



**Report on Plant Health Activities Carried Out by
IICA During 2025 in the Northern, Central,
Caribbean, Andean, and Southern Regions.**



March 2026

1. Introduction.

The Hemispheric Program on Agricultural Health, Food Safety and Quality (AHFS) constitutes a strategic pillar of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) for strengthening sanitary and phytosanitary systems in the Americas. In an international context marked by the increase of transboundary pests, heightened regulatory requirements, and the expansion of agrifood trade, plant health has become one of the essential pillars for safeguarding phytosanitary assets, ensuring production stability, and enhancing countries' competitiveness.

In fulfillment of its mandate, IICA promotes modern phytosanitary systems grounded in science, risk management, technological innovation, and international regulatory harmonization. These principles contribute to strengthening the technical and institutional capacities of Member States, improving prevention, surveillance, and diagnostic mechanisms, and seeking to ensure the effective implementation of the International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) within the framework of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC).

The AHFS Program directly contributes to:

- Strengthening plant health and response capacity to phytosanitary emergencies.
- Facilitating safe trade through the effective implementation of international standards.
- Promoting the modernization and digitalization of sanitary systems, including electronic certification.
- Advancing regional technical cooperation and coordination among National and Regional Plant Protection Organizations.

During the reporting period, the Americas have faced significant challenges associated with priority pests such as *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. cubense Tropical Race 4 (Foc TR4), Huanglongbing (HLB), and other emerging threats, requiring coordinated, evidence-based responses. In this context, IICA has consolidated its role as a hemispheric platform for technical coordination, facilitating regional dialogue, strengthening capacities, and supporting the implementation of international standards, among other actions.

This report presents the main actions undertaken, primarily in the area of plant health, highlighting the progress achieved and the strategic priorities guiding IICA's work toward CPM-20. For further information, AHFS Manager – IICA: jose.urdaz@iica.int

1. 1. Main actions in 2025 related to plant health.

1.1. In relation to strengthening and modernizing capacities in health, food safety and quality:

Updating characterization tools in plant health and safety

The AHFS Program of IICA prioritized the updating of the Performance, Vision and Strategy (PVS) tools in the areas of food safety and plant health as a strategic instrument to strengthen and modernize national sanitary systems. The previous versions of these instruments dated back to 2014; therefore, their revision responded to the need to incorporate new international standards, methodological advances, digitalization processes, and updated risk management approaches, among other improvements.



As part of this methodological update process, pilot implementations of the PVS instrument were developed and conducted in both the food safety and plant health domains in Ecuador, Panama, and Guatemala. In the specific cases of Guatemala and Panama, the application of the PVS for the NPPOs made it possible to validate the conceptual and methodological adjustments introduced in this new version, strengthen national technical capacities, and promote structured dialogue between the public and private sectors.

These exercises contributed not only to updating the institutional baselines of both NPPOs, but also to identifying gaps in phytosanitary surveillance, pest risk analysis, diagnostics, regulatory management, transparency, trade facilitation, and institutional sustainability. They also enabled the development of shared visions and the definition of strategic roadmaps aimed at continuous improvement, in alignment with IPPC standards and emerging challenges related to international trade.

The experience gained in Guatemala and Panama consolidates the PVS as a practical, participatory, and strategic tool for strengthening national phytosanitary systems. In this regard, IICA, through the SAIA Program, makes this updated version of the instrument available to the NPPOs of the Americas as an input to characterize performance, prioritize interventions, mobilize technical and financial cooperation, and advance toward more robust, transparent, resilient phytosanitary systems aligned with the sustainable agro-export development of the region. For further information: alejandra.diaz@iica.int; lourdes.fonalleras.consultor@iica.int; rodrigo.astete@iica.int

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Study of the Use and Implementation of Systems Approach in America.

As part of its strengthening and modernization actions, IICA conducted in 2025 the “Study on the Use and Implementation of Integrated Phytosanitary Measures under a Systems Approach for Pest Risk Management,” a hemispheric assessment of the status of implementation of the Systems Approach in the countries of the Americas. The purpose of this study was to generate and systematize information on the use and implementation of integrated phytosanitary measures within a Systems Approach framework for pest risk management in the countries of the region, based on the experience and perspectives of their National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs).

The initiative sought to identify, describe, and analyze how these systems are designed, negotiated, implemented, and monitored; to assess the available technical and institutional capacities; and to identify the main challenges and opportunities associated with their application. It also aimed to highlight national and regional experiences, contributing to a better understanding of this instrument as a science-based phytosanitary alternative oriented toward facilitating safe trade.

