



منظمة الأغذية
والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

联合国
粮食及
农业组织

Food
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pour
l'alimentation
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COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

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IICA Report

Agenda Item 8.6 of the Provisional Agenda

1. A report from the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) is provided in the Annex.



Report on activities carried out by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)

Sixth Session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures

IICA wishes to share with the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) and the representatives of the plant health services of the Member countries some of the activities carried out over the last year in the area of plant health.

1. Developing the Capacities of the Official Services

1.1 During 2010, IICA provided technical cooperation for modernization of phytosanitary services through the application of its the *Performance, Vision and Strategy (PVS) for National Plant Protection Organizations* tool to **Bahamas** and **Uruguay**.

1.2 As part of IICA's support of IPPC activities, IICA hosted and co-funded the regional Latin American and Caribbean meetings for discussion of proposed IPPC norms in September, 2010. IPPC staff was present. The Latin America meeting was held at IICA headquarters in San Jose, Costa Rica, and the Caribbean meeting took place in Trinidad and Tobago.

1.3 The capacities of official services on equivalency, regionalization, and certification were strengthened through national workshops in **Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras** and **Nicaragua**.

2. Developing Institutional Capabilities in Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS)

2.1 As a result of the implementation of a project funded by the Standards and Trade development Facility (STDF), IICA developed and disseminated through three regional courses (South, Andean and Central regions), a *Manual for Development of Phytosanitary Hazard Profiles* for use as a quick assessment tool at border and entry points in the absence of more formal risk assessments. This manual is available in English and Spanish at IICA's website. More than 150 inspectors were trained in 16 countries.

2.2 Also a product of the above-mentioned project STDF 108, IICA developed and disseminated a *Manual on Good Practices for Participation in Meetings of the IPPC*, also available from IICA's website. The manual is directed at country delegates that participate for the first time in IPPC and CPM meetings. Similar manuals were also developed for Codex Alimentarius meeting and meetings of the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures of the World Trade Organization.

2.3 Four SPS workshops on 'Good practices for Participation in SPS Forums', aimed at creating awareness of the importance of SPS issues, were held in the Caribbean. The workshops took place in Jamaica, Bahamas, Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago. A total of 250 persons participated in these workshops including Ministers and Permanent Secretaries from Ministries of Agriculture, Health, Industry and Commerce, Directors of Agriculture and heads of other Government departments, as well as the private sector.



3. Support for the Dissemination of Information

3.1 IICA produces several newsletters and has communications systems that encourage the exchange of information relating to SPS and the work of the WTO, the international reference organizations and regional organizations.

3.2 As part of the AGROSALUD (AGRIHEALTH) platform, the “Observatory of Emerging Issues and Emergencies” is currently operating as a communication and information system targeting the public and private sector. Its purpose is to update users on situations – both positive and negative – relevant to economic well-being and public health in the Hemisphere in the areas of animal health, plant health and food safety. These events will be selected from official references to ensure transparency and harmonization and will be backed up by press releases and documents from the same sources.

4. Specific activities

4.1 Andean Region

- As part of the Agreement with the Andean Community of Nations (CAN) Secretariat, the need to strengthen the regional Technical Committee on Agricultural Health (COTASA, for its name in Spanish) was identified. Phytosanitary protection in relation to fruit fly control, was identified as a need and activities have been planned accordingly. IICA is contributing to the development of a fruit fly control project for the region in cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

- In **Bolivia**, as part of the activities for strengthening the National Agricultural health and Food safety Service (SENASAG), 130 professional and technical personnel were trained on the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, on the correct use and application of pesticides as required by the Rotterdam, Stockholm and Basel Agreements and the Code of Conduct. Seventy trainers were also trained on Good Agricultural Practices (GAP). Furthermore, IICA contributed to the strategy of the National Fruit Fly Control and Eradication Program (PROMOSCA), and catalogs of agricultural pests and fruit flies have been compiled in cooperation with USDA-APHIS, SENASAG.

- In **Colombia**, IICA, as part of a cooperation agreement with the Instituto Colombiano Agropecuario (ICA) and USDA-APHIS, is contributing to the development of methodologies for basic quarantine plant pest research aimed at institutional strengthening of sanitation and phytosanitary capabilities at the National Official Agricultural Health Service.

- In **Ecuador**, the structure of the official agricultural health service, AGROCALIDAD, has been consolidated through the harmonization of procedures, training of technical staff, modernization of laboratories and implementation of plant pest control programs. To this effect, 30 procedural manuals (plant quarantine, control of plant stock material, surveillance, wood packaging inspection, and mycotoxin diagnosis) have been developed. Control plans for pests of quarantine importance are being developed and implemented.



In addition, the new epidemiological surveillance system and the national fruit fly control program have been designed and validated. Training of staff has been conducted on quarantine, epidemiologic surveillance, geographic information systems, export certification, diagnosis of quarantine pests, mollusks and forestry pests.

- In **Venezuela**, as part of the Project on Identification of the *Rhynchoforus Ferrugineus*, an action plan involving the University, Acuplama, and APHIS has been agreed upon. The plan will be implemented along with the establishment of programs for trapping and monitoring.

4.2 Caribbean Region

- The Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency (CAHFSA) was launched in March in **Suriname**. The agency is not yet in operation. A consultancy is currently underway to develop the implementation strategy for this agency, which will be supported by IICA.

