



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION

IX INTER-AMERICAN MEETING, AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL, ON
FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE AND ZONOSSES CONTROL

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

CARACAS, VENEZUELA, 5-8 APRIL 1976

SOUTH AMERICAN COMMISSION FOR THE CONTROL OF
FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE

THIRD REGULAR MEETING

FINAL REPORT

(SUMMARY)

Caracas, Venezuela
1-2 April 1976

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SOUTH AMERICAN COMMISSION FOR THE CONTROL OF
FOOT-AND MOUTH DISEASE

III REGULAR MEETING

FINAL REPORT

(SUMMARY)

The Third Regular Meeting of the South American Commission for the Control of Foot-and Mouth Disease was held in Caracas on 1 and 2 April 1976, and dealt with the attached agenda (Annex I).

Delegations from Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, El Salvador, Paraguay, Uruguay and Venezuela attended the meeting, as well as observers for the Bahamas, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Surinam, the United States of America, the Inter-American Development Bank, the International Office of Epizootics and the Pan American Health Organization. The complete list of participants is attached (Annex II).

The first session was held at 9:00 a.m. on 1 April. Dr. Francisco A. Diamond, Director General of Livestock Development in the Ministry of Agriculture of Venezuela, opened the meeting, welcome the participants and expressing the hope that there would be a free interchange of views and experience leading to recommendations that would prove useful in combating vesicular diseases in the Hemisphere.

Under article 5, 3 of the statutes of COSALFA, the chairmanship of the meeting fell to Colombia; but the Delegate of Colombia, Dr. Jaime Estupiñán, proposed that the Chairman be a representative of the host country; and by unanimous approbation Dr. Humberto Olmos Colmenares, Director of Animal Health, Venezuela, took the Chair.

Dr. Roberto Goic, Secretary ex officio, then reported on the activities of COSALFA since the Second Special Meeting. He pointed out that the country reports had been received after the deadline fixed, and none had yet come in from Argentina and Bolivia. The consolidated final report would therefore be prepared once all the requisite documentation was to hand. Meanwhile the reports were distributed to the Delegations present.

Another matter on which action has been taken by the secretariat was the request for the research plans of countries in regard to vesicular diseases. By now all the countries had responded. Bolivia, Chile and Perú made it known that they were not carrying out research, and the rest of the countries submitted schedules of their plans and projects for 1976.

Item 2 of the Agenda (Country reports) was next taken up.

The first country to report was Colombia. Dr. Jaime Estupiñán said that during the preceding year priority attention had been given to areas 1 and 2 of Zone 1 (Atlantic Coast), and within those areas especially to the region bordering of Panama, which has been kept free of foot-and-mouth disease. In area 2, levels of over 80 percent had been achieved in cattle vaccination. In the rest of Zone 1 the percentages varied between 40 and 70 percent. Over the rest of the country, vaccination was estimated at approximately 35 percent. Vaccine production was sufficient to meet the country's needs. The main difficulty of the program was control over movements of animals.

The next to report was the Delegate of Chile, Dr. Jorge Gastó Coderch. He pointed out that since September 1974 no outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease has been reported anywhere in the country. In Region I, embracing the provinces of Chiloé, Llanquihue, Osorno and Valdivia there had been no foot-and-mouth disease since early 1972. As a result consideration was being given subject to a socio-economic study, to the possibility of declaring that region free of foot-and-mouth disease by the end of the current year. In the rest of the Central Valley, only two vaccination operations a year were scheduled. He stressed the importance being given in Chile to health education, epidemiologic surveillance and personnel training; and in conclusion he expressed his concern at the risk to which his country was exposed unless its efforts were matched by action in the neighboring countries.

Dr. Italo Rivas, Deputy Director of the Foot-and-mouth Disease Control Program in Ecuador, commenting on his country's report said that the infrastructure necessary for the development of the program had been set up. The territory had been divided into three areas: 1) the Province of Galápagos which was free of foot-and-mouth disease 2) an area embracing six provinces which was regarded as a priority area and accounted for all the activities under the

program; and 3) the rest of the country, where up to the present there was no systematic vaccination. Vaccine production amounted to about 2 million doses, and it was hoped that the figure would be doubled in the course of 1976. The general incidence of foot-and-mouth disease was less than in previous years, in spite of the recurrence of an epidemic outbreak in the north and central highlands. In 1976 the program would be strengthened by the acquisition of vehicles and by special attention to personnel training.

