



منظمة الأغذية  
والزراعة  
للأمم المتحدة

联合国  
粮食及  
农业组织

Food  
and  
Agriculture  
Organization  
of  
the  
United  
Nations

Organisation  
des  
Nations  
Unies  
pour  
l'alimentation  
et  
l'agriculture

Продовольственная и  
сельскохозяйственная  
организация  
Объединенных  
Наций

Organización  
de las  
Naciones  
Unidas  
para la  
Agricultura  
y la  
Alimentación

## COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

### Fifth Session

Rome, 22-26 March 2010

**Report of other observer organizations (written only)  
by Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)  
Prepared by IICA**

**Agenda Item 8.6 of the Provisional Agenda**



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

### **Fifth Session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures**

IICA wishes to inform the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures and the representatives of the plant health services of the Member Countries about some of the plant health activities carried out over the past year.

-----

#### **TRAINING IN INSPECTION AND PLANT HEALTH RISK PROFILES**

1. Under the IICA/STDF Project 108, a methodology was developed for preparing “phytosanitary hazard profiles” for border posts. The methodology has two basic objectives: a) to equip border officials with a technical tool to help them make phytosanitary and commercial decisions quickly when they have little information to go on; and, b) to provide an easy-to-use methodology to facilitate trade at border and inspection posts.
2. The dissemination and training process was carried out by means of two regional workshops that encompassed nine countries - five in the Southern Region (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay) and four in the Andean Region (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru). Altogether, nearly 100 technical staff were trained. They will serve as trainers in their respective countries.
3. The workshop for the Southern Region countries took place in Asunción, Paraguay, in November 2009. It was organized by Paraguay’s National Service for Quality and Plant and Seed Health (SENAVE), the Southern Cone Plant Health Committee (COSAVE) and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA).
4. The workshop for the Andean countries was held in Lima, Peru in February. Peru’s National Agricultural Health service – SENASA - collaborated in the activity.
5. As follow-up to the aforementioned workshops, another one is being prepared for Ecuador. The aim is to increase the cascade effect of this initiative in more Andean, Caribbean and Central Region countries.
6. The *Manual de Perfiles de Peligros Fitosanitarios* is available at [www.iica.int](http://www.iica.int). An English version will be available in April 2010.

#### **TRAINING IN GOOD PRACTICES FOR PARTICIPATING IN INTERNATIONAL FORUMS ON SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY STANDARDS**



1. Also under the IICA-STDF Project 108, manuals were developed on good practices for participating in the meetings of Codex Alimentarius committees, the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the committees of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC). Spanish and English versions of the Manual on Good Practices for Participating in Meetings of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) are available for download from [www.iica.int](http://www.iica.int). The manual for Codex Alimentarius is also available, while the one related to the SPS Committee will be published in April 2010.

The manuals provide guidance for inexperienced delegates on what they need to do before, during and after international meetings in which they represent their respective countries.

2. Courses on good practices for participating in meetings of Codex Alimentarius committees, the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the committees of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) will be taking place in every region of the Americas during April and May 2010.

## **SOUTHERN REGION**

### **❖ Regional-level activities**

- IICA's regional activities related to plant health protection in the Southern Region are carried out under the Technical Cooperation Agreement signed with the ministries of agriculture of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay to strengthen COSAVE's actions in the region.

- The objective of the agreement is to strengthen and consolidate the operation of COSAVE, particularly with regard to projects and activities involving plant health and the safety of foods of plant origin, in order to facilitate the production of, and international trade in, agrifood and forest products. The agreement is also intended to strengthen regional integration, and, in general, the implementation of integrated actions aimed at resolving agro-biosafety issues of interest to COSAVE's member countries.

In 2009, IICA carried out the following actions under the agreement:

- Support for COSAVE's modernization and institution building efforts, contributing to an analysis aimed at determining the best site for the organization's headquarters and the COSAVE Secretariat, with a new operational logistics concept. The Institute also supported the implementation of a study to evaluate the work of COSAVE.
- Technical assistance for a preliminary assessment of the operation of a Regional Risk Analysis Center. All the countries of the region took part in this virtual activity.
- An interactive learning workshop on plant health inspection and risk profiles. Organized by IICA, Paraguay's SENAVE and COSAVE, with resources from the IICA-STDF 108 Project and COSAVE, and with the collaboration of



USDA/APHIS-IS. Some 42 inspectors from the region's national plant health agencies received training.