In this regard, the study is intended to provide evidence and applied knowledge to support decision-making, capacity building, and technical cooperation among countries, as well as the development of strategies to promote broader and more effective use of the Systems Approach in the region. This exercise provides a comparative hemispheric perspective and strengthens the region’s technical positioning in the international debate on the practical application of this instrument within the framework of the IPPC. An update on this work was presented at the Global Workshop held in Chile, and the full Study will be published during the first semester of 2026. For further information: lourdes.fonalleras.consultor@iica.int ; rodrigo.astete@iica.int

Global Systems Approach Workshop

The AHFS Program played a central role in the organization and delivery of the Global Workshop on the Systems Approach, held in Chile in December 2025 under the leadership of the Secretariat of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC). The workshop represented a global technical milestone, bringing together more than 120 participants from 65 countries, as well as representatives of Regional Plant Protection Organizations (RPPOs), with the objective of deepening technical



understanding and promoting the practical, consistent, and evidence-based application of the systems approach in the international trade of plant products.

The workshop was made possible through high-level interinstitutional coordination among the IPPC Secretariat, IICA, COSAVE, the Agricultural and Livestock Service (SAG) of Chile, FAO, and the governments of Australia and Canada.

Within this framework, IICA performed key strategic functions, including providing technical input to the design of the program and defining the substantive content of the workshop, ensuring its alignment with the IPPC regulatory framework and regional priorities, as well as identifying speakers and case studies, and supporting logistical and communications activities.

IICA also worked in close coordination with the Agricultural and Livestock Service (SAG) on the operational aspects of the event, ensuring its effective implementation. Through the **ISSB2 Project (FAS/USDA)**, the Institute facilitated the mobilization and participation of 37 representatives from 25 countries of the Americas, thereby strengthening hemispheric representation in the global discussion.

In addition, during the workshop, the Study on the Use and Implementation of Integrated Phytosanitary Measures under a Systems Approach for Pest Risk Management was presented, providing updated technical evidence to inform discussions and guide future capacity-building actions.

The Institute acted as a hemispheric platform for technical coordination, ensuring strong representation from the Americas and positioning the region as a reference in the practical application and implementation of the Systems Approach.

Technical Activities: The workshop combined normative sessions, analysis of ISPM 14, global case studies, risk-based practical exercises, and technical dialogue spaces. Twenty concrete experiences from different regions of the world were examined, demonstrating the applicability of the approach across multiple commodities and regulatory contexts.

A particularly valuable component was the field day organized by IICA, in coordination with SAG, COSAVE, and the Chilean fruit industry association “Frutas de Chile.” Participants observed firsthand the implementation of the systems approach in cherries destined for demanding markets such as Japan and Korea, where the Systems Approach enabled the replacement of traditional quarantine treatments such as methyl bromide.

This field experience demonstrated the technical effectiveness of the systems approach under real production and export conditions, as well as the robustness of the public–private collaboration model supporting its implementation in Chile. It also highlighted its positive impact in terms of competitiveness, sustainability, and cost reduction by enabling viable alternatives to traditional quarantine treatments. Furthermore, it demonstrated the feasibility of establishing international audit and validation mechanisms based on technical evidence and strong traceability. Overall, the demonstration component reinforced the credibility of the approach as a concrete, effective, and replicable operational tool, rather than merely a normative concept.

Main Results: The workshop confirmed that the Systems Approach constitutes a scientifically sound alternative to the application of single, high-impact quarantine measures, as it enables cumulative phytosanitary risk management throughout the entire production chain. Its implementation was also shown to facilitate safe trade by reducing unnecessary barriers, while simultaneously enhancing the competitiveness and sustainability of production systems.

However, significant global gaps were also identified, particularly regarding quantitative risk assessment, the need for greater operational clarity in the application of ISPM 14, the strengthening of technical capacities in some NPPOs to document and negotiate systems approach programs, and the consolidation of national pest management programs as a structural basis for effective implementation.



In this context, the study presented by IICA indicated that more than 65% of the countries in the Americas are aware of or apply the Systems Approach, demonstrating an adequate level of hemispheric progress. However, the analysis also highlighted the existence of technical and financial gaps that require targeted capacity-building actions to expand and consolidate its use across the region.