The next to present his report was Dr. Hernán Godoy, Fieldwork Director of the National Foot-and-Mouth Disease Control Service (SENALFA) of Paraguay. He said that in 1975 the whole country had been brought under the control program. Vaccination coverage amounted 97 per cent in the eastern region and 38 per cent in the western region. There had been an increase in the registration of affected herds, especially between June and October, the virus diagnosed being predominantly of the O type. However, the general incidence was very low. He considered financial support by IDB would be essential in order to consolidate the program.

When the second session began at 2:15 p.m., the delegate of Uruguay, Dr. Pedro L. Bartzabal, Director General of Veterinary Services of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, presented his report. He said that the foot-and-mouth disease campaign was complicated by the glut of cattle caused by the suspension of exports of meat. There had been an increase in reported foci in relation to 1974, although the general epidemiologic situation continued to be satisfactory. It was hoped that there would be a change for the better in 1976, in view of the establishment of compulsory vaccination of ovines and the fact that the suspension of movements of animals and cattle auctioning during vaccination periods would come into force. By the end of the year, working meetings had been started with specialists from Brazil with a view to negotiating an agreement to collaborate on frontier animal health problems, with priority for foot and-mouth disease.

Next came the presentation of the report for Venezuela by Dr. Julián Castro Marrero, Chief of the Vesicular Disease Campaign under the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry. He stressed the implementation of a system of epidemiologic information and surveillance, which had attained national coverage by the end of 1975. Twelve million doses of modified live virus for use against foot-and-mouth disease vaccine had been produced. During September the sale of vaccine had been introduced for the first time together with a system of permits for vaccine administration by private veterinarians, subject to official authorization. New regulations had been worked out for the quality

control of vaccines, and it was hoped to put them into operation during the current year.

Next, Dr. G.C. Mason of the Department of Agriculture of the United States of America described the activities of the Emergency Program for the prevention of exotic animal diseases. During the fiscal year, 52 reports had been dealt with, 30 of them involving suspected cases of vesicular diseases. Only one was found positive for New Jersey vesicular stomatitis. The Emergency Program divided the country into five areas, two of them being used for the eradication of outbreaks of velogenic Newcastle disease. Another area was at present working on the eradication of hog cholera.

The next item of the Agenda: "Report of PAHO" was introduced by Dr. Mario V. Fernandes, Chief of the Department of Human and Animal Health. He explained that for irremediable budgetary reasons the seminar on research recommended to PAHO by the Second Special Meeting of COSALFA could only be held in 1977. He referred to the need for reorganizing COSALFA's Research Committee, since some of its members were unwilling to serve. The task could be performed by the Secretariat in consultation with member countries. He drew attention to the document distributed during the meeting concerning the requirements to be laid down before a country or a region within a country could be declared free of a type of foot-and-mouth disease virus endemic in that country. The document called for discussion by the participants, in accordance with Recommendation VI of the Second Special Meeting of COSALFA. Finally he referred to the consultations between the Director of PAHO and the Ministries of Agriculture of the countries, the results of which were to be found in a document which the participants had received. He requested that a careful analysis be made of the contents of the document and that a practical solution be found for the problem of attendance of members at the meetings of COSALFA.

The session concluded with a brief account by the Secretariat of the situation in regard to foot-and-mouth disease control in South America.

The third session began at 9:00 a.m. on 2 April.

At this point, Dr. José Pedro Gonzalez, Director of Animal Production in Brazil, joined the meeting and presented the report on the foot-and-mouth disease campaign in his country. The year 1975 had been important because of the decisions taken. A National Animal Health Program (PRONASA) had been launched as part of the Second National Development

Plan, and as such it had funds assured until 1979. At the end of the previous year, the groundwork had been laid for a diagnosis of the situation in all the states, and at the present time the information compiled was being processed. It was proposed to make use of the infrastructure of the foot-and-mouth disease program to embrace the campaign against brucellosis and bovine rabies. At the same time, with the technical cooperation of PAHO, a national network of regional diagnosis laboratories was in the process of being set up, with a control reference laboratory in Belo Horizonte.

The Chairman then opened the discussion on the reports and papers presented. The following topics were discussed in that order: meetings of COSALFA, research program, and criteria for declaring any region of a country, or any country, free of foot-and-mouth disease.

To crystallize in resolution from the agreements reached during the debate, a committee was set up consisting of the Delegates of Colombia, Chile and Uruguay, which sat during the recesses in the second session of the day.

During the fourth recess, the secretariat read out the final report, five draft resolutions drawn up by the committee in question, and one submitted by the Delegate of Paraguay. The draft resolutions were unanimously approved, and the text is attached to the present report.

Finally, in a short closing ceremony, the Chairman thanked the Government of Venezuela for the work done by the meeting, which he said had given an opportunity for a fruitful interchange of information that would benefit foot-and-mouth disease control programs.

