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y la
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COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

Third Session

Rome, 7 – 11 April 2008

Report from IICA

Agenda Item 7.5 of the Provisional Agenda

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**Report on the activities of the Inter-American Institute
for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)**

Third Session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures

IICA wishes to share with the Committee on Phytosanitary Measures and the representatives of the plant health services of the Member Countries some of plant health activities carried out over the last year.

1. Development of the Capacity of Government Services

1.1 In Brazil, based on the application and dissemination of the Performance, Vision and Strategy (PVS) tool among national plant protection organizations, a joint effort got under way with the public and private sectors on the projection of IICA cooperation in the State of Rio Grande do Sul. A similar activity was organized in Argentina to disseminate information about the PVS initiative among the public and private sectors.

1.2 In Paraguay, IICA supported the implementation of the 2007 Planning Workshop of the National Quality and Plant Health Service (SENAVE). The Institute also collaborated in the preparation of the proposal for restructuring SENAVE, manuals on functions and procedures and the plan to certify the Department of Concepcion as an area free from *Anastrepha grandis*.

1.3 Under the cooperation agreement between IICA and Chile's Agricultural and Livestock Service, two workshop-seminars were held in Asuncion and San Lorenzo to train SENAVE officials (one of the activities focused on surveillance and plant quarantine and the other on food safety).

2. Development of Institutional Capacities in the area of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standards (SPS)

2.1 IICA continues to implement the Initiative for the countries of the Americas in SPS. This forty-first meeting of the WTO/SPS Committee is the seventeenth consecutive time that the Initiative has supported countries in the Americas that are members of IICA. Seventeen meetings constitute 41% of the meetings held by this committee to date.

Altogether, the Initiative for the Americas has facilitated the participation of 223 capital-based experts from 32 countries since October 2002. This has made it possible to strengthen existing institutional frameworks or create new ones, thus promoting the development or strengthening of an international agenda in the countries and articulating the work of the WTO/SPS Committee with the work of the Three Sisters.

2.2 Training in SPS:

IICA handled the logistical aspects of the national SPS workshops that the WTO held in Costa Rica and Belize in January and March 2008. In the Caribbean, work has been ongoing for several years to establish national agricultural health and food safety committees in the region, and this effort continued. In Jamaica, to comply with the guidelines established in the SPS Agreement and the IPPC, IICA assisted the Ministry of Agriculture in updating plant quarantine regulations.

3. Support for the Dissemination of Information

3.1 IICA has various bulletins and communication systems that promote the sharing of information about SPS and the work carried out at the WTO, the international standard-setting organizations and the regional organizations.

3.2 The Codex SPS e-news bulletin *Foro de Opinión* specializes in the issues addressed by Codex Alimentarius and the WTO/SPS Committee. The bulletin disseminates and analyzes standards and events and is intended to increase communication and the study of these topics. It is mainly distributed among the South American countries but is available to all members at www.iica.org.ar.

3.3 The AGROSALUD information system distributes information related to agricultural health and food safety and its lines of action include the WTO's standards and actions carried out by that body and the international standard-setting organizations.

3.4 The AGROSALUD platform will soon include the "Observatory of Emerging Issues and Emergencies," a communication and information tool for both the public and private sectors intended to provide users with the latest news about issues related to animal and plant health and food safety that could impact economic well-being and public health in the hemisphere, either positively or negatively. Information about such developments will be taken from official sources, to ensure the data is transparent and harmonized. It will be supported with press releases and documents from the same sources.

4. Specific activities

4.1 Andean Region

Sponsored by the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation (AECI) and Spain's Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAPA), an international workshop was held entitled Good Agricultural Practices, and IICA's Regional Specialist supported the activity. Following the successful results achieved by the Binational Chile-Peru Agreement for the Eradication of the Fruit Fly in Southern Peru, experts from Chile's SAG will be visiting the countries of the region to identify what they really need to do to strengthen national fruit fly programs.

In Peru, thanks to the actions carried out under the Binational Chile-Peru/IICA Agreement for the Eradication of the Fruit Fly, in December 2007 Tacna and Moquegua were declared free of the pest.

In Bolivia, in the area of agricultural pest control and eradication, IICA assisted SENASAG in preparing projects aimed at strengthening the systems that affect national agricultural production, the National Fruit Fly Control Program (PROMOSCA) and the National Program for Integrated Pest Management in Potato Growing (MIP-PAPA) - PHASE II.

In Colombia, the Center for Plant Health Excellence, a joint USAID-APHIS-ICA-IICA project, implemented activities related to pest risk assessments (PRAs) and the standardization of quarantine treatment, some in support of the national government service and others designed to meet the commitments assumed with Colombia's private sector and other countries like El Salvador and Ecuador.

In Ecuador, IICA organized a Workshop on the Mitigation of Plant Health Risks and the Establishment of Quarantine Plans, for representatives of both the public and private sectors. Experts from Argentina collaborated and the IICA Offices in Ecuador and Argentina helped coordinate the preparations.

In Venezuela, the Institute and SASA coordinated a training and capacity building event on plant health quarantine and surveillance, with the assistance of experts from Argentina and the support of the IICA Office in Argentina.

4.2 Caribbean Region:

In Barbados, a workshop on Good Agricultural Practices was held in collaboration with the EU Caribbean Regional Sustainable Tourism Development Programme (CRSTDP). The workshop was targeted at producers who supply the tourism industry. Similar workshops will be held in other parts of the region throughout 2008.

IICA and several other agencies prepared the project document "Mitigating the threat of invasive species in the Insular Caribbean."

In collaboration with USDA/APHIS, a regional workshop on plant quarantine was held for inspectors, plus a workshop on the identification of insects and cottony cushion scale in the Caribbean.

4.3 Central Region:

IICA helped the Central American Agricultural Council (CAC) formulate the agricultural health and food safety aspects of the Central American Agricultural Policy (PACA). The PACA includes a series of policy measures to address plant health issues.

An International Traceability Seminar was held 22-23 May in Costa Rica. IICA organized the activity in collaboration with the IICA/ILRI-CFC Project, the CAC-Taiwan Project and the

Regional International Organization for Plant Protection and Animal Health (OIRSA). Delegates from the countries of the Central Region, Mexico and the Dominican Republic took part. During the event, a specific module was implemented on traceability in fruits.

IICA helped draft a proposal for the Regional Public Good for Fruit-growing in Central America Project - BPR/IDB Program to improve the competitiveness of fruit-growing in Central America, which has a plant health and safety component.

4.4 Southern Region

In Chile, under the IICA-SAG-ASOEX Cooperation Agreement, the genome of the Fruit Fly was updated.

In Argentina, IICA took part in the meeting of COSAVE's Steering Committee, where it was agreed that assistance would be provided with the following: transfer of the Presidency of COSAVE to Paraguay; IICA technical cooperation for COSAVE; the situation of the Inter-American Plant Health Group (GICSVE); and the implementation of the Regional Project to Control or Eradicate the Cotton Boll Weevil. Under the SENASA/IICA agreement, training workshops were held at the local level on topics related to multilateral agreements (WTO/SPS), international standards and their impact on trade in food and Good Agricultural Practices.

Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)

Directorate of Agricultural Health and Food Safety

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