Conclusions from a Hemispheric Perspective: The Global Workshop reaffirmed that the Systems Approach is a strategic tool to modernize phytosanitary risk management, promote greater regulatory coherence among countries, facilitate safe trade within the framework of the IPPC, and reduce dependence on high-cost or environmentally impactful quarantine treatments.

IICA's active participation in both the organization and the definition of the workshop's technical content strengthened its position as a relevant actor in the international phytosanitary agenda and as an effective bridge between the IPPC Secretariat and the countries of the Americas. The experience further demonstrated that the region possesses technical capacities and practical experiences that can serve as references for other regions and countries, reinforcing IICA's role as a hemispheric platform for coordination, technical cooperation, and knowledge transfer in plant health.

Future Actions: Based on the outcomes of the workshop, IICA will publish the Study on the Use and Implementation of Integrated Phytosanitary Measures under a Systems Approach for Pest Risk Management, with the aim of consolidating and disseminating the technical evidence generated and strengthening hemispheric positioning in this area, thereby advancing cooperation with countries that so determine. In addition, a regional training program will be implemented to strengthen technical and management capacities, addressing the identified gaps, particularly in risk assessment (quantitative risk, residual risk, and appropriate level of protection), the design of independent and dependent measures, and the strengthening of technical documentation required to support negotiations and audits.

IICA will also promote the mobilization of international cooperation resources, including South–South and triangular cooperation schemes, to implement pilot projects and strengthen the capacities of NPPOs with less experience in applying the approach in the region. Complementary actions will include exploring the development of practical guidelines to support the operational implementation of ISPM 14, as well as specialized virtual modules to facilitate regional knowledge transfer.

The Global Workshop on the Systems Approach represented a substantive step forward in revitalizing the global application of ISPM 14 and reaffirmed the strategic value of the approach as a modern, science-based, and efficient tool for facilitating safe phytosanitary trade. IICA remains committed to continuing to lead hemispheric efforts to strengthen its implementation, promote greater regulatory coherence, and consolidate technical capacities for the benefit of the countries of the Americas. For further information: rodrigo.astete@iica.int ; lourdes.fonalleras.consultora@iica.int

Support for the Inter-American Coordination Group on Plant Health – GICSV.

IICA, through the AHFS Program, continues to serve as the Technical Secretariat of the Inter-American Coordination Group on Plant Health (GICSV), a mechanism that brings together the Regional Plant Protection Organizations (RPPOs) of the Americas to promote coordinated actions in response to priority pests and to strengthen hemispheric cooperation. Since March 2025, the presidency of the GICSV has been held by the Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency (CAHFS), reinforcing Caribbean leadership within the regional phytosanitary agenda.

Among the main activities carried out during the reporting period were high-level regional technical webinars, including the GICSV Webinar on Fruit Flies; the webinar entitled “Evolution of *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. Cubense Tropical Race 4 in Peru and Colombia and Innovation for Its Prevention and Management”; and the GICSV Webinar on Phytosanitary Emergencies. Collectively, these events convened more than 300 participants from various countries across the hemisphere. These platforms

facilitated the exchange of updated technical evidence, lessons learned, and innovative approaches to phytosanitary risk management.

In addition, GICSV has strengthened the systematic technical exchange of information regarding the regional status of priority pests such as Huanglongbing (HLB), *Tuta absoluta*, and *Fusarium oxysporum* TR4, as well as progress and challenges in the implementation of electronic certification (ePhyto) and other instruments related to the facilitation of safe trade. This exchange has contributed to enhancing regional coordination. For further information: <https://apps.iica.int/GICSV/programas/SanidadVegetal/default.aspx>

PROCINORTE. Cooperative Program in Agricultural Research and Technology.

Within the framework of the Cooperative Program for Agricultural Research and Technology for North America (ProciNorte), the Plant Health Group continued to strengthen trilateral cooperation among Canada, the United States, and Mexico, promoting scientific exchange, technological innovation, and technical coordination on strategic plant protection issues. <https://www.procinorte.net/estrategic/plant-health/>

In commemoration of the International Day of Plant Health, the webinar “Continuous Biovigilance to Protect the Health of Cultivated Plants” was organized, featuring three speakers, one from each member country, and bringing together 255 participants from 22 countries. This event provided a platform to share experiences on phytosanitary surveillance systems, monitoring tools, and preventive strategies to address emerging threats.