Dr. Hernán Godoy, the Delegate of Paraguay, thanked the Government of Venezuela on behalf of the members of COSALFA for the hospitality extended, and expressed the hope that each of the countries would continue to work with the same dedication and sense of responsibility in the interests of the livestock industry in the Americas.

The Third Regular Meeting of COSALFA rose at 6:30 p.m. on 2 April 1976.

SOUTH AMERICAN COMMISSION FOR THE CONTROL OF FOOT-AND-MOUTH
DISEASE

III REGULAR MEETING

Caracas, Venezuela, 1-2 April 1976

RESOLUTION I

Considering that it is of great importance to evaluate each year the foot-and-mouth disease control programs developed by the countries;

Considering that it is fundamental to maintain a continuing interchange of information and experience among those responsible for foot-and-mouth disease control programs,

Resolves:

To request Pan American Health Organization to hold an annual meeting to evaluate the country foot-and-mouth disease control programs.

SOUTH AMERICAN COMMISSION FOR THE CONTROL OF FOOT-AND-MOUTH
DISEASE

III REGULAR MEETING

Caracas, Venezuela, 1-2 April 1976

RESOLUTION II

Considering the favorable results of oil vaccine research obtained by the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center in collaboration with the Government of Brazil;

Considering that because of their characteristics, oil vaccines will enable the immunity coverage of foot-and-mouth disease control programs to be expanded;

Considering that the use of oil vaccines is calculated to reduce the cost of animal vaccination and management,

Resolves:

To request the Pan American Health Organization, in conjunction with the countries, to intensify and speed up the carrying out of research projects for the evaluation of oil vaccines at field level.

SOUTH AMERICAN COMMISSION FOR THE CONTROL OF FOOT-AND-MOUTH
DISEASE

III REGULAR MEETING

Caracas, Venezuela, 1-2 April 1976

RESOLUTION III

Considering that the incidence of vesicular stomatitis
in some countries is interfering with the foot-and-mouth
disease control programs,

Resolves:

To request the Pan American Health Organization, in
coordination with the countries affected, to promote and
carry out research with a view to establishing satisfactory
methods of controlling this disease.

SOUTH AMERICAN COMMISSION FOR THE CONTROL OF FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE

III REGULAR MEETING

Caracas, Venezuela, 11-12-1976

RESOLUTION IV

Considering that to carry out an effective foot-and-mouth disease control program it is necessary to coordinate with movements of animals;

Considering that the sanitary control measures must be compatible with marketing;

Considering that in some countries, while organized foot-and-mouth disease control programs, difficulties are arising in regard to the effective control of movements of animals;

Considering that it is necessary to periodically review the systems being used in the various countries.

Resolves:

To request the Pan American Health Organization to carry out a study with a view to evaluating and comparing the systems for controlling the movements of animals which are most efficient and most appropriate for the various countries.

SOUTH AMERICAN COMMISSION FOR THE CONTROL OF FOOT-AND-MOUTH
DISEASE

III REGULAR MEETING

Caracas, Venezuela, 1-2 April 1976

RESOLUTION V

Considering that in South America there is sufficient installed capacity for the production of foot-and-mouth disease vaccines;

Considering that in order to guarantee the success of programs to combat foot-and-mouth disease, the vaccines should be evaluated according to the most effective systems of quality control and efficiency;

Considering that in some countries difficulties arise in testing quality and efficiency;

Resolves:

To recommend once again to the Pan American Health Organization that it convene the seminar on vaccine control requested in Resolution II of COSALFA II, with a view to considering the problem and recommending the type of organization, methods and procedures most suitable for the countries.

SOUTH AMERICAN COMMISSION FOR THE CONTROL OF FOOT-AND-MOUTH
DISEASE

III REGULAR MEETING

Caracas, Venezuela, 1-2 April 1976

RESOLUTION VI

Considering the valuable technical contribution, commitment and dedication shown by Dr. Mario V. Fernandes in carrying out the functions of Secretary ex officio of COSALFA;

Considering the development of COSALFA as an organ representing the guiding policy in regard to vesicular diseases in South America and its relations with other bodies in the same field in other continents, and the way in which this distinguished professional has striven to consolidate that policy,

Resolves:

To express its gratitude and thanks to Dr. Mario Vasco Fernandes for the work accomplished by him during his period of office as Secretary ex officio of COSALFA.

