



28 June 2017

(17-3453)

Page: 1/3

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: Spanish

ACTIONS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WTO AGREEMENT ON SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

INFORMATION PRESENTED BY THE INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR COOPERATION ON AGRICULTURE (IICA)

The following communication, received on 27 June 2017, is being circulated at the request of the IICA.

The observer organizations of the WTO Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Committee) are invited to submit reports on the activities they have carried out to promote the understanding and implementation of the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement). The IICA would like to present some of the actions and activities that it considers relevant to the work of this Committee.

1 EFFORTS TO MAKE GREATER USE OF MULTILATERAL AND REGIONAL FORUMS

1.1 World Trade Organization

1.1. The IICA joined forces with the WTO to hold a regional workshop for Latin American countries on good regulatory practices.

1.2. The event was held from 20 to 23 June at IICA headquarters and was attended by 48 delegates from 19 countries and two organizations.

1.3. The workshop was organized by the WTO Institute for Technical Training and Cooperation (ITTC), the WTO Agriculture and Commodities Division and the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) in conjunction with the IICA.

1.4. The main purpose of the event was to familiarize participants with the benefits of including good regulatory practices in the regulatory process. Experience-sharing between countries together with group working sessions enabled a set of good practices already used by the countries to be identified.

1.2 Codex Alimentarius

1.5. **Codex Colloquium:** A colloquium on the Codex Alimentarius was held on 15 and 16 June in Ottawa, Canada. Strategic issues related to the upcoming 40th session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC40) were discussed. The event was attended by 76 delegates from 43 countries and three inter-governmental organizations. Delegates from Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa, the United States, Canada, the IICA, the African Union - Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) were present.

1.6. The colloquium served as a forum to present and analyse topics of interest to the various regions and explore issues relating to the Codex Alimentarius.

1.7. The event was funded by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Health Canada in conjunction with the IICA.

1.8. **Technical meeting between Canada and the Caribbean Codex Alimentarius countries:** A technical meeting aimed at developing the capacities of the Codex focal points in the Caribbean region was held in Ottawa, Canada, from 13 to 14 June. The event was attended by 35 delegates from 17 countries and the IICA.

1.9. The event focused on: (i) strengthening of regional capacities in order to enhance effective participation in Codex Alimentarius meetings; (ii) development of the capacities of focal points in respect of management tasks, coordination with different actors and institutional strengthening; and (iii) participation in scientific bodies of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and World Health Organization (WHO).

1.10. The technical meeting was funded by the Government of Canada (Health Canada) and benefited from the collaboration of the IICA, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean (CCLAC), the host country of which is currently Chile.

1.11. **Codex twinning programme:** A new phase of the Codex Alimentarius twinning programme has been launched. This programme funds low-cost projects identified by countries that wish to resolve a specific situation regarding the Codex Alimentarius by harnessing the positive related experiences of another country in the region.

1.12. The beneficiary countries in this phase are:

- Costa Rica;
- Nicaragua;
- Honduras;
- Guatemala; and
- the Dominican Republic

1.13. Submitted and approved projects must be concluded this year. Countries requested as twinning partners include the United States, Ecuador, Brazil and Chile.

1.14. The twinning programme is funded by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and implemented by the IICA.

1.15. **Programme for participation in Codex Alimentarius meetings:** The IICA supported participation in the following Codex Committees through its Programme to Support the Participation of Countries in Codex Alimentarius Meetings:

- a. CCCF11: Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods, held in Brazil in April 2017. Support was provided for the participation of Costa Rica, Uruguay, Ecuador and Dominica in this meeting;
- b. CCPR49: Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues, held in China in April 2017. Support was provided for the participation of Chile, Peru, Antigua and Barbuda and Jamaica in this meeting;
- c. CCFICS23: Codex Committee on Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems, held in Mexico in May 2017. Support was provided for the participation of Trinidad and Tobago, Chile, Paraguay and Nicaragua in this meeting;
- d. CAC40: Codex Alimentarius Commission, held in Switzerland in July 2017. Support was provided for the participation of El Salvador, Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador, Panama, Nicaragua, Colombia, Trinidad and Tobago, Antigua and Barbuda, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Barbados in this meeting.

1.16. The participation programme is funded by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and implemented by the IICA.

1.17. **FAO/WHO Webinar on the Codex Diagnostic Tool:** The IICA joined forces with the FAO, WHO and Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) to coordinate the first in a series of webinars on the Codex Diagnostic Tool. The webinar, broadcast from the FAO headquarters in Rome, was open to the Caribbean country focal points and the IICA offices. Twenty participants from six countries in the region and the IICA offices, including the Chile office, participated in the event. A webinar for the Latin American region will be held in the near future.

1.18. **IICA-Chile Cooperation Project for Caribbean Codex countries:** A training course was held in Chile for countries in which the cooperation project for capacity building and Codex Alimentarius management is being implemented. The course, which was held from 19 to 22 March and attended by nine representatives from Chile, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago, put emphasis on drafting rules of procedure for the National Committee and developing a strategic plan.

1.3 World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)

1.19. An event dedicated to the study and analysis of OIE standards was held on 25 and 26 April 2017 at IICA headquarters. Funded by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), it was attended by 44 delegates from 27 countries, the IICA and the OIE.

For further information, please contact Robert Ahern (robert.ahern@iica.int).

Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)
Agricultural Health and Food Safety
<http://www.iica.int>
