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**Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures**

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**SPS ACTIVITIES OF THE CARIBBEAN AGRICULTURAL HEALTH  
AND FOOD SAFETY AGENCY (CAHFSA)**

**REPORT TO THE COMMITTEE ON SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES**

The following communication, received on 1 March 2019, is being circulated at the request of CAHFSA.

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**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 74<sup>th</sup> meeting of the SPS Committee summarising key activities and providing updates on CARICOM SPS work programme for the period August 2018 – February 2019.

**2 DEVELOPING LINKAGES WITH INTERNATIONAL SPS-RELATED ORGANIZATIONS**

2.1. The Institution continues its engagement with the OIE, IPPC and the Codex Alimentarius Commission through meeting participation and regional coordination.

2.2. CAHFSA is pleased to announce that the Agency has signed a Practical Arrangement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to pursue areas of technical cooperation in the use of nuclear science and technology for sustainable agricultural health and food safety in the Caribbean. The Practical Arrangement provides the framework for collaboration to address challenges faced by the member States of both organizations as well as Small Island Developing States in improving their agricultural sector.

2.3. CAHFSA supported the IPPC High-level Symposium on Cooperation on Phytosanitary Measures among the Chinese Initiative "One Road" Countries which was held in Nanning, Guangxi, China, from 25-28 September 2018. The Institution delivered a presentation on the regulatory, technical and operational aspects of plant quarantine systems in the Caribbean region: opportunities and challenges related to phytosanitary measures, emerging regulated pests and recommendations to promote cooperation on phytosanitary measures among "One Belt and One Road" countries.

2.4. CAHFSA has signed three Letters of Agreement (LOAs) with the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Sub-Regional office for the Caribbean, to:

1. provide services towards strengthening the plant and animal quarantine capacities of three member States based on specific priorities identified by these countries in their respective Country Programming Frameworks;
2. strengthen the capacity of Governments in the CARICOM region to meet their reporting obligations under the IPPC and the WTO SPS Agreement and to improve the awareness

among CARICOM National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs) of the WTO SPS Agreement.

3. Provide "Full datasheets and summary factsheets for 15 pests that impact nursery production in Dominica".

### **3 STANDARD SETTING AND IMPLEMENTATION**

3.1. A draft Model Biosafety legislation has been completed and will be submitted for adoption in 2019.

### **4 CAPACITY BUILDING**

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

4.2. CAHFSA facilitated a regional training on plant quarantine systems with emphasis on monitoring and surveillance for plant pest and animal diseases during the period.

4.3. Under a Letter of Agreement with FAO, CAHFSA facilitated a technical and capacity building workshop aimed at assisting the member States in meeting their reporting obligations under the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and the WTO SPS Agreement.

4.4. CAHFSA collaborated with regional partners in organizing and facilitating the 2018 IPPC Regional Workshop for the Caribbean.

4.5. CAHFSA partnered with the WTO, the CARICOM Secretariat and the OECS commission to facilitate a WTO Regional Workshop on the *WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement: Supporting strategic and effective implementation in CARICOM*.

### **5 TECHNICAL RESOURCES AND INFORMATION EXCHANGE**

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

5.2. 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.
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