In addition, the annual workshop on “Technology and Its Applications for Plant Health: Advances, Challenges, and Opportunities in Research” was held through trilateral collaboration. The event brought together nine specialists and attracted 306 participants from 21 countries, consolidating its role as a relevant technical forum to analyze the potential of innovative technologies in the management of plant pests and diseases.

Furthermore, ProciNorte facilitated, through interpretation services and a hybrid format, the symposium “Nematodes in Motion: Building Resilience and Sustainability through International Collaboration,” which featured 15 speakers and was attended by 653 participants from 66 countries. For further information: rocio.campusano@iica.int

Technical Cooperation Agreement between IICA and COSAVE.

Within the framework of the Technical Cooperation Agreement between IICA and the Southern Cone Plant Health Committee (COSAVE), the 2025 Annual Operational Plan (AOP) is being implemented, aimed at institutional strengthening, process modernization, and the development of technical capacities in the region. The agreed actions respond to strategic priorities defined by the COSAVE Steering Committee, ensuring continuity with the progress achieved during the previous period.

In the area of capacity building, the consolidation of the Regional Virtual School on Phytosanitary Inspection (ERVIF) is noteworthy, through the updating of its structure, content, and sustainability mechanisms, followed by the launch of the first cohort after this revision. Progress was also made in the design and development of the Virtual Induction Course on COSAVE, currently operational, aimed at training technical staff on the nature, structure, functioning, and international engagement of the organization as an RPPO recognized under the framework of the IPPC, thereby ensuring institutional continuity and effective regional integration.

At the strategic and institutional level, support was provided to COSAVE’s modernization process, including the review of regulatory instruments. Technical and economic analyses of Regional and national Plans of importance to the region were also advanced, assessing their impact, identifying gaps, and proposing methodological improvements for future interventions, with the objective of strengthening evidence-based decision-making.



In the area of innovation and knowledge management, the AOP includes actions aimed at harmonizing criteria for bio-inputs and analyzing regional traceability requirements for plant products. Complementarily, the institutional communication program has been strengthened, including the development and forthcoming launch of a new COSAVE website designed to improve visibility, accessibility of technical information, and the organization's regional positioning, thereby consolidating a comprehensive technical cooperation agenda between IICA and COSAVE. For further information: rodrigo.astete@iica.int

Promote the implementation of international standards for equivalence agreements in sanitary and phytosanitary measures

During 2025, actions continued to strengthen the capacities of Latin American countries to understand and implement equivalence agreements in sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures, in line with the provisions of the WTO SPS Agreement. This initiative forms part of a broader regional regulatory convergence strategy, aimed at facilitating safe trade and enhancing intraregional agrifood integration, which IICA has been promoting for several years in collaboration with the Latin American Integration Association (ALADI).

In this context, the Second Regional Workshop on Equivalence of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures was held, with the participation of more than 140 representatives from 13 countries, including sanitary, phytosanitary, and food safety authorities. The workshop provided an opportunity to analyze the results of a regional survey on the implementation of equivalence agreements within the WTO framework, identifying technical, regulatory, and institutional strengths and limitations, and prioritizing areas for capacity-building efforts.

Progress was also made in the technical validation of a product developed by IICA, the "Guide for the Adoption of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Equivalence Agreements within the WTO Framework," conceived as a practical tool to support countries in the design, negotiation, and implementation of such agreements. The Guide also includes case studies and concrete experiences, primarily in the phytosanitary field, some of which were presented during the Workshop, thereby enriching the discussions and strengthening both the technical rigor of the instrument and its regional applicability.

In 2026, the official publication of the Guide is planned, along with the development of a regional action plan aimed at addressing the gaps identified in participating countries through targeted training programs and technical assistance. These actions seek to consolidate institutional capacities, promote greater regulatory transparency and predictability, and advance toward a more effective implementation of equivalence agreements in Latin America, thereby contributing to the objectives of the IPPC and strengthening safe trade in the region. For further information: lourdes.fonalleras.consultora@iica.int ; rodrigo.astete@iica.int

Strengthening the Food Safety System in the Caribbean Region.

Within the framework of the Canada/IICA Agriculture and Agri-Food Project on Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) for pesticides, regional actions were implemented to strengthen chemical risk management and compliance with international standards in the Caribbean. A study was conducted in six countries (Belize, Dominica, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Suriname) to identify challenges and propose solutions related to compliance with MRLs in agricultural marketing and trade. The findings are being presented to pesticide control boards and other key stakeholders in the management chain, contributing to evidence-based decision-making and regional regulatory harmonization.

