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Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
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Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная организация
Объединенных Наций

Organización de las
Naciones Unidas para la
Alimentación y la Agricultura

منظمة
الأغذية والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

Ninth Session

Rome, 31 March - 4 April 2014

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

Agenda item 14.3

Prepared by the IICA

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Report on activities carried out by the
Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)
Ninth Session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures

IICA wishes to share with the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM), the Bureau Members, the IPPC Secretariat and the Observers, some of the activities carried out over the last year (April 2013- April 2014) in the area of plant protection.

1. Activities and hemispheric projects

1.a. Performance, Vision, and Strategy (PVS) for National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs). In the interest of helping strengthen NPPOs and considering changes at the international level, IICA reviewed and updated this tool and the 2014 version is now available. It is expected that this tool can help NPPOs to characterize their current level of performance, establish priorities and facilitate strategic planning. It can also help NPPOs share a common vision with the private sector, to meet its obligations and identify the new opportunities. The application process in two South America countries has started.

1.b. Regional workshops for consultations on draft ISPMs for Latin America and the Caribbean countries. Workshops were held from September 3 to 5 in Trinidad and Tobago and from September 17 to 19 in Costa Rica, with the aim to promote the active participation of National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs) in the ISPM standard setting process. The workshop in Costa Rica was attended by 22 Latin American delegates from 16 countries and 3 observer organizations, and the Caribbean Workshop involved 14 delegates from 13 countries. COSAVE and OIRSA participated and provided financial support to the event in Latin America. In addition, IICA and the IPPC Secretariat supported the event. Another important objective was to facilitate the understanding of the organization and operation of the IPPC Secretariat and its subsidiary bodies

1.c. Inter-American Coordinating Group on Plant Protection (GICSV). GICSV is made up of a number of RPPOs – CAN, COSAVE, NAPPO, OIRSA, and the Caribbean body. IICA, as the Technical Secretariat, provided support in the development of the following activities:

- Follow up of the agenda and implementation of the work plan
- Documentation of meetings and events
- Holding of virtual and in-person meetings, and videoconferences of the Coordinator Committee and the Technical Groups such as “ePhyto”
- Workshop “Introduction to the ePhyto” attended by Representatives of GICSV, OIRSA, NAPPO, COSAVE, y NPPO of Caribbean and Andean Region.
- Development of the GICSVE webpage on the IICA site to disseminate the work of the group and to support the exchange of information between the RPPOs.

1.d. Project - “Latin America: strengthening regional capacity to meet pesticides export requirements based on international standards.”. This is a 3-year Project with financial support of the STDF. IICA is the implementing agency. USDA/FAS, IR4 Project and the Joint FAO/WHO Group on pesticide residues (JMPR) are also part of the project. The main product of the Project is to increase the technical capacity to develop new programs for pesticide registration and monitoring, and generate updated data on pesticide residues for the establishment of Codex MRLs. The countries that are part of the project are: Bolivia, Costa Rica, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, Paraguay, Panama and Peru.



1.e. Project “Support to the Caribbean Forum of ACP States in the Implementation of Commitments Undertaken Under the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA): Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Measures”. The program on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) is one component of the 10th EDF (European Development Fund). The overall objective of the 10th EDF Program is to support the beneficial integration of the CARIFORUM (Caribbean Forum) states into the world economy and the overall objective of the SPS program is to facilitate CARIFORUM States to gain and improve market access by complying with Europe’s Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures and to help CARIFORUM states to better develop their own regionally harmonized SPS measures. The Project is comprised of three main Components: 1) Legislation; 2) National and Regional SPS Coordination; and 3) Capacity Building. The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) is the designated implementing Agency for the Project. The Project will be implemented in collaboration with the CARICOM Secretariat, the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) and the Dominican Republic National SPS Committee (CNMSF).

1.f. Manual of Good Practices for Participation in the IPPC meetings. In 2009, IICA published "Manual of Good Practices for Participation in IPPC meetings." Under the action plan that has been implemented with the IPPC, and through the support provided by the Secretariat, IICA has been working on updating the Handbook and the in the development of a virtual tool based on the Manual, to support those who participate in the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) of the IPPC. The tool provides guidance on how to prepare for the CPM meeting and on the technical and logistical aspects that facilitate participation. The Spanish version is already available to the IPPC Secretariat and will soon be available in English as well.