ANNEX I

SOUTH AMERICAN COMMISSION FOR THE CONTROL OF FOOT-AND-MOUTH
DISEASE

THIRD REGULAR MEETING

Caracas, Venezuela, 1 and 2 April 1976

P R O G R A M

Thursday, 1 April

08:30-09:00 a.m.	Inaugural session
09:00-09:30 a.m.	Report by the secretariat
09:30-10:30 a.m.	Country reports
10:30-11:00 a.m.	Coffee break
11:00-12:30 p.m.	Country reports
12:30-02:00 p.m.	Lunch
02:00-03:30 p.m.	Country reports
03:30-04:00 p.m.	Coffee break
04:00-05:30 p.m.	Report of PAHO

Friday, 2 April

08:30-10:00 a.m.	Discussion
10:00-10:30 a.m.	Coffee break
10:30-12:00 noon	Discussion
12:00-01:30 p.m.	Lunch
01:30-03:00 p.m.	Conclusions and recommendations
03:00-03:30 p.m.	Coffee break
03:30-05:00 p.m.	Final report and closing of the meeting

ANEXO II

COMISION SUDAMERICANA PARA LA LUCHA CONTRA LA FIEBRE AFTOSA

III REUNION ORDINARIA

Caracas, Venezuela. 1-2 Abril 1976

LISTA DE PARTICIPANTES

Representantes de Países

Argentina	Dr. Jorge B. Riaboi	Consejero Económico y Comercial Embajada de la República Argentina en Venezuela
Brasil	Dr. José Pedro González	Director General del Departamento Nacional de Producción Animal. Ministerio de Agricultura
Colombia	Dr. Jaime Estupiñán A.	Sub-Gerente Producción Pecuaria I.C.A., Bogotá, Colombia
Chile	Dr. Jorge Gastó Corderch	Sub-Gerente Protección Agropecuaria. SAG
Ecuador	Dr. Italo Rivas	Sub-Director Programa Nacional de Control de la Fiebre Aftosa
Paraguay	Dr. Hernán A. Godoy L.	Director de Campo. SENALFA
Uruguay	Dr. Pedro L. Bartzábal	Director General de los Servicios Veterinarios. Ministerio de Agricultura y Pesca.

Venezuela	Dr. Humberto Olmos C.	Director Sanidad Animal. Ministerio de Agricultura y Cría
Venezuela	Dr. Julián Castro Marrero	Jefe Campaña Enfermedades Vesiculares. Ministerio de Agricultura y Cría

OBSERVADORES

Organismos Internacionales

<u>País u Organización</u>	<u>Nombre</u>	<u>Cargo</u>
OPS/ DDC-AH	Dr. Mário V. Fernandes	Jefe Departamento de Salud Humana y Animal
OPS/OMS	Dr. Roberto Goic	Director a.i. Centro Panamericano de Fiebre Aftosa
OPS/OMS	Dr. Edwin Pérez	Coordinador Proyecto Salud Animal. MAC. Ven-3100
OPS/OMS/Zona III	Dr. Jorge Escalante	Consultor Zonal Medicina Veterinaria
OPS/OMS	Dr. Miguel Alberto Sandoval	Asesor Area Libre
OPS/OMS	Dr. Eduardo Alvarez	Consultor Bioestadística
OPS/OMS	Dr. Julio Alvarez	Asesor Educación Sanitaria
OPS/OMS	Dr. Carlos Bernal López	Asesor Vacuna de V.V.M. (Maracay)
OPS/OMS	Dr. Miguel Bohl	Consultor
OPS/OMS	Dr. Heraldo de la Canal	Asesor en Evaluación Proyecto VEN-3100

<u>País u Organización</u>	<u>Nombre</u>	<u>Cargo</u>
OPS/CPFA/Ecuador	Dr. Moysés Natán Honigman	Consultor
OPS/OMS	Dr. Benicio Laserna	Asesor Vacuna Aftosa Inactivada (Maracay)
OPS/OMS	Dr. Nelson Magallanes	Consultor Proyecto Ven-3100
Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo	Dr. Abraham Arce	Especialista en Programas de Sanidad Animal. Sección PRG
O.I.E.	Dr. Carlos Ruiz Martínez	Director de la Oficina Regional Americana
USA/APHIS-VS	Dr. C. G. Mason	Principal Veterinarian for the Americas. Emerg. Program.
El Salvador	Dr. Manuel A. Hernández	Segundo Jefe Departamento Cuarentena. MAG
El Salvador	Dr. Freddy Rosales	Jefe Sanidad Animal. MAG
México	Dr. Eduardo Serrano	Jefe Programa de Emergencia contra Brotes de Enfermedades Exóticas. Sanidad Animal
Guatemala	Dr. Mario Motta	Director de Ganadería Ministerio de Agricultura
Bahamas	Dr. J. Huw Davies	Senior Veterinary Officer
Surinam	Dr. K. G. Moll	Head Veterinary Officer, Vet.Diagn.