



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION
Pan American Sanitary Bureau, Regional Office of the
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

IV MEETING OF THE
HEMISPHERIC COMMITTEE FOR THE ERADICATION OF FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE
Washington, D.C., 26 April 1993

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FINAL REPORT

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The IV Meeting of the Hemispheric Committee for the Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (COHEFA) was held at the Headquarters of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) in Washington, D.C., United States of America, on April 26, 1993, as convened by the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau.

OFFICERS

The following officers of the Meeting were elected unanimously:

President: Dr. Lázaro Barbosa
Minister of State for Agriculture,
Supply and Agrarian Reform
Brazil

Vice President: Mr. Mariano González Portés
Minister of Agriculture
Ecuador

Rapporteur: Eng. Carlos Sousa Lennox
Executive Secretary
Asociación Nacional de
Ganaderos
Panama

Dr. Vicente M. Astudillo, Director of the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center, served as Secretary *ex officio*.

PARTICIPANTS

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

For the Amazonas Subregion, Dr. Lázaro Barbosa, Minister of State for Agriculture, Supply and Agrarian Reform of Brazil, and Dr. João Carlos de Souza Meirelles, Chairman of the Conselho Nacional de Pecuária de Corte (National Livestock Council),

Brazil; for the Andean Subregion: Mr. Mariano González Portés, Minister of Agriculture of Ecuador and Mr. Erwin Reck López, President of the Confederación de Ganaderos de Bolivia (Cattlemen's Confederation of Bolivia); for the Caribbean Subregion, the Hon. David Bowen, Minister of Agriculture, Barbados; for the Middle American Subregion, Mr. José Acuña Mesen, Vice Minister of Agriculture of Costa Rica and Eng. Carlos Sousa Lennox, Executive Secretary of the Asociación Nacional de Ganaderos (National Cattlemen's Association), Panama; for the North American Subregion, James W. Glosser, Special Assistant to the Administrator, Plant and Animal Inspection Service, United States Department of Agriculture, and Dr. Juan de Dios Barba Vargas, General Secretary, Confederación Nacional Ganadera of Mexico; and for the Southern Cone Subregion, Mr. Juan Agustín Figueroa, Minister of Agriculture of Chile, and Dr. Jaime Castells, Director of the Asociación Rural, Uruguay.

OBSERVERS

Present as observers at the Meeting were Ministers and other representatives from the following Member Countries of PAHO: Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Dominica, Ecuador, Guyana, Honduras, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Uruguay and Venezuela.

Also present as observers were representatives of the following agencies: the Agency for International Development, the Caribbean Community, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the International Office of Epizootics, the United Nations Development Program, the World Bank, the Merieux Foundation, the School of Veterinary Medicine and Zoonosis of the National Autonomous University of Mexico, and the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine.

AGENDA AND PROGRAM OF SESSIONS

The following agenda and program of sessions were adopted:

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Election of the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Rapporteur
3. Address by Dr. Carlyle Guerra de Macedo, Director of PAHO
4. Address by the President of COHEFA IV
5. Adoption of the Agenda and Program of Sessions
6. Report of the Secretariat
7. Reports on the XIX and XX Regular Meetings of the South American Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (COSALFA)

8. Discussion of the Plan of Action
 - Southern Cone
 - Andean Subregion
9. Discussion of the Plan of Action
 - Amazon Subregion
 - Disease-Free Area
10. General discussion with the participation of rural producers, technical cooperation agencies, and financial agencies.
11. Conclusions and recommendations
12. Closing of the Meeting

SESSIONS

Two plenary sessions and one closing session were held.

FIRST PLENARY SESSION

The President of COHEFA IV, Dr. Lázaro Barbosa, Minister of State for Agriculture, Supply and Agrarian Reform of Brazil, opened the Meeting and gave the floor to the Director of the Pan American Health Organization, Dr. Carlyle Guerra de Macedo.

