



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION



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LEVEL, ON HEALTH AND AGRICULTURE**

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Provisional Agenda Item 7

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**REPORT ON THE 10th MEETING OF THE HEMISPHERIC COMMITTEE
FOR THE ERADICATION OF FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE
(COHEFA 10)**

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1. The 10th Ordinary Meeting of the Hemispheric Committee for the Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (COHEFA I), convened by the Pan American Sanitary Bureau (PASB) was held in the Conference Hall of the Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the 19th of April, 2005.

Officers

- President: Dr. José Angel del Valle Molina, Director General of Animal Health at the Mexican Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development, Fishing and Food– SAGARPA
- 1st Vice-president: Dr. Antenor Nogueira, President of the National Forum of Beef Cattle Production – National Agriculture Confederation of Brazil
- 2nd Vice-president: Mr. Bolívar Ceballos, Undersecretary of Strategic Agro-productive Management at the Ministry of Agriculture of Ecuador.
- Rapporteur: Dr. Emerio Serrano, Director General of the Institute of Veterinary Medicine of Cuba.

2. Dr. Albino Belotto served as Secretary *ex officio* of the meeting and Dr. Eduardo Correa Melo, Director of the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center (PANAFTOSA-PASB/WHO), served as Technical Secretary.

Participants:

3. The following people represented their respective regions:

Amazon Sub-region:

4. Dr. Gabriel Maciel, Minister of Agriculture and Livestock Defense from the Brazilian Ministry of Agriculture, Fishing and Supplies and Dr. Miriam Melean, representing the National Confederation of Farmers and Livestock Producers of Venezuela – CONFAGAN.

Andean Area:

5. Mr. Bolívar Ceballos, Undersecretary of Strategic Agro-productive Management from the Ministry of Agriculture of Ecuador and Dr. Jaime Giraldo Saavedra, Deputy Director of the Federation of Cattle Farmers of Colombia.

The Caribbean:

6. Dr. Emerio Serrano, Director General of the Institute of Veterinary Medicine of Cuba, and Mr. Miguel Zaglul, President of the National Association of Cattle Farmers of Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

Southern Cone:

7. Dr. Jorge Nestor Amaya, President of Argentina's National Service for Health and the Quality of Food and Agriculture, and Mr. Antenor Nogueira, President of the National Forum of Beef Cattle Production – National Agriculture Confederation of Brazil.

Mesoamerican Sub-region:

Dr. Cesar Sandoval, National Director of Animal Health from the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development of Panama, and Mr. Ronny Chaves Solano, President of the Corporation for the Promotion of Stockbreeding - CORFOGA, of Costa Rica.

North America:

8. Dr. José Ángel del Valle Molina, Director General of Animal Health at the Mexican Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development, Fishing and Food– SAGARPA, and Mr. Phillip E. Bradshaw, President of the Illinois Soybean Board;

9. Also present were representatives of intergovernmental organizations, nongovernmental organizations, representatives of the state governments of Brazil, academic institutions and representatives of the agriculture and livestock sectors of the countries of the region.

Sessions

10. Two plenary sessions and a closing session were held.

Opening of the Meeting

The officers consisted of Dr. Albino Belotto, Chief of the Veterinary Public Health Unit of PAHO, who represented Dr. Mirta Roses Periago, Director of the Pan American Health Organization and Executive Secretary of COHEFA; Dr. Eduardo Correa Melo, Director of PANAFTOSA and Technical Secretary of COHEFA; and Dr. José Germán Rodríguez Torres, representing PWR/Mexico.

11. Dr. José Germán Rodríguez Torres opened the session by welcoming the participants on the behalf of the Director of PAHO. Dr. Del Valle Molina then greeted the delegates on the behalf of the Minister of Agriculture of Mexico.

12. Election of the President and Rapporteur: The official delegate for the Southern Cone proposed Dr. Del Valle Molina as president of the meeting and this was approved unanimously. Dr. Antenor Nogueira and Mr. Bolívar Ceballos were elected as 1st and 2nd vice-presidents, respectively, and Dr. Emerio Serrano as rapporteur.

Adoption of the Agenda

13. Dr. Del Valle Molina thanked the Minister of Agriculture of Haiti, Mr. Phillipe Mathieu, for attending the meeting. He then put the proposed work agenda to the consideration of the Commission, which was accepted in its entirety.

Report of the Secretariat of the Committee

14. Dr. Eduardo Correa Melo, Director of PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO, informed the delegates that information to facilitate the discussions could be found in the files. He then gave an historical outline of the programs implemented to fight foot-and-mouth disease, in the context of PHEFA (Hemispheric Program for the Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease), and of the current status of the disease, underlining the most recent events during the biennium. He spoke specifically about the endemism of foot-and-mouth disease in Ecuador and Venezuela, and the presence of O and C-type viruses in the Amazonian region of Brazil. He then commented on the appearance of sources of O-type virus infections in Lurín, Peru and A-type virus infections in Tibú, Colombia. He went on to provide details of the measures taken by the affected countries and the cooperation afforded by PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO in the control of these outbreaks. He also reported on the progress achieved by Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Paraguay and Peru in the recognition of disease-free zones and on the resources applied by the countries as part of their national programs, both of public and private-sector origin. He then presented a report on the resolutions adopted at COHEFA 9; at the Hemispheric Conference in Houston; COSALFA XXXI and XXXII. He also mentioned the resolutions of the I COHEFA Extraordinary Meeting, held on the 2nd of December of last year in Brasilia, Brazil, placing emphasis on those related to the development and improvement of PHEFA's 2005-2009 Plan of Action, drawn up by GIEFA (Inter-American Group for the Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease).

