

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

IMC/INV/23

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Arrangement Regarding Bovine Meat

Original: Spanish

INTERNATIONAL MEAT COUNCIL

Inventory of Domestic Policies and Trade Measures and Information on Bilateral, Plurilateral or Multilateral Commitments

Reply to Parts G and H of the Questionnaire

COLOMBIA

The participants have agreed to provide information concerning their domestic policies and trade measures including bilateral and plurilateral commitments on the basis of Parts G and H of the Questionnaire (Rule 16 of the Rules of Procedure). The documents containing replies to these parts of the Questionnaire are circulated under the symbol IMC/INV; they will be revised as and when changes are notified.

This set of documents constitutes the inventory of all measures affecting trade in bovine meat, including commitments resulting from bilateral, plurilateral and multilateral negotiations, which the Council has instructed the secretariat to draw up and keep up to date, under the provisions of Article III of the Agreement. (Note to Article III of the Arrangement and Rule 18 of the Rules of Procedure.)

PART G

Part G.1 Information on Domestic Policies and Trade Measures

I. Production

(a) Bovine meat sector

In 1984, the cattle herd consisted of 20,418,619 head of meat-yielding cattle and 4,056,863 head of select dairy cattle, occupying a total of 23,446,095 hectares.

The size of farms varies and producers are classified as large, medium and small farms depending on the number of hectares, their financial situation and their ability to absorb technology. There is a heavy concentration on farms larger than 100 hectares, and most of the meat being produced by medium and large farms. Cattle farming for meat production is treated as an activity of the extensive type, and the main source of nourishment is pasture and common or mineralized salt.

In 1984, 3,174,345 head were slaughtered for domestic consumption, equivalent to a production of 593,320 tonnes, carcass weight and a per capita consumption of 19.6 kg. for the year.

A total of 5,253 tonnes, boned carcass weight, were exported, equivalent to slaughterings of 24,048 head.

At present, the country has five refrigerated slaughterhouses for exports with total installed capacity for 24,134 carcasses or 5,553 tonnes, capable of producing 18,136 tonnes per month of chilled and/or frozen meat, equivalent to 79,040 head per month.

Most of the meat produced is consumed domestically. Although efforts have been made since 1962 to increase exports, the latter have been limited owing mainly to external factors. The aim is to increase productivity to levels that would produce for export meat of constant high quality so that international buyers could rely on their supplier and not treat Colombia as a marginal market.

The total value of agricultural output is shown in Annex II.

(b) Government policies and measures

Summary of plans for developing cattle farming

- To increase productivity
- To incorporate in production unused or under-used land
- Rural security
- To expand available credit resources, especially for small and medium producers
- Tax-relief measures

- Development of agro-industry
- Institutional reinforcement
- Research and transfer of technology
- Improvement of rural housing and well-being
- Increased exports
- Better utilization of the credit lines of PROEXPO
- Improvement of the road network and marketing
- Animal health
- Improvement of pastureland (quality and production).

II. Production and marketing policies and domestic consumption

Price policies and related measures

Type and level of guaranteed prices and of support prices for producers and their activities.

Price stabilization

There is free formation of the commercial price of cattle and meat for domestic consumption. By Decision No. 047 of 1982, the Ministry of Agriculture delegated authority to fix prices of meat for human consumption to the Municipal Committees established by that Decision (which authorizes but does not require the Committees to fix them).

For fiscal purposes, cattle prices are fixed annually by the Ministry of Agriculture in accordance with the regional commercial price on 31 December of the fiscal year concerned (Law No. 20 of 1979).

Slaughter tax: This is based on Law No. 56 of 1918 (Article 9), which leaves it to the Assemblies to fix and regulate slaughter taxes and to determine the use to be made of the income collected.

Measures which do not affect prices

Special credit facilities:

- Promotion credit

By Law No. 5 of 29 March 1973, "capitalization of the agricultural sector is stimulated and measures are adopted under the headings of Agricultural Promotion, Agricultural Finance Fund, Cattle Funds, Agrarian Chattel Loans, Cattle Bank, Technical Assistance, Authorizations to Commercial Banks, Tax Deductions and Exemptions, and others".

With a view to increasing production, the breeding of cattle has been especially benefited by the channelling of credit for the purchase of stock, improvement of pastureland and infrastructure, through the Agricultural Finance Fund, the Cattle Funds and the Agrarian Bank.