Dr. Macedo bid the participants cordially welcome and emphasized the importance of the control of foot-and-mouth disease as a continuing sanitary barrier to the exportation of animal products, which was fraught with implications for the development of the countries. The Director said that foot-and-mouth disease was still the principal barrier to the marketing of meat. He referred to the technical cooperation provided by PANAFTOSA/PAHO particularly in epidemiological surveillance systems, diagnostic, production and control techniques, widespread use of oil-adjuvanted FMD vaccine, the system of local veterinary care, and the regionalization of programs on the basis of ecosystems. He stressed the gains made, particularly in Uruguay, which has been free of the disease for 34 months, and in several provinces of Argentina. He noted that joint work by the public and the private sector, including both cattlemen and the animal processing industry, was of basic importance for the eradication of foot-and-mouth disease.

The President of the Meeting thanked the Director of the PAHO for his words and the members of the Committee for the honor done to his country in electing him Chairman of COHEFA IV, and assured the Committee of the interest of his country, and especially of the President of Brazil, in the struggle to eradicate foot-and-mouth disease

and the gains that are already making themselves felt in the country by comparison with the situation seven or eight years ago. He congratulated Uruguay, Argentina and the other countries for the great progress they have made.

The Secretary then introduced the representatives of the governments and of the private sectors in the different Subregions, and read out the provisional agenda and program of sessions, which was approved by the Committee.

In this first plenary session the Committee considered the report of the Secretariat, presented by Secretary *ex officio* Dr. Vicente M. Astudillo, Director of the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center, on fulfillment of the recommendations of COHEFA III, including a description of the gains made during the two-year period, and the programming to be carried out in the 1994-1995 biennium. The report stressed the importance of the participation of the private livestock sector.

There followed a discussion of the XIX and XX Regular Meetings of the South American Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (COSALFA), presented, respectively, by the Chairman of COSALFA XIX, Dr. Bernardo Cané, General Administrator of the National Animal Health Service (SENASA), of Argentina, and by the Chairman of COSALFA XX, Dr. Dante Geymonat, General Director of Veterinary Services in the Ministry of Livestock, Crops and Fisheries of Uruguay.

The session closed with the presentation of the Plans of Action for the Southern Cone Subregion and the Andean Subregion.

The Southern Cone was discussed by Dr. Juan Agustín Figueroa, Minister of Agriculture of Chile, Dr. Bernardo Cané, General Administrator of the National Animal Health Service of Argentina, and Dr. Dante Gaymont, General Director of Veterinary Services of Uruguay, who cited the advanced sanitary quality of the herds and the impressive gains of recent years.

Dr. James Glosser, delegate of the United States and Chairman for the Region of the Americas of the International Office of Epizootics expressed satisfaction that the participation of the Secretary *ex officio* of COSALFA at the coming meeting of the OIE was discussed. He said that he had long defended the position that the countries of the Northern hemisphere should become more involved in the foot-and-mouth disease problem.

Dr. Bernardo Cané, delegate of the Argentine Republic summed up the activities being included in the program for eradication of foot-and-mouth disease, and especially their linkage with the private sector. He also noted the importance of the Cordillera

Central project for the period 1993-1997, which conforms to policies and strategies established jointly with the Republic of Chile.

Minister Juan Figueroa, delegate of the Republic of Chile, remarked on the enormous implications of the Cordillera Central project owing to the significance of relieving the heavy biological pressure owing to the lack of clinical cases of foot-and-mouth disease in the border provinces. He also said that Chile was fully prepared to cooperate and collaborate with the Argentine Republic whenever asked to do so.

The Delegation of Brazil explained the substantial differences occurring in the different areas of Brazil and in the southern part of the country, and remarked on the reduced occurrence of the disease in that area, where there were states and areas that had not seen pockets of infection in some years.

Dr. Dante Geymonat, delegate of Uruguay, recounted that in 1991 the use of oil-adjuvanted foot-and-mouth disease vaccine and a scheme of nationwide vaccination had been made obligatory. The delegate of the private sector of Uruguay, Dr. Castells, cited the commitment of the stockmen to eradicate FMD from his country. Uruguay had asked the OIE to declare it free of FMD through vaccination. Accordingly, a mission of that Office inspected the country in late March and issued a report that is to be examined at its 24th Plenary Meeting next May.

