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# COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

## Fourteenth Session

Rome, 1-5 April 2019

**Written reports from relevant international organizations - The  
Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) Summary  
of 2018 Plant Health Activities**

**Agenda item 14.3**

**Prepared by the IICA**

*English only*

1. As the specialized agency of the Inter-American System for agriculture, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) supports the efforts of its thirty-four Member States to achieve agricultural development and rural well-being. IICA develops and implements international technical cooperation projects that contribute to competitive, inclusive and sustainable agricultural sectors that feed the hemisphere and the world while generating opportunities to reduce hunger and poverty. IICA has a demonstrated commitment to promoting plant health in the Americas and around the world, and the following represents a non-comprehensive list of technical capacity building activities that the Institute implemented in 2018:

2. Working with FAO, the IPPC Secretariat, the Regional Plant Protection Organizations (RPPOs) of the Americas, IICA facilitated the organization of two IPPC Regional Workshops to provide Member States with the opportunity to review proposed International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs). Thirty-five (35) participants attended the IPPC Regional Workshop for Latin America held in Natal, Brazil on 28th to the 31st of August, representing eighteen countries and four observer organizations.

3. In addition, 14 countries participated in the IPPC Regional Workshop for the Caribbean held in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, on 17th to the 19th of September sponsored by the FAO Sub-

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regional Office for the Caribbean and USDA/APHIS through agreements with IICA. These two activities strengthened the positioning of Latin American and Caribbean countries with regard to international trade in agricultural products and protection of national production and natural resources.

4. IICA promotes science-based decision-making and use of new technologies and approaches to facilitate and ensure safe trade in agricultural products. To this end, IICA supported the organization and implementation of a Regional Workshop on Electronic Phytosanitary Certification (ePhyto) for countries in Latin America, held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on 11-13 September 2018. International experts from Australia, Vietnam, the United States, the IPPC Secretariat, the WTO/STDF, the World Customs Union (WCO), and nearly one hundred specialists from seventeen Latin American countries attended the event, which COSAVE, SENASA Argentina, the government of Canada and IICA co-sponsored. Latin American countries learned about the STDF-funded ePhyto project, recent advances and tools currently available and under development for electronic phytosanitary certification. In addition, participants identified possible challenges and opportunities for future cooperation.

5. IICA also implemented a Regional Workshop titled, "Risk Management, Good Practices in Decision-Making and Risk-Based Sampling" in Lima, Peru from 11th to 13th Sept. IICA, USDA/APHIS, and the Andean Community (CAN) co-organized the workshop with funding provided by USDA/APHIS. This activity built upon previous interventions around risk-based sampling and good regulatory practices in risk management with the goal of improving and consolidating technical capacity in Latin America to implement good practices in risk management, and understand and advance implementation of risk-based sampling in day-to-day operations. Thirty-five (35) professionals from 11 National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs) participated in this regional event.

6. In an effort to provide current information to Latin American Plant Health and Industry officials concerning Irradiation as a Phytosanitary treatment, IICA and USDA/APHIS implemented a one-day webinar on Sept. 24 for stakeholders in Peru, Ecuador, and Colombia. IICA hosted the event on its webinar platform, provided translation services of technical content and the interactive portion of the webinar, and provided venues in the three countries where stakeholders met. Webinar content produced by APHIS/PPQ covered a range of science-based and regulatory information, including irradiation as a phytosanitary treatment and requirements for market access for irradiated commodities. In addition to presentations by APHIS, representatives of the Peru NPPO - a country that currently exports commodities to the United States using a third party irradiation facility - provided case study examples on their experience working with irradiated commodities for export.

7. The Greater Caribbean Safeguard Initiative (GCSI) is a collaboration between IICA, USDA/APHIS and regional stakeholders in the Caribbean to strengthen plant health systems in order to protect agricultural and natural resources in the United States and the Caribbean from entry, establishment and spread of plant pests. In 2018, the GCSI trained 15 plant quarantine officers from 14 countries on the principles and procedures of plant quarantine and enabled the development of a list of priority pests for the Caribbean Region. Twenty-six (26) Caribbean plant health professionals from 13 countries improved their capacity to prevent and monitor *Fusarium TR4* in bananas in the Caribbean and the GCSI invested in capacity building to identify effective environmentally sound monitoring and management strategies for the giant African snail (*Achatina fulica*). In total, the GCSI supported 10 different projects in 2018.

8. IICA is the implementing organization for STDF 502/COSAVE, a Regional Project to strengthen technical capacity of NPPOs in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay. Key activities in 2018 focused on phytosanitary surveillance systems, pest risk assessment and an evaluation on the impact of implementing phytosanitary measures. Subject matter experts developed implementation guides and case studies in Spanish, Portuguese and English and these interventions strengthened the technical capacities of more than 120 professionals. Additionally, the Project invested in development of an innovative methodology to evaluate the impact of the implementation of phytosanitary measures. NPPOs applied the methodology to understand the impact of ISPMs as related to plants as pests. Within the framework of the Virtual Regional School of

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Phytosanitary Inspection (ERVIF), fifty-four officials from seven countries completed technical modules hosted on the IICA platform.

9. With funding from the USDA/FAS, IICA implemented the first edition of a Leadership course in Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) for professionals from Latin America who develop and implement international standards. Fifteen (15) participants from 9 countries successfully completed the course. Additionally, the WTO and IICA partnered to offer the WTO Advanced Course on SPS. These commitments to strengthen human capabilities in the Americas ensure that IICA's Member States have the skills and talent they need to prosper now and in the future.