2. Regional projects and activities

2.a. “Competitive Fund for Technical Cooperation Projects (FonTC).” This fund is an internally funded IICA initiative to finance multinational technical cooperation projects that can be complemented with resources of other member country or international organizations.

- **Project – “Regional Virtual School for Plant Health Inspectors” (ERVIF).** IICA has continued with the implementation of this project that has the support of COSAVE and IPPC. The general objective of the project is to help protect the plant health and thereby improve agricultural productivity and competitiveness in the Southern and Andean regions by increasing the technical capacity of the NPPOs and other government services, and to ensure that an adequate standard of plant health inspection and certification. Argentina, Bolivia, Brasil, Chile, Colombia, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay are part of the Project. The ERVIF’s study program includes an international module, common to all the countries, complemented with a specific national module for each nation. The international module is now under development and in the process of being adapted to the virtual mode.

2.b. Control of Coffee Rust in Central America and the Caribbean: IICA supported PROMECAFE and the Central American Agricultural Council Technical Secretariat to develop the 2013 Action Plan on Immediate Measures to combat the coffee rust. Support was also provided in conceptualizing the regional early warning system of coffee rust, with potential for other pests and immediately applicable to producers and decision makers, together with other international organizations. Additionally IICA contributed to the preparation of a radio series aimed at small and medium coffee producers in the region.

2.c. Training for Plant Health Inspectors: The 3rd Regional Plant Quarantine Inspectors training course which was held at the Trinidad and Tobago campus of the University of the West Indies. The course is developed and implemented jointly by USDA-APHIS, IICA, FAO



and the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine. A total of 23 participants from 16 countries in the Region attended the course.

3. Regional articulation mechanisms

Southern Region

- **COSAVE:** Actions were taken to strengthen COSAVE platform, support the organization of technical meetings by virtual means, the development of a regional survey on ePhyto, the organization of the 25th Regional Consultation of RPPO, development of a platform to exchange information on HLB, management of COSAVE regular activities and analysis to identify the cost and benefits of establishing a permanent venue for the Coordination Secretariat.

Caribbean Region

- **The 6th Regional Plant Health Directors meeting** was held in July 2013. Delegates from 24 countries were present. In addition there were representatives from IICA, USDA-APHIS, FAO, CABI, CARDI, UWI, CARICOM, OIRSA, and CIRAD. A total of 40 persons attended.
- **18th meeting of the CGPC:** The CGPC has as its members the Pesticides and Toxic Chemicals Boards or Authorities of the countries of the Caribbean and meets annually in one of the member countries. IICA serves as the technical secretary for this group. A total of 45 persons from 17 countries consisting of registrars of Pesticides Control Boards and representatives of chemical companies were in attendance.
- **Mollusc Technical Working Group:** IICA assisted in the planning and implementation of the meeting of the Mollusc Technical Working Group which was held in the Dominican Republic. The Mollusc Technical Working Group is one of several working groups that exist as a part of the Caribbean Plant Health Directors Forum. The main objective of this technical working group is to provide guidance on the control and management of molluscs of quarantine importance in the Region.

Central Region

- **Shipping and Goods Procedures for Quarantine Control Points.** With IICA support the countries of the Region reviewed and adjusted the procedure (instructions, forms and technical references) in the framework of the Customs Union Process. Final sampling instructive and publication of proceedings will finished in 2014.
- **“The IPPC and the implementation of the ISPM standards: A practical approach applied to trade”** This workshop was a joint initiative between USDA/FAS/APHIS and IICA’s Agricultural Health and Food Safety Program. The objective of this seminar was to work and share with participants the key elements related to the implementation of the ISPMs related with phytosanitary certification and inspection. Two officials from the countries of Central America, Dominican Republic and Mexico and OIRSA with experience in phytosanitary inspection and basic knowledge about the IPPC and ISPM and plant protection officers OIRSA attended the event.



4. National projects and activities

Barbados:

- The Barbados office supported the joint University of the West Indies/Ministry of Agriculture program in their effort to address the issue of Sweet Potato Virus disease. The IICA office facilitated the procurement of Qiagen kits to enhance the diagnostic work for the disease in Barbados. The office also facilitated the further analysis of these samples by the International Potato Centre (CIP) in Peru.

