline for conducting pest risk analysis for imported plant and plant products* which was developed to provide a standardised model for interpreting and applying the IPPC ISPM standards for Pest Risk Analysis (PRA), has been adopted as a CARICOM document and was published.

4.3 Regional Policy for Biosafety

4.3. The Regional Biosafety Policy which was developed with the intention of developing and implementing a harmonized biosafety system in 12 participating CARICOM countries, based on the Cartagena Protocol has been adopted by the 71st Special meeting of COTED.

4.4 Regional Animal Health Protocols

4.4. Three regional animal health protocols have been reviewed by the SOLAC and the LAC of CARICOM. These include:

- Harmonized Protocols for the Movement of Dogs and Cats in the Caribbean;
- Conditions for A Permit Controlling the Importation of Live Caprine and Ovine from CARICOM Countries;
- Protocol Governing CARICOM Control, Inspection and Approval Procedures for Trade in Animals and Animal Products.

5 CAPACITY BUILDING

5.1 Risk Analysis

5.1. CAHFSA continues to provide training in pest risk analysis to CARICOM member States; towards improving the competence of analysts in the region and in an effort to build a cadre of risk assessment professionals.

6 TECHNICAL RESOURCES AND INFORMATION EXCHANGE

6.1. The *Information Portal* developed on CAHFSA's website continues to provide weekly updates on WTO notifications as well agricultural health and food safety alerts.

6.2. Several databases related to agricultural health and food safety have been developed to improve the delivery and sharing of information across the region. These databases, which are still in the developmental stage, are available from the CAHFSA website and provide information on:

- List of pesticides registered by CARICOM member States;
- Risk analyses completed;
- Regionally regulated pests;
- Regional trade issues;
- Import and export requirements of the member States;
- Food safety, animal and plant health practitioners in the region.

7 DISPUTE RESOLUTION

7.1. A first round of consultation on the Mechanism for the Settlement of SPS Disputes in CARICOM has been completed and the document will be redrafted for a second round.
