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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

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**ENHANCING THE DIAGNOSTIC CAPACITY OF BELIZE'S VETERINARY SERVICES:
ACCREDITATION OF THE PCR (ANIMAL HEALTH) LABORATORY**

COMMUNICATION FROM BELIZE

The following communication, received on 13 October 2020, is being circulated at the request of the Delegation of Belize.

1. Belize takes this opportunity to inform Members that on 26 August 2020, the PCR Laboratory of the Veterinary Services, under the mandate of the Belize Agricultural Health Authority obtained ISO/IEC 17025:2017 accreditation for seven methods used in the detection of shrimp diseases:

- IQ Real Method for detection of WSSV (White Spot Syndrome Virus);
- IQ Real Method for detection of IHNV (Infectious Hypodermal and Haematopoietic Necrosis Virus);
- IQ Real Method for detection of TSV (Taura Syndrome Virus);
- IQ Real Method for detection of IMNV (Infectious Myonecrosis Virus);
- IQ Real Method for detection of YHV (Yellow Head Virus);
- IQ Real Method for detection of NHPB (Necrotizing Hepatopancreatitis Bacterium); and
- IQ Real Method for detection of AHPND/EMS Toxin 1 (Cy5) (Acute Hepatopancreatic Necrosis Disease/Early Mortality Syndrome).

2. This was made possible through an STDF funded project; STDF/PG/495: Regional Project for the Accreditation of Tests in Animal Health Diagnostic Laboratories. The implementing agency for this project was the Regional International Organisation for Agricultural Health and Food Safety (OIRSA).

3. The Accreditation body was the Guatemala Office for Accreditation (*Oficina Guatemalteca de Acreditación* (OGA)).

4. We take this opportunity to thank both OIRSA and the STDF for their support in helping us enhance our veterinary diagnostic capacity.