Dr. Arsenio Vasconcellos, of Paraguay, remarked that the private sector was participating more, and that zonal and regional committees had been set up. In 1992 the vaccination coverage had exceeded 80%, a proportion unprecedented in the country, and there were departments in which foot-and-mouth disease had not been recorded in more than two years.

The Andean area was discussed by Mr. Mariano González Portés, Minister of Agriculture of Ecuador, Dr. Manuel Ramírez, General Manager of the Instituto Colombiano Agropecuario (ICA), Dr. Jaime Cárdenas, Director of Health of Colombia, and Mr. Rodolfo Masuda, Vice Minister of Health of Peru.

Other speakers in the discussion were the delegates of Bolivia, Uruguay, Argentina and Mexico, who spoke of the need to strengthen the national and Subregional integration processes, and of joint action between the public and private sectors.

They also told of initiatives for participation of the producing sector in the establishment of local plans of work, such as the one of the Bogotá savanna, in Colombia, and the organization and commitment to participate of the Bolivian cattlemen in the policy for eradication of the disease. They remarked on the great importance of the function of the private sector in the present juncture and of the advances in

modernization of the state, which provides for greater participation by the private sector in the execution of activities.

Mr. Rodolfo Masuda referred to the policy decision of the Government of Peru to go through with declaration of the southern region of the country as a disease-free area, and invited the representatives of the Andean nations to strengthen their binational sanitary agreements so as to counteract the spread of the disease across borders.

Mr. Mariano González Portés responded favorably to the initiative for integration of the zonal subprojects and committed immediate actions on the area of the Ecuadorian-Peruvian Agreement.

SECOND PLENARY SESSION

The second plenary session considered the Plan of Action for the Amazon Area and the Disease-Free Area.

At 2:30 p.m. the proceedings resumed, with the Minister of Agriculture of Ecuador in the chair. Dr. Enio Antonio Marques Pereira, the representative of Brazil, said that the actions carried out by his country were in line with the resolutions of this Committee and derived from a process of regionalization of the livestock area. He added that the operating strategy was also based on active participation by the private sector, and that a new master eradication plan for the country had been recently launched. He availed himself of the opportunity to advise about the suspected occurrence of vesicular disease in the state of Roraima, which was being minutely investigated. The next speaker was the representative of the private sector in Brazil, Dr. João Carlos de Souza Meirelles, who spoke of the willingness of the sector to support the operations described in the master plan and requested PAHO to develop, through the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center, a methodology for the identification of "homogeneous areas," in which measures toward eradication and the establishment of disease-free areas could be initiated. The representative of Chile stated his position on the concept of disease-free area against disease-free country, the latter seeming to him to afford more guarantees owing to the existence of borders and other limits.

Mr. Roland Gordon, the observer for CARICOM commented on the activities of the Subcommittee of the Disease-Free Countries of the Caribbean, which was made official in a meeting of Ministers of Agriculture in Saint Lucia, the meeting for preparation of the plan of action for the prevention of foot-and-mouth disease, and the seminar on risk analysis held in Barbados. All these activities had been carried out with the collaboration of PAHO/PANAFTOSA. He also announced the holding of the third meeting of the technical group in Guyana. He thanked PANAFTOSA for the support

provided in development of the methodology for analysis of the risk of introduction of the disease in the Region, which would favor the marketing of livestock and animal products in the Region.

Mr. Carlos Sousa Lennox, speaking for the cattlemen of Middle America, expressed concern over the need to continue the activities for preventing the introduction of foot-and-mouth disease in the Region. He cited the observed deterioration of the veterinary care structures and the LADIVES laboratory in the last ten years, which placed the Region at risk of a possible introduction from the infected area. He proposed on behalf of the cattlemen that PAHO, through the Center, make a situational diagnosis of the structures in the Region and make recommendations to meet the needs for preventing the introduction of the disease.