- IICA participated actively in the third meeting of the Caribbean Plant Health Directors Forum (CPHDF) and meetings of several technical working groups (fruit fly, palm pest and emergency response working groups). The CPHDF was formed to address the need to have a forum of Plant Health Directors in the Region to guide policies and address relevant issues such as plant pests and diseases that are of importance to the Region.

- In **Bahamas**, the NPPO was assisted in the preparation of a manual on Good Agricultural Practices for fruits and vegetables.

- A manual for chemical-free backyard gardening was prepared in conjunction with interns from McGill University (Canada) for **Barbados**. This work was part of the McGill students' internship program in Barbados. The project was supervised by IICA and also involved the Barbados Diabetes Society. The main objective of this manual is to encourage the production and consumption of vegetables.

- A regional workshop on the identification of heteropteran pests of importance to the Caribbean was held at the St. George's University in **Grenada**. This workshop was held in collaboration with USDA-APHIS, the University of Florida and the Florida Association for Volunteer Action in the Caribbean and the Americas (FAVACA), and is the third in the series of annual pest identification workshops for the Region. A total of 25 entomologists from across the Region (including the Dominican Republic and Haiti) were trained.

- In **Guyana**, in collaboration with Ministry of Agriculture, 230 persons including producers, exporters and agriculture and marketing technicians were trained in packaging and labeling of fresh agro-products in several districts in the country. This training was aimed at preparing for access to the Canadian Market. Also in Guyana, Over 500 Jackson and MacPhail traps have been placed and serviced in specific areas as part of a Carambola Fruit Fly Detection and Delimitation Project that is underway in conjunction with USDA-APHIS and the Ministry of Agriculture.

- A meeting on the UNEP-CABI project on Mitigating the Threat of Invasive Alien Species in the Insular Caribbean, in which IICA is a collaborator, was held in **Saint Lucia**. The meeting dealt with the development of a Regional IAS Strategies for Fresh Water, Marine and Terrestrial Ecosystems; b) to hold the second international project steering committee meeting, and c) to build capacity of participants to use the I3N Database to support decision making in IAS management and to conduct IAS Risk Assessment.



4.2 Central Region

- Together with the Executive Secretariat of the Central American Agricultural Council, and within the framework of the Central American Customs Union, IICA established and implemented a plan to implement the Central American Agricultural Policy regarding agricultural health and food safety.
- Among the activities in the above plan, a proposal was developed for a Harmonized Procedural Manual for Peripheral Quarantine Control Posts and two workshops were held to discuss it. In addition, training courses for and a visit by inspectors to similar control posts in Spain was conducted.
- A regional plan to develop capacities in Plant Pest Risk Assessment was conducted that included one-week courses in **Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua**. In addition, a regional workshop was held in **Costa Rica** to examine the possible establishment of a regional center for PRA and to set the basis for a regional Central American Guideline on PRA. The economic impact of PRA is also being examined at the regional level.
- Within the framework of the Program for Improvement of Competitiveness in the Fruit Sector, IICA has provided cooperation on development of a Regional Policy and Strategic Plan for specific sanitary and phytosanitary areas.
- Extensive training on Good Agricultural Practices has been conducted in the region for fruit, coffee and sugar cane producers.

4.3 South Region

Plant health-related regional activities conducted by IICA in the South Region respond to a long-standing technical cooperation agreement with the Southern Cone Committee on Plant Health (COSAVE, for its name in Spanish), which includes **Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay**. The agreement aims at strengthening and consolidating the operation of COSAVE, particularly in relation to projects and activities, to facilitate trade and promote regional technical integration in matters related to plant health. The products and impacts of the agreement have been evaluated, with excellent results, and a new IICA-COSAVE 4-year agreement is about to be signed.

- An annual operational plan for COSAVE, the POA 2011 IICA – COSAVE, was developed and approved. In addition, technical meetings conducted by COSAVE were facilitated through the use of IICA's videoconference facilities, and the IICA office in Argentina provided administrative support to the COSAVE Secretariat.
- An interactive workshop on Phytosanitary Inspection was organized by COSAVE, IICA and SENASA (**Argentina**). Staff from the NPPOs of Peru and the United States were also present. The workshop covered the IPPC's ISPMs, the development of inspection capabilities by the region's NPPOs and the creation of regional relationships between the NPPOs, as well as specific personal plant inspection procedures. Forty-three inspectors from the five participated.
- A regional workshop on electronic certification was held to disseminate this new concept.
- In **Brazil**, IICA cooperated with the Pest Control and Prevention Division of the Ministry of Agriculture in the Brazilian Program for Control of the Carambola Fruit Fly, facilitating the involvement of Suriname, Guayana and French Guyana.



- Also in **Brazil**, IICA contributed to the development of a proposal to strengthen the Brazilian International Agricultural Surveillance System (VIGIAGRO). In addition, a virtual technical forum was held on Private Standards in international trade of fresh foodstuffs, with participation by the International Relations Secretariat of the Ministry of Agriculture, the Animal Products Inspection Division, the Brazilian Poultry Producers Union (UBA) and the University of Brasilia.
- IICA's tool *Performance, Vision and Strategy (PVS) for National Plant Protection Organizations* was presented to 60 technical staff members of the State Secretariat of Agriculture of the State of Paraná, and 24 officers were trained on its application.
- In **Paraguay**, the identification stage of fruit fly populations in the Department of Cordillera has been completed as part of an agreement between the NPPO (SENAVE) and USDA-APHIS.