Complementarily, a capacity-building workshop was delivered in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines for more than 40 producers and extension officers, focusing on pesticide management, MRLs, and



Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in taro production and export. In addition, knowledge products were developed—including four technical briefs and one brochure—addressing the management and impact of MRLs and IPM. These materials were prepared in coordination with the Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency (CAHFSA) and the University of the West Indies (UWI), thereby strengthening the regional technical foundation for safe trade and compliance with international requirements. For further information: janet.lawrence@iica.int

Strengthening national phytosanitary systems

Within the framework of the Hemispheric Program on Agricultural Health, Food Safety and Quality (AHFS), IICA continued throughout 2025 to support the structural strengthening of national phytosanitary systems. The actions implemented were aimed at consolidating technical capacities, modernizing surveillance and diagnostic processes, strengthening emergency preparedness, and promoting regional and international coordination.

Ecuador: In coordination with Agrocalidad and regional partners, IICA supported the strengthening of biosecurity measures against *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. cubense Tropical Race 4 (Foc TR4) and other priority threats. Workshops were conducted under the Farmer Field School (FFS) methodology targeting banana producers, including focused actions in areas near potential outbreak zones. Technical South–South cooperation exchanges were promoted with SAG Chile, along with regional coordination within the framework of the ALER4TA Project (GIZ–CAN). Following the official declaration of a phytosanitary emergency due to Foc TR4, IICA’s technical assistance contributed to strengthening response capacities, institutional coordination, and sectoral awareness. For further information: lorena.medina@iica.int

Colombia: IICA supported the structuring and initial implementation of the National Surveillance and Monitoring Program on Antimicrobial Resistance in the Agrifood Sector, developed in coordination with INVIMA, the National Institute of Health (INS), ICA, and AGROSAVIA, under the leadership of the Ministries of Health and Agriculture, with technical support from The Ohio State University. The program, to be implemented in three monitoring cycles, will identify critical points for the generation and dissemination of resistant bacteria in food and establish a national baseline on antimicrobial resistance, with emphasis on Salmonella, thereby strengthening evidence-based decision-making and public health protection.

Technical support was also provided to strengthen phytosanitary risk management capacities in solanaceous crops in Colombia and other Andean and Central American countries. Interinstitutional technical working groups were consolidated, integrating phytosanitary authorities, research institutes, sectoral ministries, and producer associations, promoting public–private partnerships and a coordinated regional response. As a result, a proposal was submitted to the WTO/STDF to implement a strategy aimed at managing the risk of emerging pests such as Purple Top and Zebra Chip, with the objective of improving good practices in sanitary and phytosanitary measures and facilitating international trade in prioritized solanaceous crops. For further information: guiovanni.zambrano@iica.int

Bolivia: IICA strengthened the national plant health system through sustained technical support to SENASAG, aimed at improving phytosanitary risk management, compliance with international standards, and the competitiveness of strategic export products. Within the framework of STDF Project 753, support was provided to mitigate pesticide residues in bananas through the promotion of biopesticides and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices. This included a technical mission to validate field trials, strengthen capacities in calibration, sampling, and quality control, and ensure analytical robustness through the submission of samples to an international reference laboratory. These actions directly contribute to compliance with Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) required by international markets.



Additionally, IICA supported the implementation of a national risk-based residue monitoring program, with specialized technical assistance in quantitative risk assessment and surveillance aligned with international standards. The country's participation in hemispheric training spaces under the AHFS Program was promoted, including the regional mapping of initiatives on *Fusarium oxysporum* TR4 and the application of the regional survey on ISPM 14, thereby strengthening regional coordination and regulatory alignment of Bolivia's phytosanitary system. For further information: fernando.aramayo@iica.int

Barbados: From a phytosanitary perspective, actions implemented in Barbados contributed to the progressive strengthening of capacities in pest prevention and integrated management at both community and technical levels. The home gardens initiative increased production in 70 households, promoting basic plant health practices and greater awareness of crop protection. The Youth Agricultural Certification Program strengthened technical competencies in crop production, while the workshop on Integrated Pest Management and nutrition in papaya, conducted in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture, improved production practices and preventive approaches among 23 participants.