The representative of the cattlemen of Argentina, Mr. Manuel Aviani, said there were 320 Zonal Commissions, corresponding in general terms to the Rural Societies, which supported the National Eradication Plan. The *modus operandi* of the zonal commissions, in which the cattlemen take on enormous responsibilities alongside the official sector, supplied the deficiencies of the classical model of public veterinary care services. To be able to operate in legal, administrative and financial autonomy, the local commissions had to set themselves up as foundations. He concluded with an account of the problems facing the Argentine cattlemen in marketing their stock on the international market. In this context he said that the eradication of foot-and-mouth disease was to be seen as a challenge to be met to gain access to world markets.

Dr. Hugo Eduardo Giudice Paz, of the Rural Federation of Rio Grande do Sul and representative of the National Agricultural Confederation of Brazil, addressed the subject of countries and areas free of FMD, and noted that it was necessary to take up this matters at the next meeting of the OIE.

In response to what had been said, Dr. Robert Reichard, Chief of the Scientific-Technical Department of the OIE, then took the floor to say that the subjects relating to the determination of disease-free areas in countries were cited in chapter 2.1.1.2 of the Regulations on Foot-and-Mouth Disease approved last year.

Dr. Alison Paulinelli, Secretary of Agriculture and Supply of the state of Minas Gerais, Brazil, proposed delegating the performance of some public services to accredited private or professional organizations. He also said it was necessary to strengthen the role of government in areas of predominantly campesino cattle production methods.

The representative of the cattlemen of Mexico, Dr. Juan de Dios Barba Vargas, said that there were in his country about 1,800 local associations, which performed

several sanitary functions and were financed by the beneficiaries themselves. He added his agreement on the concept of disease-free areas.

Dr. Carlos Cardinal de Oliveira, Secretary of Agriculture and Supply of the state of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, took as his main subject biological safety in laboratories in foot-and-mouth-free areas, a problem that had been affecting the situation of the state.

Mr. Daniel Welschen, Senator for the province of Entre Ríos, Argentina, cited the success of the program following the active participation of the cattlemen. He said this working strategy was generated in the field and underlay the policy and strategy for the eradication of the disease in Argentina.

The representative of Costa Rica, Mr. José Acuña Mesen, Vice Minister of Agriculture, cited the need to allocate resources for increasing epidemiological surveillance in Central America, and added that, in his view, there was no active participation by cattlemen in prevention work in the Region.

Dr. César Pereira, Minister of Agriculture of Panama, regarded the concept of disease-free areas in endemic regions as a danger, because the importation of animal products by a country in the disease-free area could bring problems of restrictions for the country and the Region. In response to that concern, Dr. Astudillo described the strict standards in effect in this regard, based on a concept of relative risk of introduction and spread of the disease. The Minister then spoke of the plans for setting up a livestock development pole free of foot-and-mouth and other diseases in the Darién region, which would be implemented with the participation of banks and cattlemen in Colombia.

Mr. Glosser, the delegate for the United States, referred to the concepts of disease-free areas with and without vaccination, to the basis of the working strategy for attaining that status, which included political will, social support, and the existence of a technology that would make that status attainable as a good working formula, though the status had not been broadly achieved. He then cited the advances made in the large countries and discussed the application of risk analysis and the circulation of its new applications to conditions of international trade. Mr. Glosser closed by saying that he saw the different international cooperation agencies as facilitators, the governments as the directors, and the private sectors as the promoters of a process that would lead to progress in the war on foot-and-mouth disease.

The session closed with an analysis of the conclusions and recommendations, and the Committee adopted the following resolution:

RESOLUTION

THE HEMISPHERIC COMMITTEE FOR THE ERADICATION OF FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE,

Considering that:

The requirements of the international animal products market are becoming increasingly selective and restrictive, in part because important regions for that market have succeeded in eradicating foot-and-mouth disease;

Some countries of South America have made significant advances toward the eradication of foot-and-mouth disease, such as Uruguay, which is soon to complete three years of freedom from the disease;

In some areas of the Hemisphere different models of community participation in joint management of foot-and-mouth disease programs have emerged as a means to the solution of political-administrative problems;