- Inputs and subsidies

ICA has programmes of supervision and control of inputs through its Division of Livestock Inputs and National Medicines and Inputs Laboratory.

VECOL produces veterinary medicines and vaccines, and also has functions regulating prices and quality.

- Promotion of technical development and livestock health

The main projects are carried out through ICA, such as:

- Development of livestock research and production
- Special stock-farming agreements, activities and technical assistance
- Livestock Production and Technical Assistance Programmes Division
- PLANIA-IBRD: food programme, in respect of pasture, forage and animal nutrition
- PLANIA-IBRD: physiological, genetic and production research
- PLANIA-IBRD: dual-purpose cattle (meat and milk)
- PLANIA-IBRD: cattle for meat production
- Animal Health and Veterinary Services Division
- ICA-USDA eradication of the hoof-and-mouth region of Darién
- Control of hoof-and-mouth disease at national level
- Campaign for the eradication of hoof-and-mouth disease (measures taken under Decision No. 331 of 9 August 1983 for the eradication of hoof-and-mouth disease).

- Special incentives for small farmers

With a view to raising the standard of living of the rural population and direct its receptive capacity towards productivity, the DRI-PAN Programme, which looks after the small-farm sector, is being developed with actions to promote food production and physical and social infrastructures.

Rehabilitation programme and borderlands programme

Land allocation programme through INCORA

These programmes are implemented through credit facilities, transfer of technology, allocation of land, housing construction, marketing, education and health. In addition to the Ministry of Agriculture and its related bodies, the Ministries and Secretariats of Health and Education are also specially involved.

Policies and measures affecting the marketing of meat and cattle

Decree No. 2278 of 1982 regulates in part Title V of Law No. 9 of 1979, as regards the slaughtering of animals for public supply, or human consumption, and the transport and marketing of their meat. "The Ministry of Health shall exercise the necessary general supervision and control and shall take the preventive measures required to ensure compliance with the provisions of this Decree".

- It is ICA which issues movement and health control permits.

- Subsidies for the construction or expansion of cattle markets and slaughterhouses.

INSFOPAL is the organization responsible for verifying compliance with the legal rules in force concerning the financing, counselling and surveillance of bodies in charge of municipal slaughterhouses.

For the construction and equipment of municipal slaughterhouses there are various sources of financing such as: the national budget, and parliamentary and municipal appropriations.

- The Agricultural Development Fund, the Cattle Bank and the municipalities contribute funds for the promotion of regional cattle fairs and for the expansion of cattle markets.

Policies and measures affecting consumption and consumer prices

- Price supervision and management

Cattle and meat prices are generally not controlled unless there are severe cases of speculation. There are no subsidies or special distributions whereby social assistance is provided by furnishing meat.

There are no slaughtering restrictions, other than sanitary restrictions.

There are no restrictions regarding consumption.

III. Measures at the frontier

(a) and (b) In Colombia the customs duty on imports of bovine meat, both boned and unboned, is 25 per cent ad valorem. As to imports of live animals of the bovine species, the following duty rates apply:

- pure bred: 9 per cent ad valorem
- pure by cross-breeding: 16 per cent
- other animals of the bovine species for consumption: 16 per cent
- other live animals of the bovine species: 16 per cent

Imports of bovine meat are at present subject to a prior licensing régime. The same applies to imports of live animals of the bovine species which are pure by cross-breeding. Other bovine animals can be freely imported.

(c) Policies and measures affecting exports

To support meat exports there is the Tax Refund Certificate (CERT), which at present is 25 per cent. Exports of live animals of the bovine species do not receive this tax incentive.

Colombian exporters can obtain credit from the Exports Promotion Fund (PROEXPO), which offers various lines of credit for working capital or the acquisition of fixed assets, and has resources for discounting credit documents which ensure payment to the Colombian exporter when he has granted his foreign buyer deferred settlement.

On the basis of Decree No. 2420 of 1963, the Management Board of IDEMA established the Cattle and Meat Foreign-Marketing Commission and, by Decision No. 357 of 1979 of the Ministry of Agriculture, IDEMA was authorized to conclude contracts for the organization and operation of the foreign marketing of cattle and meat with specialized public or private bodies. Accordingly, IDEMA contracted with COMEGAN for the marketing of cattle on the hoof and with ASOFRIGO for the marketing of meat, viscera and offals.

Farms which fatten cattle for export must be registered with, and supervised by, ICA.

