

**CURRENT DOMESTIC MEASURES TO FACILITATE THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE WTO AGREEMENT ON THE APPLICATION OF
SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES**

Statement by the Dominican Republic at the meeting of 29 and 30 June 2005

The following communication, received on 30 June 2005, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of the Dominican Republic.

1. Progress has been made in the updating of the legal and regulatory framework for agricultural health. **An Agricultural Health and Food Safety Working Group (AHFS)** has been set up, comprising representatives of public- and private-sector institutions and technical cooperation bodies coordinated by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA). The Group has drafted two proposals to modernize the **Law on Plant Health Protection and the Law on Animal Health Protection**, which will be discussed more widely in workshops and seminars bringing together relevant sectors before being submitted to the Executive for referral to and approval by the National Congress.
2. A Food Safety Department is being set up within the Ministry of Agriculture (SEA), by virtue of Resolution No. 18/2005 of 8 April 2005. Its duties will include monitoring and assuming responsibility for the management and running of the National Programme for Monitoring and Control of Waste and Food Hygiene.
3. Approval has been given to set up the **Scientific Committee on Food (COTECA)** within the National Committee for the Implementation of the WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, as provided for in the Ministry of Agriculture's Support Project for Agri-food Competitiveness (PATCA).
4. Ministry of Agriculture Resolution No. 20/2005 has established a **National Plan for the Monitoring and Control of Waste and Food Hygiene** under the management of the Food Safety Department and the technical consultancy division of the COTECA.
5. Ministry of Agriculture Resolution No. 19/2005 of 8 April 2005 has created a **Quality Management Unit** to monitor and provide information through operation manuals, regulations, procedures, technical standards, plans and registers at the Departments of Plant Health, Animal Health and Food Safety and at food safety diagnosis and quality control laboratories.
6. The activities of the National Committee for the Implementation of the WTO Agreements on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures and Technical Barriers to Trade are being reinforced through a draft amendment to Decree 58-03, aimed at improving the committee's operating mechanisms.

7. The Secretariat of the National Committee for the Implementation of the WTO Agreements on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures and Technical Barriers to Trade organized a workshop on the notification process, which was held in June.

8. With the support of USAID, a review has been carried out of the Integrated Management Programme for Pests and the Pre-Inspection of Oriental Plants; on the basis of that review the Programme is being amended for implementation.

9. Thanks to a trapping system, biological control measures and hydrothermal treatment, Dominican mangoes have been released for export to the United States. The first consignment was exported at the beginning of June.

10. As regards our membership of the revised International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), the relevant communications stating the country's acceptance have been sent to the Director-General of the FAO.