Significant progress has been made in the scientific and administrative spheres for the establishment and delimitation of disease-free areas;

The results of these joint efforts of the public agencies and several social entities for the control and eradication of foot-and-mouth disease have proved highly positive;

Though advances have been observed in some regions, others are still prey to difficulties and, indeed, the execution of their foot-and-mouth disease programs is deteriorating markedly;

At the XIX and XX Regular Meetings of COSALFA basic decisions were approved that are essential to attainment of the objective of the Hemispheric Plan for the Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease;

Regional changes in production systems are modifying the epidemiological agencies, and

The existing disease-free areas must be maintained and extended,

RESOLVES:

1. To congratulate the Secretariat for the important activities carried on to further the purposes of the Hemispheric Plan for the Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease in the period 1991-1992, which are described in the report of the Secretary *ex officio*.

2. To endorse the resolutions of COSALFA XIX and XX and to recommend them to RIMSA VIII for approval.

3. To reaffirm the political will to continue the Hemispheric Program for Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease, and to urge the countries to consider the hemispherewide commitment undertaken at COHEFA III and repropounded in the Report of the Secretariat of COHEFA IV.

4. To reaffirm the need to expedite the process of establishment of disease-free areas in each Subregion in accordance with internationally established technical and scientific requirements.

5. To recommend to the countries that they expedite and institutionalize the participation of different sectors of the community in the administration of plans for the eradication of foot-and-mouth disease.

6. To express recognition to the countries that have made important gains in the struggle to eradicate foot-and-mouth disease, and to Uruguay in particular for having remained free of the disease for 34 months.

7. To continue support through the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease to Uruguay and other countries that become disease-free in their efforts at all levels to obtain recognition as a country free of foot-and-mouth disease.

8. To make a diagnosis of the situation of the existing prevention programs and to collaborate with the countries in the establishment of a new strategy and in strengthening those programs, including the methodology of epidemiological analysis of the risk of introduction of foot-and-mouth disease virus, epidemiological surveillance and quarantine systems.

9. To recommend to the countries that they make, with the support of PANAFTOSA, studies of epidemiological regionalization and of appropriate intervention strategies with a view to making control and eradication measures more effective.

10. To encourage the full operation of the regional and national committees for the prevention and eradication of foot-and-mouth disease, and in the countries of the disease-free area, to encourage the functioning of the Committee of disease-free area countries in collaboration with OIRSA and CARICOM.

CLOSING SESSION

The Rapporteur *ex officio* read out the Resolution, which was approved by the Chairman of COHEFA IV and the other members of the Committee, and will be incorporated in the Final Report that the President of COHEFA IV will present to RIMSA VIII.

The Chairman thanked the participants for their contributions to the success of the Meeting, and declared it closed.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned sign the present Final Report in English and Spanish.

DONE in Washington, D.C., United States of America, this twenty-sixth day of April, nineteen hundred and ninety-three.

For the Amazon Subregion:

Lázaro Barbosa
Minister of State for Agriculture,
Supply and Agrarian Reform
Brazil

João Carlos de Souza Mireilles
President, Conselho Nacional de
Pecuária de Corte
Brazil

For the Andean Subregion:

Mariano González Portés
Minister of Agriculture
Ecuador

Erwin Reck López
President, Confederación de Ganaderos
Bolivia

For the Caribbean Subregion:

Hon. David Bowen
Minister of Agriculture
Barbados

For the Middle American Subregion:

José Acuña Mesen
Vice Minister of Agriculture
Costa Rica

Carlos Sousa Lennox
Executive Secretary
Asociación Nacional de Ganaderos
Panama

For the North American Subregion:

James W. Glosser
Special Assistant to the Administrator
Plant and Animal Inspection Service
Department of Agriculture
United States of America

Juan de Dios Barba Vargas
General Secretary
Confederación Nacional Ganadera
Mexico

For the Southern Cone Subregion:

Juan Agustín Figueroa
Minister of Agriculture
Chile

Jaime Castells
Director, Asociación Rural
Uruguay

For the Pan American Health Organization

Carlyle Guerra de Macedo
Director