Export cold stores must be class I and must operate under the regulations of the Ministry of Health and the sanitary supervision of ICA.

- Participation in trade promotion activities, particularly trade fairs.

The "Agroexpo" International Fair is held every two years in Bogota, with the support of PROEXPO and the co-operation of the bodies and trade associations of the sector.

International assistance

Colombia has concluded contracts with various countries and organizations for obtaining technical assistance and co-operation for the development of cattle-farming for meat production, including the following:

- ICA-USDA: for the eradication of hoof-and-mouth disease in the Darién region;
- IICA-CIRA agreements technical co-operation and other matters;
- IDB-IFAD - INCORA: projects in rehabilitation zones for integrated rural development;
- CIAT-ICA: Research Programme on Tropical Pastures, selection of grass and other plant species suited to difficult and acid soil conditions.

(d) As regards sanitary regulations governing the meat trade, the régime is based on Law No. 09 of 1979, as regulated in Ministry of Health Decree No. 2278 of 1982. Any meat or offals that are imported into the country must have a certificate issued by the health authorities of the country of origin and certifying fitness for human consumption.

The Ministry of Health jointly with the Ministry of Agriculture establishes the sanitary requirements that must be met by the above-mentioned imports or exports.

When the import consists of boned meat or cuts of meat, it will only be authorized if the pieces can be clearly identified and thoroughly inspected at the time of its arrival.

All shipments of meat arriving in Colombia under the import régime must be accompanied by a certificate of the veterinarians of the exporting country, stating:

- the name and address of the slaughterhouse;
- country of origin and departure;
- that the meat comes from public-food-supply animals slaughtered in a legally authorized slaughterhouse, that they were subjected to sanitary inspection ante- and post-mortem, that the meat is fit for human consumption and has not been treated with additives not authorized in Colombia by the Ministry of Health or by other substances harmful to health, that all operations were carried out under the best health and hygiene conditions under the supervision of the inspecting veterinarians and that there is no evidence of danger of epizootic diseases.

PART H

Part H. Information on bilateral or plurilateral agreements in the field of bovine animals, meat and offals

Colombia has signed no bilateral agreements in this field.

ANNEX I

BODIES RELATED OR ATTACHED TO THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

I C A	-	Colombian Agricultural Institute
IDEMA	-	Agricultural Marketing Institute
IDERENA	-	Renewable Natural Resources Institute
INCORA	-	Colombian Agrarian Reform Institute
HIMAT	-	Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology and Land Rehabilitation
F.F.A.	-	Agricultural Finance Fund
COFIAGRO	-	Agricultural Finance Corporation
EMCOPER	-	Colombian Perishable Products Enterprise
VECOL	-	Colombian Veterinary Products Enterprise
D R I	-	Integrated Rural Development

ANNEX IIAGRICULTURAL GDP BY SECTORS AT CURRENT PRICES

(Million pesos)

Year	Coffee	Other crops	Animal products	Forestry	Fishing and hunting	Sub-total	Total intermediate consumption	Added value	Gross production at producer prices
1970	4,593	15,542	11,917	657	599	33,308	5,269	32,052	37,321
1971	4,030	16,813	14,553	750	517	36,663	6,281	35,396	41,677
1972	5,332	20,507	18,195	882	839	45,755	7,874	44,034	51,908
1973	6,753	25,514	24,194	1,159	1,053	58,673	11,178	56,461	67,639
1974	7,888	34,273	33,290	1,692	1,471	78,604	16,904	75,441	92,345
1975	9,900	45,006	38,250	1,858	1,744	96,766	20,827	93,164	112,991
1976	17,250	54,254	49,404	2,554	2,306	125,768	24,543	120,908	145,451
1977	32,145	73,583	67,172	3,263	3,181	179,344	29,774	172,900	201,674
1978	36,194	81,037	83,880	4,390	4,049	209,550	38,067	201,111	279,178
1979	41,457	99,643	103,377	5,637	5,074	255,190	50,364	244,477	294,841
1980	46,715	123,053	122,716	7,081	6,112	305,318	68,887	292,524	351,411
1981	56,350	152,367	156,044	8,681	8,188	381,640	87,960	364,760	452,720
1982	62,660	182,231	200,495	11,845	11,389	468,821	107,621	445,387	557,008
1983*	82,370	214,703	242,309	14,618	14,575	568,571	127,445	539,379	666,824

Source: DANE

*Provisional

Prepared by Data-Processing Division, Ministry of Agriculture