These actions are framed within a regional risk-based management logic promoted by IICA, consistent with initiatives such as STDF/PG/577 on cadmium in cocoa, which underscores the importance of technical standardization, scientific risk assessment, and compliance with international standards to protect agricultural competitiveness and market access. For further information: elizabeth.johnson@iica.int

Jamaica: IICA supported the strengthening of clean planting material production systems for sweet potato within the NexGenSP project, implemented with FAO, the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, and CARDI. Actions included baseline surveys, soil sampling, and technical training in clean seed systems, as well as strengthening biological control of the weevil through the isolation of entomopathogenic fungi and the training of 77 technicians. In addition, 52 technicians were trained in propagation techniques and the adoption of Digital Object Identifiers, improving traceability and digital management of plant genetic resources.

These interventions strengthened technical and institutional capacities, promoted regional protocols for the safe movement of plant material within CARICOM, and contributed to improving the sanitary quality of propagative material, production resilience, and compliance with international standards. For further information: shauna.brandon@iica.int

Saint Kitts and Nevis: Support was provided to actions aimed at reinforcing national preparedness against *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *cubense* Tropical Race 4 (TR4), including the evaluation of the tolerant Cavendish Formosana variety, whose results demonstrated agronomic acceptability and commercial potential. Regional coordination was strengthened through participation in GICSV working groups and the IPPC Global Workshop on the Systems Approach, consolidating risk-based management capacities.

Digital diagnostic workshops in plant health were conducted, enhancing early detection and the virtual diagnostic capacity of the national system. These actions, implemented in coordination with CPHD, the Ministry of Agriculture, and other regional partners, contribute to strengthening preparedness against transboundary pests and consolidating a more resilient phytosanitary system aligned with international standards. For further information: janet.lawrence@iica.int

Trinidad and Tobago: IICA supported the strengthening of the national plant health system through actions focused on sustainable nematode management, improved early detection, and the development of adaptive policy frameworks. Technical updating of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries was promoted through participation in international forums related to biodiversity and biosecurity, as well as in PROCINORTE seminars on biovigilance and emerging technologies, strengthening scientific exchange with North American partners.

Progress was also made in the formulation of proposals for the registration of minor-use pesticides, in coordination with IICA's AHFS Program and the Minor Use Foundation. Field trials with biopesticides in pepper and cocoa demonstrated disease reduction and improved crop protection. These actions, carried out with national and regional institutions, contribute to modernizing phytosanitary management, promoting sustainable solutions, and strengthening the technical basis for safe trade. For further information: janet.lawrence@iica.int

Venezuela: IICA facilitated high-level technical platforms for scientific exchange on genetic improvement and management of Fusarium TR4 in musaceous crops, in coordination with CATIE, AGROSAVIA, and the Global Alliance against TR4. These actions strengthened national capacities and promoted regional coordination in response to this strategic threat.

Initiatives were also promoted to integrate risk management, good agricultural practices, and bioeconomy approaches in coffee and cocoa value chains, including the formulation of proposals to international funding mechanisms to strengthen climate resilience and production sustainability. For further information: yanira.vasquez@iica.int

Mexico: Within the framework of IICA–SENASICA agreements, the strengthening of the national phytosanitary system was consolidated through the implementation of operational programs in pest diagnosis and control. The Diagnostic Operational Program exceeded annual targets for phytosanitary testing, improving early detection capacity. The Fruit Fly Program reinforced surveillance and eradication of *Ceratitis capitata* and *Anastrepha sp.*, including the mass production of sterile insects and parasitoids under international standards.

Strategic support was also provided in planning, risk management, and institutional strengthening, contributing to the protection of agrifood trade and the modernization of the system. For further information: rocio.campusano@iica.int

Argentina: IICA supported SENASA under the Institutional Strengthening Agreement aimed at modernizing its Regional Center Directorates, contributing to the strengthening of the national phytosanitary system through process digitalization, the incorporation of artificial intelligence, and the strategic use of data science. The project promoted technological integration in critical inspection, control, and risk analysis processes, modernization of regulatory access through automated natural language tools, and strengthening of internal capacities, including support to key laboratory processes. For further information: tomas.krotsch@iica.int

Paraguay: Efforts were undertaken to strengthen the national phytosanitary system through coordinated actions with SENAIVE aimed at improving technical capacities, preventing priority pests, and promoting good agricultural practices. Within projects financed by the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) and partnerships with the private sector (CAFYF and CropLife Latin America), training activities were conducted on pest management and control, organic production, and responsible use of inputs, benefiting technicians, producers, and students in various departments of the country, particularly in medicinal herb production.