Brasil:

- Prepared and approved by the Brazilian authorities the Technical Cooperation Project: "Strengthening of the Brazilian Agricultural Protection System" with Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Supply.
- Dialogue between Brazil and Argentina as a follow up to the harmonization proposal and exchange of experiences on good agricultural practices. As a result of this dialogue both countries committed to hold the Fifth Mercosur Workshop on Good Agricultural Practices in Brazil.

Costa Rica:

- Support was provided for the development of the Strategic Plan and the Training Program 2013-2014 to the Costa Rican Phytosanitary Service.

El Salvador:

- Support was provided to the Department of Plant Protection, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, in developing a project profile to assess the feasibility of declaring two areas of low prevalence of fruit flies in El Salvador.
- The IICA office advised the Salvadoran Agency for Technical Regulation (OSARTEC) in the development of the regulation of Maximum Pesticides in fruits and vegetables and in the drafting of the Rules of Good Agricultural Practice for fruit and vegetables.

Ecuador:

- **Interactive Workshop on Phytosanity Inspection and Hazard Profiles**

The aim was to strengthen the NPPO through an integrated activity and technical education and training the inspectors of the NPPOs with the International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs), and to enable them to interrelate and apply those standards, with a view to ensuring the implementation of effective inspection procedures. Conducted in August 2013.

- **Mite in white rice**

A workshop was conducted with the objective of improving the technical level and knowledge of the AGROCALIDAD technical staff to have a strategic plan and a preventive campaign against the possible presence of white mite (*Steneotarsonemus spinki*) in rice crop producers, in order to prevent this potential risk.



- **Plan for the eradication and control of apple snail**

Within this project the following activities were performed: Auto control methods of apple snail, support national awareness campaigns on the apple snail, completion and publication of informative materials such as brochures and posters, and training for technicians and Plant Health technicians of several productive sectors (rice, papaya, pineapple, for example), and identification and recognition of the pest as well as preventive measures.

Nicaragua:

- Through the implementation of the PVS tool, a study on the status of plant protection services in domestic production was developed, which resulted in a strategic planning process for improving such services.

México:

- **Support to the MOSCAFRUT y MOSCAMED Programs:**

IICA continues to support the MOSCAFRUT operational program. The Institute is responsible for the management, operation and provide technical cooperation in the Moscafrut Plant, located in Metapa Dominguez , in the state of Chiapas, aiming at the production of sterile fly pupae and parasitoids that control wild populations of the pest to establish free zones and low prevalence areas of fruit flies, which allows movement of pest-free fruit for domestic consumption or export. This eliminates quarantine restrictions and generates higher revenue inflow of foreign exchange to the country.

- From 29 July to 23 August in Metapa, Chiapas, a course on Interregional Training on the Use of the Sterile Insect Technique and Related Techniques in Integrated Pest Native and Exotic Management was held, sponsored by the International Atomic Energy and attended by 26 technicians from 22 countries.
- As additional support from IICA, in 2013, the assessment of the activities of 2012 from the nationwide Huanglongbing in citrus campaign and evaluation of the economic impact of the disease on the citrus chain.

Paraguay:

- The IICA Office in this country supported the initiative of the National Plant and Seed Health Service in coordination with Department of Agronomy, National University of Asuncion, for preparing a postgraduate diploma in phytosanitary inspection.

Dominican Republic:

- **Review of the Legal and Regulatory Basis of National Plant Protection**

With resources of the Project for Strengthening the International Quarantine Haiti / Dominican Republic, draft legislation on plant protection and animal health protection was delivered. Two relevant documents for upgrading the legislation were sent to IICA: 1) The "Legal Compendium on Plant and Animal Health Legislation in Dominican Republic" and 2) "Legal Diagnostic on Plant and Animal Health Legislation of the Dominican Republic". The process of socialization of the draft laws continues, before the presentation to the Ministry of Agriculture by IICA.



Trinidad and Tobago:

- **Cooperative agreement between IICA Trinidad and USDA APHIS/IS**

Under the framework of the project “Support Fruit Fly Surveillance throughout the Caribbean Basin” the following activities were conducted during February to September 2013: Workshops to strengthened its Fruit Fly Trapping Programs in Tobago, Trinidad, Guyana, St. Vincent and Jamaica; Fruit Fly Data Base and Geo Coding Training Workshop in Anguilla to introduce the small Northern Caribbean Countries (Anguilla, St Maarten, British Virgin Islands, Turks and Caicos, and St Kitts) to the Standardized Reporting Data Base; Fruit fly data collected in St Lucia and Dominica.