Comments

15. Mr. Bolivar Ceballos, Undersecretary of Strategic Agro-productive Management, said he was honored to have been elected vice-president of the meeting and commented

on the quality of the presentation and how important eradicating this disease is to his country. This objective, he said, is a priority for my government, but it requires the cooperation of both the public and private sectors. Mr. Antenor Nogueira thanked the delegates for nominating him 1st vice-president and mentioned the efforts undertaken by the region with a view to eradicating the disease, particularly in Brazil. Dr. Ronny Chaves, a private-sector representative for Central America, noted the importance of the 2005-2009 Plan of Action and the work of GIEFA, and the implications of this as regards maintaining the status of disease-free countries in the sub-region. Dr. Belotto, who spoke on the behalf of Dr. Mirta Roses, informed the participants of PAHO's vision regarding the development of programs for the eradication of foot-and-mouth disease and compared this to the eradication of human smallpox, due to its impact on animal and human health, where combined public and private-sector efforts, together with the structuring of national animal health programs, would have an impact on other diseases of a socio-economic importance in the region. He mentioned the concerns voiced by some Member States regarding the importance of maintaining a technical cooperation program for foot-and-mouth disease within the PAHO system that weighs up the social impact of the disease and that is geared toward providing new opportunities for local development, increasing production and reducing hunger in the region. Since there were no further comments, the president deemed the report of the Technical Secretary approved.

Adjusted PHEFA 2005-2009 Proposed Plan of Action

16. Dr. Alfonso Torres, a GIEFA member and representative for the North American sub-region, announced the creation of a group responsible for drawing up the plan, with the cooperation of PANAFTOSA, and added that this group has public and private-sector representatives from all the sub-regions, with the exception of the Caribbean. This version, he said, arose from discussions during the five meetings that were held and from the participation of members and observers through the PANAFTOSA web site. He provided an in-depth account of the historic events leading up to the creation and development of GIEFA and a detailed explanation of the various aspects of the 2005-2009 Plan of Action, drawing attention to several circumstances that must be addressed in order to fulfill the objective of the plan by the date foreseen. Dr. Torres described the current status of national programs and their successes, and pinpointed problem zones in countries that are considered priority. The plan, he said, aims to supplement activities in these problem zones under the accountability of national programs. He then mentioned the strategies drawn up by each sub-region, in accordance with criteria designed to classify the level of development of each national program. The participation of regional and international organizations as players in joint technical cooperation efforts is important, as is the contribution of the private sector. The chapter on audits was considered a priority, as these are a means of guaranteeing transparency in the execution of the activities undertaken. These audits, he said, would be based on a model employed in the Southern Cone. Prevention in disease-free regions is also taken into account by the

plan, and the necessary levels of prevention will be determined for each country. As concerns the resources required to supplement national programs, a figure of 48 million dollars was mentioned. These resources are classified into two types: national resources, which originate in the same country they are to be applied in, and international resources, which are to be used in the strategic areas identified, under the accountability of the country that receives them. It has been suggested that these resources be managed and operated by an administrative group located within PANAFTOSA, which has its own personnel and autonomy of action, while an executive body will keep all members of GIEFA and donors informed as to the use to which these resources are put. It will be necessary to formalize a Memorandum of Understanding between GIEFA and PAHO, which could be signed during the next RIMSA.

Comments

17. Dr. Jorge Amaya, a private-sector representative for the Southern Cone, thanked those present, on the behalf of the Permanent Veterinary Committee (PVC), for the opportunity to participate in GIEFA, and requested clarification on the audit procedures to be employed. Dr. Correa answered this query, referring to the proposal for the drawing up of an annual audit schedule within the Plan of Action. Dr. Emerio Serrano said that the delivery of the Plan of Action represents a major landmark in the programming of GIEFA and asked whether or not there was any clarity regarding the source and volume of resources, and if a date had been set for the administrative group to begin taking action. Given that Cuba is a disease-free country, the plan is of particular importance and the possibility of collaborating with development models on a local level was mentioned, this being one of the strategies foreseen. But before resources can be distributed, certain conditions must be met, such as the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding and the approval of the Plan of Action. The private-sector representative for the Caribbean underscored the need to develop prevention programs in the poor countries of the sub-region that are receiving products and sub-products of animal origin. Dr. Correa pointed out that the plan incorporates preventive activities, as mentioned previously. Mr. Nogueira agreed with Cuba's comments on GIEFA resources and activities and said that GIEFA needs to be supervised. He also underlined the importance of conducting audits as a means of supporting the programs and providing guidance in the channeling of resources. It is also important, he said, that the private sectors of Southern Cone countries participate in PCV. The private-sector representative for the Andean area said he was satisfied with the plan, with the details that were provided on the progress of national programs and the placing of a consultant in countries deemed problematic. