



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION  
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



## **XI INTER-AMERICAN MEETING, AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL, ON ANIMAL HEALTH**

*Washington, D.C., 13-15 April 1999*

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*Provisional Agenda Item 10.1*

RIMSA11/14 (Eng.)  
2 March 1999  
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

**PANEL: THE IMPACT OF FOODBORNE DISEASES ON PUBLIC HEALTH  
AND TRADE**

**EFFECTIVE FOOD SURVEILLANCE SYSTEMS.  
ECONOMIC BENEFITS FROM INCREASED EXPORTS**

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# **1. Food Regulations and Their Relation to the Country's Economic Policy on Food Exports**

## ***1.1 Constitutional Considerations***

Argentina is composed of 24 jurisdictions—23 provinces and one autonomous city. The Argentine Constitution establishes a representative, federal republican system, dividing power between the federal and provincial governments. Some provincial powers have been delegated to the federal government, while others are exercised jointly by the federal government and the provinces. However, it is worth noting that responsibilities in the area of health have not been delegated. Responsibility for food legislation lies with the provinces, although not exclusively, since these may be monitored by the federal government. Thus, while no universal coding system is presently in place, two provinces, Buenos Aires and Santa Fe, adopted a coding system prior to the establishment of the regime used by the federal government, through Provincial Decree 9106/63 and Provincial Decree 2998/41 (updated in 1962).

## ***1.2 Institutional Considerations***

The National Administration for Drugs, Food, and Medical Technology (ANMAT), working through the National Food Institute (INAL), both of them under the Ministry of Health and Social Action, collaborates in food protection, monitoring the following aspects of the quality of manufactured products that could have an impact on health:

- authorization, control and inspection of processed foods, dietary supplements, additives, sweeteners, and ingredients—and for control purposes—maintenance of the National Registry of Food Establishments (RNE) and the National Registry of Food Products (RNPA);
- application of advertising standards, establishing an advertising review committee for monitoring purposes; analysis and review of the content and scope of commercial advertisements to ensure that they comply with legislation and to prevent error in the use or consumption of products;
- development of a food monitoring network;
- conducting inspections of food processing establishments and products for household use, such as disinfectants, insecticides, etc.

The National Food Safety and Quality Assurance Service (SENASA), is an independent agency of the Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, and Food. Among other functions, it engages in the following activities directly related to food protection:

Control of Fruit and Vegetables. Responsible for inspection and certification of food for compliance with health, quality, and technical sanitary standards in the growing, processing, handling, storage, preservation, packaging, transportation, and shipping stages of production. Responsible for inspection and phytosanitary certification of fruit and vegetables. Responsible for issuing certificates of origin, quality, and phytosanitary quality of fruit and vegetable products for domestic distribution, import, export, and in transit, ensuring that produce meets international and domestic standards.

International Trade. Responsible for monitoring compliance with established standards and agreements on the sanitary, phytosanitary, hygiene, technical, and operational requirements of international markets and trade.

Control of Animal Products. Responsible for supervising the construction, equipment and sanitary engineering procedures/techniques used in slaughterhouses and industrial processing plants for animal products, by-products, and derivatives. Responsible for maintaining an up-to-date registry of slaughterhouses, industrial processing plants, and storage facilities for animal products, by-products, and derivatives, as well as commercial fishing vessels and other activities related to fishing. Responsible for studying and proposing modifications to the Argentine Inspection Regulations. Responsible for inspection and certification of compliance with health, quality, and sanitary-technical food standards, in the growing, processing, handling, storage, preservation, packaging, transportation and shipping stages of meat production. Responsible for supervising, accrediting, and registering producers, industrial processors, and marketers of milk and dairy products. Responsible for monitoring the commercial quality, typing, and classification of products, by-products, and derivatives of milk, honey, wool, and animal feed, authorizing the certification and registration of establishments that prepare, break down, store, or market these products.

Quality Control of Food. Responsible for identifying and proposing to the regulatory authorities standards for the domestic and international trade in food products, based on food safety and improving the position of Argentine food products in world markets. Responsible for administering for outsourcing and/or private systems of food quality control, with the participation of inspection/certification companies that monitor products or processes. Responsible for administering the registries of packaging or processing establishments for food of plant origin, as well as registries of food additives.

Codex Alimentarius. Argentina is a member of Codex Alimentarius, the National Point of Contact for which is headquartered in the Promotion Office of the Director of Food Quality and Standards, an agency of the National Directorate on Nutrition of the Undersecretariat of Food and Markets. These offices are all administered by the Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, and Food. Currently, focal points have been named at the provincial level, and the creation of the National Codex Committee is under way.

The Undersecretariat of Food and Markets, created in 1995 under the Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, and Food, was established through Decree N° 866 for the purpose of: “defining developmental, promotional, quality control, and product hygiene policies, for the consumption of food of animal or plant origin, whether or not these are derived from industrial processes,” and “to coordinate their execution.”

### ***1.3 Food Legislation***

The Animal Sanitary Police Law 3959, created in 1902 (whose Article 10 was modified by Law 17 160/67), and regulated by Decree 4238/68, established the Regulations for the Inspection of Animal Products, By-products, and Derivatives. SENASA is the agency in charge of monitoring compliance with the Regulations, and for proposing any changes to them.

Decree Law 6698/68 regulates all aspects related to the trade and quality of grains and their by-products, while the Law 4048/1903, and Decree 71178/35 on Plant Health lay the regulatory foundations in the matter. Subsequently, Decrees 2266/91 and 1162/992 delegated the regulatory authority, control, and certification of food of plant origin to the former Argentine Institute of Plant Health and Quality (IASCAV).

The Argentine Food Code, established under Law 18284 and regulated by Decree 141, establishes the hygienic, sanitary, nutritional, and labeling requirements for food. These regulations and standards are enforced by the national health authorities, represented by the Ministry of Public Health and Social Action, and by provincial or municipal health authorities in their respective jurisdictions. However, national health authorities may intervene to enforce the regulations in any part of the country. These standards and regulations are continually updated, and those adopted by the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR) are also incorporated. Moreover, the Ministry of Public Health and Social Action safeguards the application of the regulations of the Animal Sanitary Police Law, in coordination with the Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, and Food.

Law 14878/59 on wines and other grape-based alcoholic beverages delegates responsibility for their control to the National Viniculture Institute.

Decree 2194/94 created the National Food Commission, comprised of representatives from the Ministry of Health and Social Action, the Ministry of Economy, Public Works, and Services, SENASA, INAL, and provincial delegates. Moreover, the Commission has an Advisory Board made up of representatives from the following organizations: Organization of Food Producing Industries (COPAL); Union of Food Product Industries (UNIDA); Argentine Chamber of Supermarkets; Argentine Consumer Protection Association (ADELCO); League of Housewives; General Confederacy of Labor (CGT), Federation of Food Workers; and three provincial representatives.

The main objective of the Commission is to establish the National Food Protection System, whose priorities include: drafting legislation for a universal food system, to be implemented nationwide; harmonizing standards; periodically updating the Argentine Food Code; creating a universal registry of establishments and products; coordinating tariffs; hammering out uniform sanctions; establishing customs guidelines and single border checkpoints; developing a universal database; coordinating manuals of procedures; and establishing inspection procedures.

MERCOSUR. Argentina forms part of the Southern Common Market. Member countries are committed to harmonizing legislation in pertinent areas. MERCOSUR standards are incorporated into the Argentine Food Code and in legislative efforts of the Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, and Food.

#### ***1.4 Information System on Food Regulations***

An information system on food regulations was developed in cooperation with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and the Pan American Institute for Food Protection and Zoonoses (INPPAZ). The system contains information on laws, decrees, and resolutions on food and facilitates their analysis. The system may be accessed by all interested parties at the Secretariat's web site, and is coordinated by the Undersecretariat of Food and Markets.

#### ***1.5 Food Protection System***

It is important to note that in Argentina, there are three jurisdictional levels involved in food protection—the federal, provincial, and municipal. Accordingly, food protection is comprised of four functions within each jurisdiction: standards that complement those established by federal law; monitoring of compliance with standards through joint inspections of any step of the production or marketing process; advisory

services for producers and merchants; and community health education. The degree to which these functions are exercised varies considerably from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. Moreover, in some cases these functions are not centralized in a single agency.

The objective of control activities is to ensure compliance with the Argentine Food Code and the legislation of the Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, and Food governing establishments that prepare, break down, preserve, transport, market, display, import, or export food, condiments, beverages, or the raw materials corresponding to these products, and food additives.

Federal agencies are responsible for food monitoring in order to authorize shipment nationally (interprovincially) or for export, under the Decree on Inspection of Animal Products and By-products, other current legislation, and the specific requirements of trade agreements with importing countries. Generally, the provinces will transfer inspection responsibilities to municipal governments through agreements or will exercise these functions directly in cases where municipalities have insufficient resources to do so.

With regard to the National Registry of Food Products and the National Registry of Food Establishments, these operate in collaboration with:

- (a) The Ministry of Public Health and Social Action, through a universal national registry and 24 jurisdictional registries (23 provinces and the City of Buenos Aires) whose coordination is centralized through an electronic satellite system, and
- (b) SENASA, through a variety of specialty registries.

### **1.6 *Economic Export Policy***

*Economic Significance.* For Argentina, the food industry represents one of the largest and most important national production lines.

The country's economic and social life is linked to the industry, encompassing the following areas of production: grains, meat products, fish, fruit, vegetables, edible oils, dairy products, and starches.

Together, the agricultural and livestock sectors account for 30% of the Gross National Product (GNP). In terms of total agricultural production, 57% corresponds to the agricultural sector (grains, fruit and vegetables), 41% to the livestock sector (cattle, pigs, sheep, milk and dairy products, and other farm products), and 2% to the fishing sector.



Likewise, agroindustry—mainly the food industry—contributes 44% of total manufacturing production. Agricultural production is the largest contributor to the export sector, directly or indirectly accounting for 67% of national exports (27% raw materials and 40% processed foods).

Food exports are analyzed, taking into account the following comparative data: (1) Argentina is the world leader in the export of edible oils; (2) it ranks among the world's top three beef exporters; (3) among the five leading wheat exporters; (4) among the top three corn and soybean flour exporters; (5) among the leading exporters of fruit juices and concentrates, and temperate-climate vegetables; and among the top three producers of honey as well as one of its principal exporters.

*Marketing, Food Quality and Production Capacity.* Argentina's commercial policy—to facilitate integration into international markets, improve export infrastructure and competition—is based on its generous endowment of natural resources that, in terms of quality and quantity, favors expectations for continued growth of the country's international market share.

Sanitary control systems in place have thus far been successful, registering only minimal complaints by importing-country health authorities—a fact that reflects our trading partners' confidence in the country as a food supplier.

The incorporation of technology in the agroindustrial sector and improvements in product storage and transportation infrastructure, have resulted in the ability to acquire products of good sanitary and commercial quality, ensuring better control from the farm up to the consumer.

There is great potential for expanding production capacity, as land suitable for agricultural production has not been fully used to capacity. Moreover, land use can become even more productive through the use of intensive technology, thus ensuring an ample margin of growth for the sector.

Argentine agricultural producers have begun to use new technologies and other techniques, improving quantity and quality of production.

The livestock production system primarily involves grazing on perennial pastures and seasonal greenery, resulting in premium quality meats, due to minimum residual contamination, and low concentrations of interfibrillar fat and cholesterol.

*Argentine Agricultural Exports.* Argentina's exports grew on the order of 92% between 1990 and 1998, reaching almost US\$ 26 billion last year (Annex I).

Manufactured industrial goods and fuels were the most dynamic products in this regard, while primary goods and manufactured goods of agricultural origin (MGAOs) grew at a somewhat lower rate than the national average (74% and 80%, respectively).

Traditionally, Argentina has been an important supplier of raw materials. In 1998, 58% of the country's exports were products derived from agriculture: 25% primary goods, and 33% MGAOs. Worthy of mention in this regard were grains (11%), vegetable oils and their by-products (18%), and meat products (5%).

In addition to strengthening its position in recent years, Argentina has witnessed growth in the area of processed foods. Moreover, to the list of dynamic performers in this regard—including seafood (prepared and unprepared), fruit, and grains—other products of emerging importance should be considered, such as dairy products, flours, beverages, and vegetable oil by-products.

In short, the aforementioned data bear out the growing importance of the export market for processed foods. Because the production system is so extensive and conditions so favorable, low levels of external agricultural inputs are needed. The stability and opening of the economy, ensuring rules of economic competitiveness, have favored our food sector.

The commitments to relax international trade conditions, resulting from the 1994 agreement establishing the World Trade Organization, hold promise for agricultural exporting countries, as they offer a more harmonious and adequate development horizon for the food trade. This comes largely as a result of the Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS), and the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT). Argentina has placed its expectations on both, with the hope that future negotiations of this kind will be based on scientific principles and free trade.

In this regard, we firmly believe in the work of the Codex Alimentarius and its balanced contribution, oriented toward consumer protection and the development of abundant and safe food production.

## **2. Application of Modern Systems for Food Safety and Quality Control in Grain, Meat, Fruit, Nontraditional, and Other Food Exports and Their Economic Impact**

### **2.1 Food Safety Policy**

Throughout the world, and especially in Argentina, the concept of food safety has evolved thanks to the contributions of several social actors. These have included the state sector, from its planning and inspection role; the industry and livestock sectors, as links in

the production chain; consumers, exercising their right to demand and choose quality commercial products; but above all, the need for food safety.

State reforms initiated in 1989, together with consumer demands and international trends in the area of food safety, have paved the way for systems of quality assurance, such as the hazard analysis critical control point methodology (HACCP). Accordingly, the hope is that industry will adopt these systems voluntarily in order to meet export demands. The HACCP system represents a step in the direction of total food quality, while at the same time, a measure to facilitate and modernize the inspection system, thus contributing to the effectiveness of state reform and the optimal achievement of its goals.

The primary food industry, in concert with state reform, has begun to make the necessary adjustments to strengthen key programs involved in the industrial transformation process, such as the good agricultural practices program (GAP), the good manufacturing practices program (GMP), the standard sanitary operating procedures program (SSOP), and the implementation of the HACCP system.

Accordingly, Argentina is providing leadership in the area of corrective measures for organizing services. Most notably in this regard are the efforts underway at SENASA, aimed at strengthening its surveillance instruments. Examples include establishing parameters for the reduction of pathogens, continued adherence to the Residue Control Plan, *E. coli* monitoring, the search for emerging pathogens, the development of systems for auditing, tracking, and quality management. All these activities improve the quality assurance aspects of agricultural products.

*Application of the HACCP System.* The hazard analysis critical control point system (HACCP) is already being applied in Argentina. To a large extent, SENASA employs HACCP methodology in its inspections of the meat and fishing industries and is currently developing HACCP applications for use in the processing of fruit juice, dairy products, and the peanut industry.

## **2.2 Acceptability of Nontraditional Products**

With respect to grain products, since 1996 consumers have benefited from an important industrial program developed for differentiating corn for human consumption. The system, entailing specific processing controls, has been government-certified. The Wheat Quality Improvement Program, initiated in 1994, is now fully operational, and its the first commercial results should be forthcoming in the near future.

In terms of fruit and vegetables, control policy and the monitoring of quality control in recent years have led to the solid integration of these products into the European, Asian, and American markets.

*Honey.* With regard to honey, Argentina ranks among the top three world exporters—and was the top exporter in 1997—exporting more than 60,000 tons. During 1998, application of the Program for Control of Residues and Food Hygiene (CREHA) was extended to this product.

### **2.3 *Opening of New Markets***

The fact that Argentina's harvest season is opposite to that of the Northern Hemisphere, where the principal consumer countries of certain products are located, facilitates insertion into those markets under favorable price conditions and sustained demand. In recent years, new post-harvest techniques permit greater preservation of perishable items, further extending the supply period.

### **2.4 *Participation in MERCOSUR***

The creation of the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR) has signified an important step in expanding the market of its member countries, as well as a different emphasis with regard to insertion in the international market. In fact, as has been the case for all integration schemes establishing a common external tariff, during the stage involving consolidation of the customs union, intraregional trade has grown more than international trade. To underscore this point, between 1990 and 1998, Argentine exports to MERCOSUR member countries increased by more than 300%, while its overall trade increased by only 92%, including a 20% increase with the European Union, 13% with Japan, and 7% with NAFTA.

MERCOSUR practices open regionalism; hence its external trade continues to be an important component of trade geared toward the rest of the world. Thus, if all the trends indicated by structural trade data—growth rates higher than production rates, and increased involvement with peripheral economies—continue their course in the coming years, it is foreseeable for Argentina to consolidate its role as a food supplier and emerge as an important player in the processed foods markets.

An outstanding feature of this process, corroborated by the growth of the food industry, is that all of the country's economic regions have a meaningful share in export volume.

Specific activities with regard to integration mechanisms are as follows:

- Border control;
- Harmonization of sanitary policy;
- Establishment of food protection systems, based on transparency and equivalence, in order to achieve mutual recognition of control systems and facilitate free trade;
- Horizontal and vertical harmonization of standards, based on Codex Alimentarius guidelines and WTO agreements.

## **2.5 *Participation in Regional Multilateral Agreements***

Our country is involved in the negotiations aimed at establishing the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) by the year 2005. The Secretariat of Agriculture presides and seeks to simplify control procedures among the member countries to reduce border problems that hinder agricultural trade in keeping with the sanitary and phytosanitary measures promoted by the WTO.

Once consensus is reached on the general conditions for administrative systems, procedures, control, and inspection in the trade of agricultural projects to ensure plant and animal health and guarantee equal treatment, there will be a basis for transparency in commercial activity.

With regard to the WTO, Argentina is an active participant in the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures. In this context, our country seeks to ensure that these measures neither introduce nor imply trade distortions, but are instead applied for the purpose of maintaining an adequate level of protection, in harmony with existing scientific evidence and concepts. Such concepts should include risk analysis, minimum risk, equivalence, nondiscrimination, transparency, regionalization, harmonization, and consistency. The latter of these, in particular, should be developed in depth--through practical guidelines that enable the countries to avoid commercial discrimination.

## **2.6 *Participation in Market Links with Third Countries***

The government is pursuing a strong market access policy through agreements on animal and plant health, establishing a framework for information exchange, technical cooperation activities, and harmonization of import requirements. Moreover, it has initiated negotiations with the objective of securing agreements for mutual recognition and equivalence in order to facilitate commercial flows.

## **3. *Economic Participation of Raw Materials Producers in Assuring the Quality and Safety of Food Exports: Economic and Other Incentives***

In general terms, changes in the macroeconomic context—stability, deregulation, liberalization of domestic markets, greater opening and liberalization of the economy to international competition—have created new requirements for agricultural producers. However, producer responses have been positive—a fact supported by growth in the use of agricultural inputs, indicating that a transformation of production systems is under way.



### **3.1 *Agricultural Policy***

The elimination of external and domestic trade barriers included the privatization of services linked directly to this sector, such as grain elevators, railways, ports, and rural telephone systems, as well as the deregulation of others, such as land transport, towing, and port lading services.

- Moreover, numerous regulatory agencies were dissolved.
- The milk and dairy products market was deregulated.
- The functions of the National Viniculture Institute were redefined.

### **3.2 *Investment in the Food Sector***

Due to speculation in the global marketplace, given the links between the Argentine economy and the major world markets, the food sector is attracting a growing number of investors, targeting both primary production and agroindustry.

In global terms, investments in the food sector made and committed for the period 1994-2001 come to US\$ 8 billion. However, the investment is not evenly distributed among all categories, since investment is only a recent phenomenon in some of them, as in the case of meat. Of the total projected foreign investments in the sector, 67% has already been obligated.

Thirty percent of total foreign investment in the production system is destined for the food industry. The principal areas of investment include edible oils (\$1.1 billion) dairy products (\$1.06 billion), processed grains (\$970 million), beer (\$840 million), and soft drinks (\$820 million). Expressed as a percentage of total investment, edible oils account for 14%; dairy products 13%; processed grains 12%; and beer and soft drinks 10%, respectively.

Of the \$8 billion in investments, 60% is allocated to the procurement of capital goods and equipment, 11% to joint ventures, and the remaining 29%, to the stock purchases.

### **3.3 *Meat Policy***

In 1989, a foot-and-mouth disease eradication campaign was launched. The campaign had a solid base of political support and was jointly executed by the federal and provincial governments, in collaboration with groups directly involved in livestock activities, including producers, laboratories, and meat packing plants. The National Food Safety and Quality Assurance Service for Agricultural Products (SENASA) implemented



the 1990-1992 Control Plan, as well as the 1993-1997 Eradication Plan. Nonprofit organizations have conducted systematic vaccination programs using, long-lasting vaccines, and a surveillance system has been installed in establishments.

Annex II provides data on cattle stock, extraction rates, the number of cattle slaughtered, production, export, total consumption, and per capita consumption.

Annex III provides detailed information on meat and meat by-products, expressed in tons and value.

Our meat market grew stronger when the International Organization of Epizootics certified Argentina as country free of foot-and-mouth disease due to vaccination efforts, allowing us to look toward the future with renewed optimism. Beginning with the opening of the U.S. market, Argentine meat exports expanded to include countries with the most stringent import requirements (i.e., the European Union, Japan), then to the markets of Taiwan and China, and beyond to Canada. This effect has generated short-term prospects with regard to the Mexican, Central American, and English-speaking Caribbean markets, and medium-term prospects for the markets of Asia and the Pacific. In this recent period, agreements have been reached with countries that have not had a tradition of importing our meat products, such as Algeria, Colombia, Egypt, Indonesia, Morocco, Thailand, Venezuela, and Vietnam.

We will continue to subject our meat products to sanitary controls, emphasizing quality assurance, food safety, and respect for the environment.

Argentina's meat sector has a very favorable outlook. Beef exports are expected to increase over the next five years, and projections indicate that meat exports will reach 700,000 tons by the year 2002. Estimated production for 2001 is 2.7 million tons (beef and bone)—which will mean increasing production by 17% to meet the greater external demand for Argentine meats.

Another important area of progress for the country involves risk analyses conducted for bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), and scrapie in sheep, which indicate the country is free of these diseases, and serves to further consolidate sanitary conditions for the export of animal products and by-products.

### **3.4 *Agricultural Products Policy***

In terms of the production and trade in starches, edible oils, and forage grains, production has been nothing short of spectacular in recent years. Annex IV provides

information on production volume, the main species involved, and the growth observed. In addition, Annex V includes export volume data for these.

Concerning the supply of fruit and vegetables for export, growth has been significant, in terms of both quality and quantity. Argentina exports temperate-climate fruit (mainly apples, pears, peaches and plums) to 33 countries, and vegetables (mainly garlic, onions, and potatoes) to 42 countries.

Annex VI indicates the growth in fruit exports over the past decade.

Annex VII details this information for vegetable exports.

Similarly, nontraditional products such as asparagus, bilberry, flowers, and organic products show impressive rates of growth (Annex VIII contains data on these products).

#### **4. Federal Supervision in Sanitary Surveillance and Economic Regulation to Guarantee the Quality and Safety of Food Exports**

In 1996, the former National Animal Health Service (SENASA) merged with the Argentine Institute of Plant Health and Quality (IASCAV). As a result of the merger, the new agency has become more effective, improving the quality of its activities, the scope of responsibilities, and overall institutional competence. In this regard, SENASA decentralized, organizing the agency into five geographical regions, which allowed it to carry out activities in a coordinated manner. Decentralization of the agency has facilitated the execution of plans, programs, and approved projects, ensuring the quality and safety of food exports.

SENASA, headquartered in the City of Buenos Aires, has approximately 3,000 agents distributed according to the production activities and export trade of each region. Its annual budget is US\$ 120 million, and it has two reference laboratories.

SENASA's institutional functions concern animal and plant health and food quality. The Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, and Food is responsible for the standards regulating SENASA operations and is also the ultimate authority regarding the Argentine Food Code.

The high degree of applied technology involved in food production is worth mentioning, facilitating the concentration of efforts and resources in the control of production and processing systems (process monitoring).

In addition, SENASA has established a new order in the government-food producer relationship, the primary focus of responsibility in this regard being safe food production, thus creating a favorable framework and promoting modern systems of automated control and quality assurance.

SENASA activities involving new technical and administrative trends in animal and plant health will require highly trained staff to meet the challenges of the new demands. The agency will meet these by providing staff with technical training through intensive courses, providing information, disseminating activities, and addressing pertinent topics.

The National Plan for the Control of Residues and Food Hygiene is currently under implementation, covering inorganic and microbial residues, toxins, hormones, pesticides, and antibiotics and involving a nationwide sampling and monitoring program. The Plan includes an authorized laboratory network made up of 336 private laboratories,

38 of which specialize in food. SENASA will coordinate and supervise the network from its central laboratory.

Control of products of plant origin (grains, edible oils, fruits, vegetables, food preservatives, and processed products) are very important for the domestic market and for export. SENASA has a network of 320 local offices throughout the country that engage in control and certification activities.

## **5. General Recommendations**

Argentina's experience in the area of safe food production indicates the need to prioritize the following:

- Develop an integrated food protection program covering all links in the food chain—a program that is both interdisciplinary and intersectoral.
- Modernize management practices for plant and animal health, using computerized systems.
- Modernize and optimize management links to facilitate information management and analysis, delegation and coordination of activities.
- Improve quality assurance systems.
- Institute a competent and reliable system of food monitoring controls that protects consumers at home and abroad.
- Strengthen the government-producer relationship, which has proven to be the most suitable approach to program development.
- Strengthen cooperation activities with other countries to facilitate the harmonization, equivalence, and transparency of sanitary food monitoring standards.

Annexes

**ANNEX I**  
**ARGENTINE EXPORTS**  
**Primary and Manufactured Agricultural Products (US\$ Millions)**

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Primary Products	3.339,1	3.301,2	3.500,2	3.270,9	3.735,3	4.815,9	5.817,1	5.704,7	6.582,4
Manufactured Agricultural Products	4.681,1	4.954,9	4.863,7	4.970,5	5.857,7	7.528,6	8.493,4	9.104,2	8.703,9
Others	4.468,1	3.889,8	4.035,0	5.027,5	6.430,3	8.817,2	9.732,2	11.621,5	10.569,7
Total	12.488,3	12.145,9	12.398,9	13.268,9	16.023,3	21.161,7	24.042,7	26.430,4	25.856,0

Source: Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, and Food

**ANNEX II**  
**ARGENTINE BEEF**

Year	Stock	Extraction Rate	Slaughtered <sup>1</sup>	Production <sup>2</sup>	Export <sup>2</sup>	Total Consumption <sup>2</sup>	Per Capita Consumption <sup>3</sup>
1997	52.9	22.9	11.551	2.414	450	1,964	53.7
1998	52.7	21.9	11.125	2.347	500	1,847	52.7

Source: Secretary of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, and Food

Notes

<sup>1</sup> in millions of heads

<sup>2</sup> in tons (beef and bone)

<sup>3</sup> in kilograms per year

**ANNEX III**  
**BEEF EXPORTS**  
**Period 1997-1998-By Product and Value**

PRODUCT	VOLUME (tons)		VALUE (US\$ Thousands)	
	1997	1998	1997	1998
Beef Quarters	22,380	5,640	30,052	8,566
Prime Cuts	75,192	50,067	359,055	320,231
Processed Meats	4,342	602	6,628	1,000
Precooked Frozen Meats	82,472	23,857	110,004	101,154
Corned Beef	32,525	22,440	77,575	57,113
Specialties	9,748	3,375	33,079	9,991
<b>Total (Beef and Bone)</b>	<b>437,215</b>	<b>279,796</b>	<b>813,768</b>	<b>615,349</b>
By-products	49,599	36,028	49,756	36,332

Source: Livestock Markets, Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, and Food.

Principal products experienced a sharp setback with regard to the tons exported for processing (-86%); beef quarters (-75%); and specialties (-65%). Higher value products, such as prime cuts, declined to a lesser extent; 23% in volume and 11% in value. Source: SENASA

**ANNEX IV**  
**ARGENTINA. VOLUME OF GRAIN PRODUCTION (t)**

CROPS	AGRICULTURAL HARVESTS									
	1989/90	1990/91	1991/92	1992/93	1993/94	1994/95	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99
<b>Wheat</b>	10,000,000	10,991,900	9,884,000	9,874,400	9,659,000	11,306,500	9,445,000	15,194,000	14,800,230	10,599,900
<b>Corn</b>	5,400,000	7,684,800	10,700,500	10,901,000	10,360,000	11,404,013	10,518,000	15,536,000	19,362,359	14,500,000
<b>Soybeans</b>	10,700,000	10,862,000	11,310,000	11,045,400	11,720,000	12,134,450	12,448,000	11,000,000	18,732,172	18,500,000
<b>Sunflowers</b>	3,900,000	4,033,800	3,407,569	2,955,900	4,095,000	5,800,000	5,558,000	5,450,000	5,579,880	7,000,000
<b>Sorghum</b>	2,050,000	2,252,400	2,767,000	2,859,700	2,148,000	1,649,500	2,132,000	2,499,000	3,760,000	3,470,000
<b>Others</b>	3,500,965	3,400,878	3,596,758	2,954,777	2,886,000	3,547,399	3,934,443	4,546,000	4,765,359	4,694,100
<b>Total</b>	<b>35,550,965</b>	<b>39,225,778</b>	<b>41,665,827</b>	<b>40,591,177</b>	<b>40,868,000</b>	<b>45,841,862</b>	<b>44,035,443</b>	<b>54,225,000</b>	<b>67,000,000</b>	<b>58,764,000</b>

Source: Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, and Food (Bureau of Farm Economy)

**ANNEX V**  
**ARGENTINA. GRAIN EXPORT VOLUME (tons)**

<b>Grains</b>	<b>1989</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>1991</b>	<b>1992</b>	<b>1993</b>	<b>1994</b>	<b>1995</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>1998</b>
<b>Wheat</b>	4,352,116	5,865,593	5,544,433	6,048,323	4,755,197	5,309,942	6,618,518	5,463,419	8,710,228	10,439,868
<b>Corn</b>	1,876,552	2,920,369	3,840,376	6,054,974	4,314,270	4,146,963	5,583,053	6,470,954	10,525,772	12,031,972
<b>Soybeans</b>	421,838	3,258,675	4,405,636	3,085,408	2,173,639	2,901,091	1,118,368	959,238	500,103	2,356,625
<b>Sunflowers</b>	113,112	342,738	366,777	295,621	175,826	448,872	616,393	349,992	51,895	342,531
<b>Sorghum</b>	391,216	1,127,920	1,285,746	1,183,588	849,339	518,907	155,441	771,679	634,065	1,228,539
<b>Others</b>	382,262	384,958	262,076	252,874	108,802	550,928	666,295	689,060	1,073,105	1,324,736
<b>Total Grains</b>	<b>7,537,096</b>	<b>13,900,253</b>	<b>15,705,044</b>	<b>16,920,788</b>	<b>12,377,073</b>	<b>13,876,703</b>	<b>14,758,068</b>	<b>14,704,342</b>	<b>21,495,168</b>	<b>27,724,271</b>

Source: \* National Grain Institute

- SENASA

**ANNEX VI**  
**FRUIT**

	<b>1989-1990</b>	<b>1997-1998</b>	<b>% Increase</b>
LAND AREA <sup>1</sup> (ha)	205,051	218,164	6.4
PRODUCTION <sup>1</sup> (t)	2,841,080	3,188,208	12.2
EXPORT (t)	531,810	768,385	44.5

<sup>(1)</sup> Includes lemons, oranges, tangerines, grapefruit, apples, and pears

Source: SENASA



## ANNEX VII VEGETABLES

	1989-1990	1997-1998	% Increase
PRODUCTION <sup>1</sup> (t)	2,037,286	2,955,462	45.1
EXPORT (t)	52,830	346,589	556.0

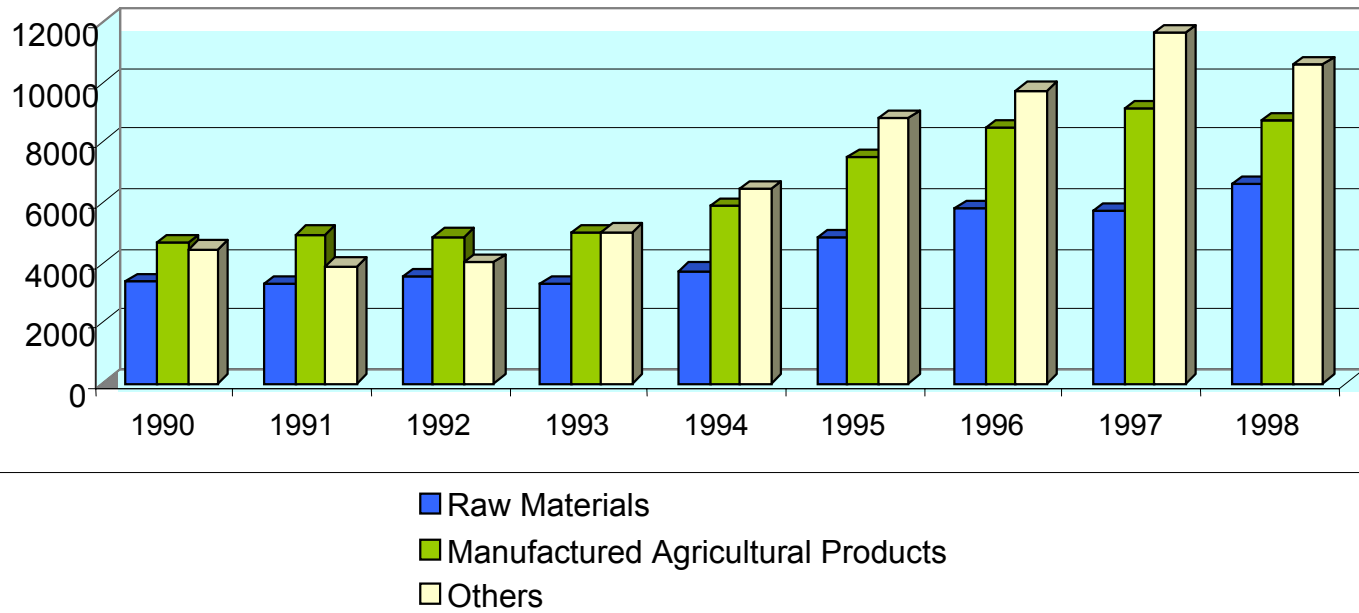
<sup>(1)</sup> Includes garlic, onions, and potatoes  
Source: SENASA

## ANNEX VIII ARGENTINA. VOLUME OF NONTRADITIONAL EXPORTS (kg)

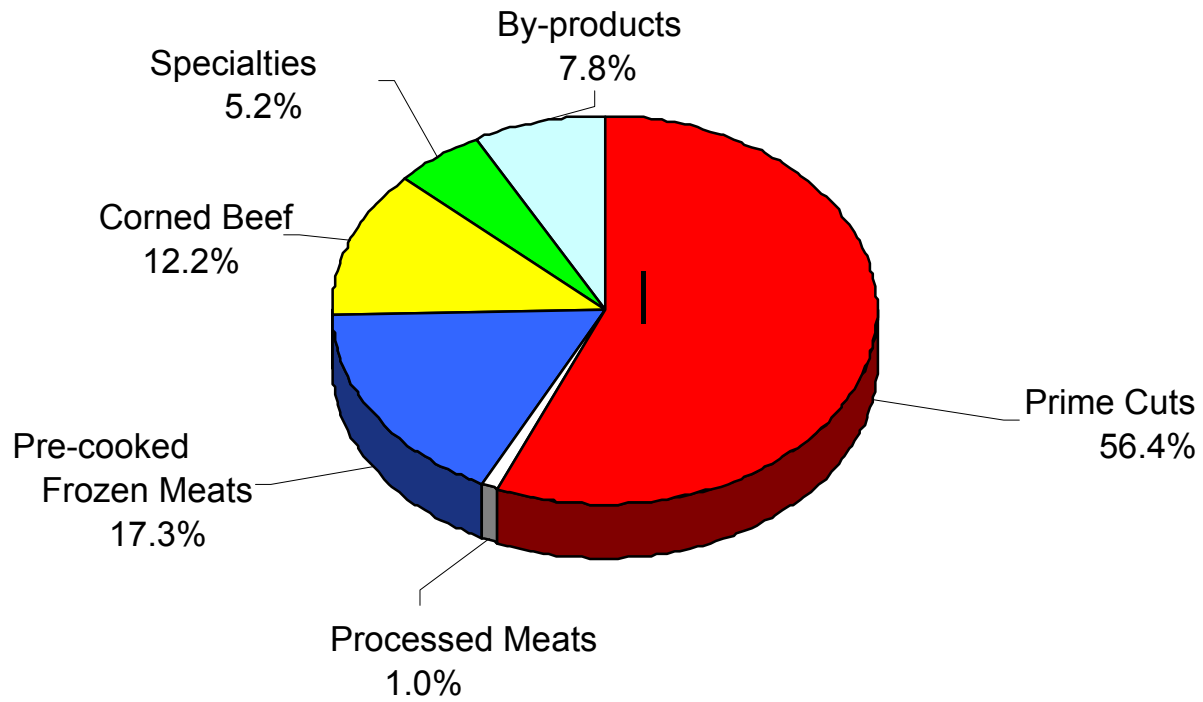
	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Asparagus	670.190	826.860	1.545.850	1.198.835	1.307.136
Biberroes			2.779	37.675	59.161
Flowers	210	15.876	16.103	7.016	11.115
Organic Products (Arg)				10.694.633	*

Source: SENASA  
\* Unprocessed

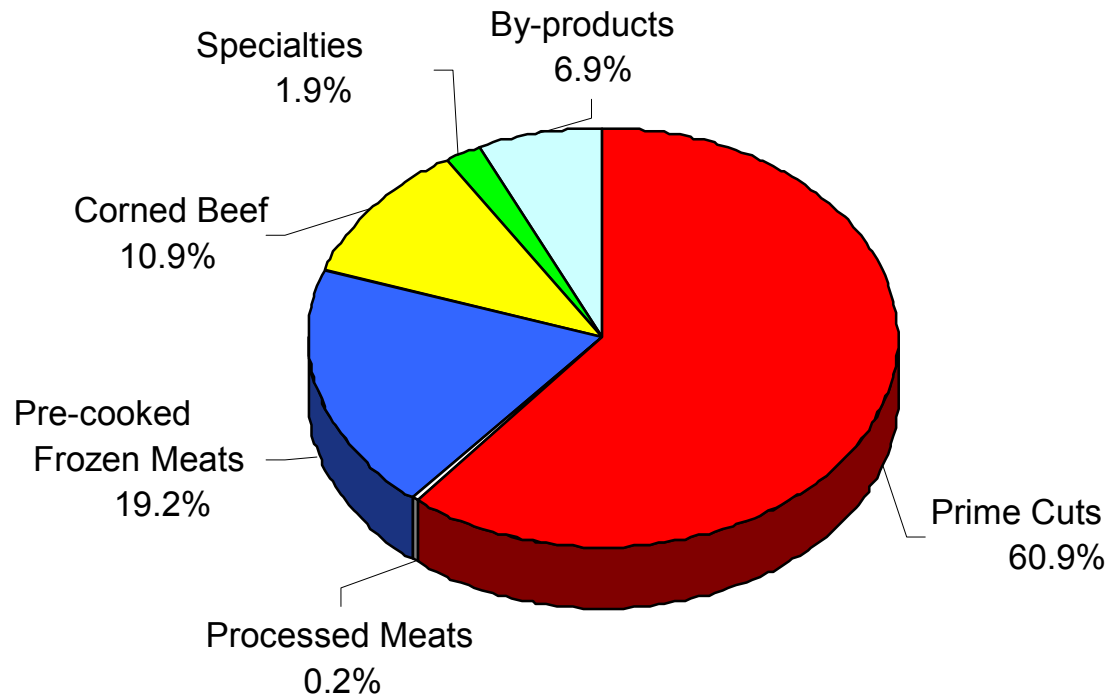
**ANNEX I**  
**Argentine Exports: Raw Materials and**  
**Manufactured Agricultural Products (US\$ Million)**



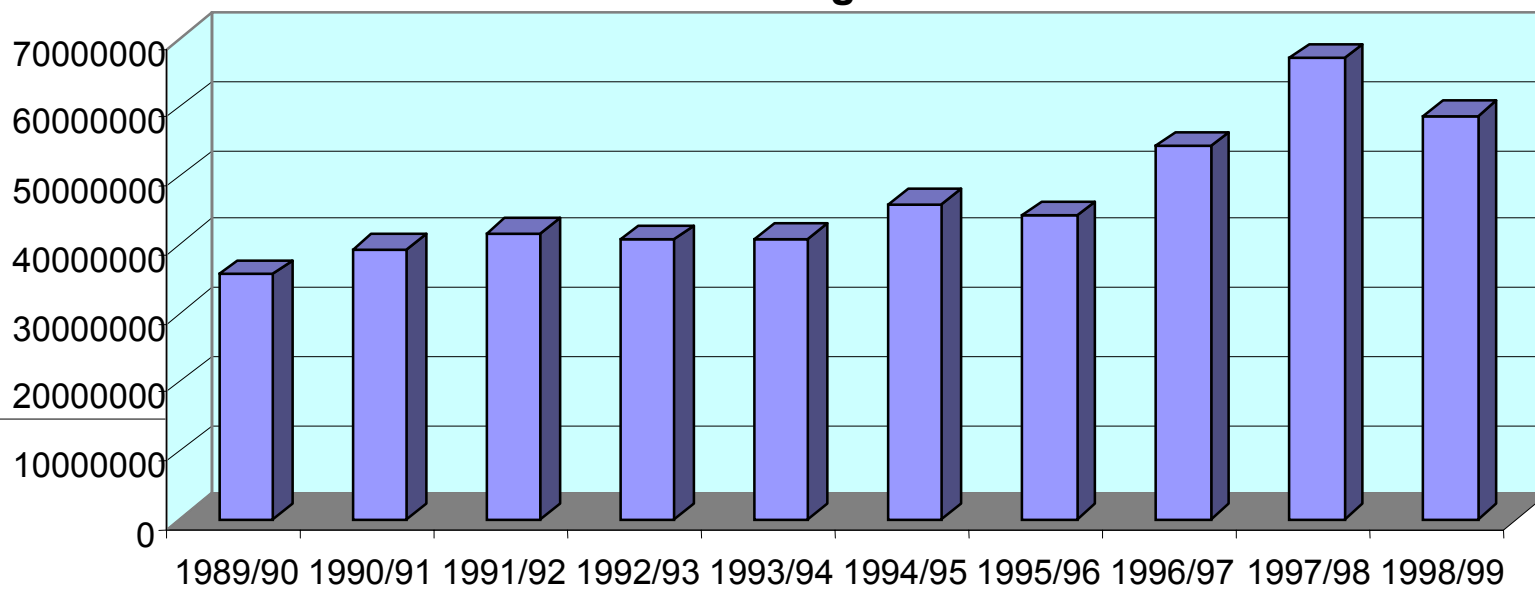
ANNEX II  
Beef Exports (in US\$)  
Argentina, 1997



**ANNEX III**  
**Beef Exports (in US\$ Thousands)**  
**Argentina, 1998**



**ANNEX IV**  
**Volume of Grain Production (t)**  
**Argentina**



### ANNEX V Exported Volume of Grains (t) Argentina