- Assistance with the management of meetings of the Steering Committee and working groups, and other committee activities.

In 2010, IICA has been working on the definition of the IICA-COSAVE 2010 Annual Operating Plan (AOP). The topics identified include aspects of phytosanitary surveillance, good agricultural practices, pest risk assessment, plant health control and institutional issues.

#### ❖ **National-level activities**

- In Paraguay, IICA and USDA/APHIS-IS are supporting the implementation of a fruit fly control project in certain regions of the country.
- In Uruguay, the Institute applied its *Performance, Vision and Strategy Tool (PVS) for National Plant Health Protection Organizations* and identified actions aimed at strengthening the agencies in question.

### **ANDEAN REGION**

#### ❖ **Regional-level activities**

- As part of the activities with the Secretariat of the Andean Community of Nations (CAN), a framework agreement was signed specifying three areas of cooperation and mutual development: rural development, food security and agricultural health and food safety.
- In the area of agricultural health and food safety, the parties identified the need to strengthen the Technical Committee on Agricultural Health (COTASA), specifically in the area of plant health protection, including actions to bolster the Regional Fruit Fly Program.

#### ❖ **National-level activities**

- In Ecuador, as part of the efforts to strengthen the Agricultural Health Service (AGROCALIDAD), cooperation activities were carried out related to the following topics:
  - Updating of the Plant Health Bill to include a chapter on pesticides
  - Manuals detailing the procedures for the surveillance of broccoli, Gypsophila and uvilla
  - Seed regulations and manuals with the procedures for the propagation control sub-process, inspection, plant health control and marketing of seeds and planting material; registration of companies that process, produce and market seeds and planting material.
  - National Fruit Fly Program
  - Manual of Procedures for the Plant Health Laboratory
  - Guide for monitoring of the fruit fly, description and records



- Manual of procedures for the authorization of trade fairs and shows involving plants, plant-based products and regulated items
  - Validation of manual on plant health inspection of imported wooden packaging
  - Manual on plant health inspection of wooden packaging used for exports
- In Venezuela, the following activities were carried out under the Red Weevil Identification Project (*Rhynchophorus ferrugineus*):
- Technical meetings of expert entomologists of the Central University of Venezuela with ACUPALMA (Association of African Palm Producers of Venezuela)
  - Establishment of an action plan involving the university, ACUPALMA, IICA and APHIS
  - Establishment of strategies for trapping and monitoring the pest
- In Bolivia, the following activities were carried out as part of the institution building efforts of the National Agricultural Health and Food Safety Service (SENASAG):
- In partnership with SENASAG and the Association of Agricultural Input Suppliers (APIA), IICA held nine courses - one in each departmental capital - to train 300 professionals linked to the National Agricultural Health and Food Safety System. The courses focused on aspects of the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement) and how they relate to plant protection and pesticides (their distribution and correct use under the agreements of Rotterdam, Stockholm and Basel, and the FAO Code of Conduct).
  - In coordination with IICA/Mexico and USDA/APHIS, support was provided to enable an entomologist from the National Fruit Fly Control Program (PROMOSCA) to take part in the XIX International Fruit Fly Course (XIX CIMF).
- In Colombia, under the agreement with the Colombian Agricultural Institute (ICA) and in collaboration with the USDA/APHIS, IICA is contributing to basic research on quarantine pests, with a view to developing technical capabilities and strengthening the government agricultural health service.

## **CARIBBEAN REGION**

### **❖ Regional-level activities**

- A regional meeting of the Working Group on Palm Pests took place in Trinidad and Tobago. The Caribbean Forum of Plant Health Directors set up the group. The meeting involved 21 people from nine countries (Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Guyana, Grenada, Cayman Islands, Dominican Republic, Barbados, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago) and six agencies (IICA, CARDI, USDA/APHIS, FAO, CABI International and the CARICOM Secretariat). The meeting addressed the following issues:



- The status of the Palm Pest Complex
  - Discussion of the draft of generic terms prepared by the working group on the Palm Pest Complex
  - Strategy for managing palm health in the region
- The second annual meeting of Caribbean Directors of Plant Health was held 4-5 March 2009 at the CARICOM Secretariat in Guyana. In total, 19 countries were represented. Representatives of the CARIFORUM Member States took part, as well as representatives of the Association of States of Anguilla and the Cayman Islands. Representatives of Martinique, Guadeloupe, Aruba and Turks and Caicos also attended the event. The agencies present included CABI, CARDI, CIRAD, FAO, IICA, USDA/APHIS and the CARICOM Secretariat. A result of joint work by the CARICOM Secretariat, USDA/APHIS, IICA, FAO and CIRAD, the meeting was organized to meet the need for a regional forum of plant health directors.

#### ❖ National-level activities

- The *Performance, Vision and Strategy (PVS) Tool for National Plant Health Protection Organizations* was applied in Bahamas. In addition, Bahamas received technical assistance with the development of a manual on good agricultural practices (GAPs), which was validated on a farm in Abaco.
- IICA, in collaboration with USDA-APHIS, FAVACA (Florida Association for Volunteer Action in the Caribbean and the Americas), the University of St. George, and the Ministry of Agriculture of Grenada, a regional training activity on identification was carried out, to make it possible to determine the economic importance of Coleoptera pests. A total of 21 people from 13 countries in the region took part in the work. FAVACA experts were in charge of the training.
- IICA participated in the First International Meeting of the Steering Committee and the First Regional Meeting for the development of a Caribbean strategy on invasive exotic species, formalizing implementation of the UNEP/GEF project, “Mitigating the Threats of Invasive Alien Species in the Insular Caribbean.”

### CENTRAL REGION

#### ❖ Regional-level activities

- IICA contributed to the implementation of animal and plant health policy actions within the framework of the Central American Agricultural Policy (PACA):
- IICA, the Secretariat of the Central American Agricultural Council (ES-CAC) and the Central American Secretariat for Economic Integration (SIECA), joined forces to establish and implement an agenda addressing health and food safety issues under the *PACA: 2009-2010 Plan of Regional Actions for the Agricultural Health and Food Safety Area (SCAC - IICA - SIECA)*.

Main results of the plan related to plant health:



a) Modernization of quarantine outposts:

- Support for the countries in developing harmonized procedures for quarantine outposts: i) the UAC's SPS subgroup for the review of procedures held a videoconference; ii) IICA provided a model procedure, based on the ISO standard, for the preparation and review of proposals by the countries; and, iii) a regional workshop was held to review the procedures. The process is ongoing.
- The technical and managerial capabilities of the inspectors of the quarantine outposts of the UAC countries were strengthened by means of a regional workshop entitled *Strengthening the Technical Capabilities of the Inspectors of Quarantine Outposts of the Central American Customs Union*. Moreover, a *Program to Share Experiences on Border Facilities for the Sanitary Control of Goods in the European Community* was designed, for implementation at border posts in Spain in 2010, as a training experience, with support from the ADAPCCA Project.

b) Strengthening the use of risk analysis by countries in the region:

- Progress was made with the design of a Regional Training Program on Plant Pest Risk Analysis, to be implemented in 2010. This work is ongoing.
- IICA assisted PROMECAFE (Regional Cooperative Program for the Technological Development and Modernization of Coffee Cultivation in Central America, Panama, the Dominican Republic and Jamaica) with the preparation of a proposed guide to good agricultural practices (GAPs) for farms with denomination of origin (DO) and geographical indication (GI). This work is ongoing.

❖ **National-level activities**

- IICA helped strengthen Panama's institutional capabilities for broadening implementation of the WTO SPS agreement and promoting active participation in the WTO's Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Committee).
- In Honduras, IICA supported the management of the National SPS Committee by operating its Technical Secretariat.
- In Panama, IICA contributed to the presentation of the national SPS agenda and the analysis of the main challenges facing Panama in the SPS field, implementing workshops with the SPS Committee. It also shared information and details of successful national coordination initiatives related to sanitary and phytosanitary standards as inputs for institution building in Panama, and to encourage participants to make better use of international forums.

**NORTHERN REGION**

❖ **Regional-level activities**



- IICA signed a technical cooperation agreement with the North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO), the regional plant protection agency comprising Canada, Mexico and the United States.