In parallel, the SENAIVE–IICA agreement advanced strategic lines of action to reduce the incidence of relevant pests and prevent the introduction of threats such as Foc TR4 and *Trogoderma granarium*, thereby reinforcing food security, production sustainability, and the country's integration into international trade. For further information: jose.arrua@iica.int

1.2. Promote the effective implementation of international standards.

- **Supported the organization of the IPPC regional workshops for the Caribbean and Latin America regions (2025).**



Within the framework of its cooperation with the IPPC Secretariat, FAO, and the Regional Plant Protection Organizations (CAHFSA, CAN, COSAVE, and OIRSA), IICA provided technical and organizational support for the planning and implementation of the IPPC Regional Workshops for the Caribbean and Latin America. These workshops aim to strengthen countries' participation in international standard-setting processes and to promote the effective implementation of the International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs), in alignment with the framework of the Convention.

The Caribbean Regional Workshop provided a platform to deepen NPPO engagement in IPPC standard-setting processes, with the participation of more than 20 representatives from 13 countries. The workshop was held in Trinidad and Tobago, in conjunction with the 18th Meeting of the Caribbean Plant Health Directors Forum. The meeting enabled the sharing of updated information on international and regional decisions and recommendations related to phytosanitary priorities, as well as the review of proposed ISPMs.

The Latin American Regional Workshop, held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, brought together more than 40 plant health professionals from 16 countries and five regional and international organizations. The event facilitated technical exchange on the standard-setting process, the analysis of regional priorities, and coordination between NPPOs and RPPOs, contributing to a more coordinated and strategic regional participation in the IPPC normative agenda.

These actions reaffirm IICA's role as a hemispheric platform for technical coordination and support to international phytosanitary governance. For further information: janet.laurence@iica.int; rodrigo.astete@iica.int

Within the framework of the International Day of Plant Health, IICA participated in the regional celebration held in San Salvador, El Salvador, organized by OIRSA with the participation of the IPPC Secretariat, FAO, and representatives of various NPPOs from the region. The event constituted a high-level platform to highlight the strategic importance of plant health for food security, the protection of natural resources, and safe trade, reinforcing the region's commitment to the implementation of ISPMs and the strengthening of national phytosanitary systems. For further information: rodrigo.astete@iica.int

1.3. Regarding improving the response to emergency situations:

- ***Fusarium oxysporum* R4T**

Support for the FOC R4T Working Group of the GICSV

As a forum for analysis and coordination among the Regional Plant Protection Organizations (RPPOs) of the Americas, aimed at coordinating actions, addressing, and disseminating the most relevant issues in order to advance a hemispheric strategy. <http://apps.iica.int/GICSV/default.aspx>

Support for the Global Alliance against R4T

The efforts of the Global Alliance against TR4 focus on prevention and capacity building, genetic improvement, and control methods. For further information on the Global Alliance against Foc TR4, please visit: <https://iica.int/es/global-alliance>

IICA Network on Musaceae - *Fusarium oxysporum* Tropical Race 4 (Foc R4T)

Established with the objective of contributing to knowledge management and the development of joint, coordinated, and synergistic actions, supporting Member States' efforts to address *Fusarium oxysporum* Tropical Race 4 (Foc TR4) in musaceous crops. For further information: erika.soto@iica.int

Actions taken - *Fusarium oxysporum* Tropical Race 4 (Foc R4T)

Within the framework of the IICA Musaceae–Foc TR4 Network, the Inter-American Coordination Group on Plant Health (GICSV), and the Global Alliance against Foc TR4, outreach and capacity-building actions were implemented to strengthen regional preparedness against this quarantine pest.

Noteworthy among these initiatives was the organization of technical webinars by GICSV, including “Evolution of *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *cubense* Tropical Race 4 in Peru and Colombia and Innovation for Its Prevention and Management,” which brought together RPPOs, NPPOs, and technical institutions to share updated information on the epidemiological situation and innovative management strategies.

In addition, the videoconference “Foc TR4: Exchange of Experiences for the Prevention, Containment, and Sustainability of Banana Trade,” promoted by the Global Alliance and IICA’s Musaceae Network, facilitated the exchange of good practices in biosecurity, genetic improvement, and trade sustainability, integrating phytosanitary authorities, the private sector, and the banana industry.

These actions contribute to strengthening technical capacities, harmonizing prevention approaches, and consolidating a coordinated regional response to safeguard musaceous production and trade in the Americas.