

**Committee on Sanitary and  
Phytosanitary Measures**

Original: Spanish

**NEW STRUCTURE OF THE COLOMBIAN  
AGRICULTURAL INSTITUTE (ICA)**

Communication from Colombia

The following communication, received on 13 November 2009, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Colombia.

1. Colombia has been strengthening the institutional capacity of its SPS system so as to ensure that its international exports and domestically consumed food (whether produced in Colombia or imported) do not pose a health risk to consumers, animals or plants. Colombia is also making progress in the area of trade facilitation by bringing its sanitary and phytosanitary measures into line with the guidelines and standards issued by the World Trade Organization's international reference bodies.
2. The thorough overhaul of the Colombian SPS system, which has contributed to the definition of clear policies in this area and the injection of substantial capacity-building resources, has formed the basis for the restructuring of the Colombian Agricultural Institute (ICA), as defined in Decree No. 4765 of 18 December 2008. The ICA's new structure aims to fulfil the national Government's two main objectives, i.e. to strengthen the country's health status and to ensure that Colombian agricultural products meet entry requirements for international markets.
3. In this context, and with a view to becoming the Colombian agricultural sector's strategic partner, the ICA has defined the following key areas for meeting the new challenges: animal health and inputs, plant health, agricultural inputs and seeds, safety in primary production, living modified organism management, market access, transparency, human capital, and efficiency.
4. As part of the recent restructuring of the ICA, the number of technical departments dealing with livestock and plant-related matters has been increased from two to five. These departments specialize in the following areas: animal protection, plant protection, border protection, plant and veterinary analysis and diagnosis, and sanitary and phytosanitary regulation.
5. The Sanitary and Phytosanitary Regulation Department is responsible for coordinating the issuing of measures that are adopted by the ICA in relation to animal and plant health, and safety in primary production, in accordance with the recommendations of the WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures and international reference bodies. The Department's tasks include carrying out risk assessments with a view to providing the scientific and

technical support required. The Department's Technical Directorate (TD) for International Affairs acts as an international contact point for issues within the competence of the ICA.<sup>1</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Further information is available at <http://www.ica.gov.co> and from [asuntos.internacionales@ica.gov.co](mailto:asuntos.internacionales@ica.gov.co).

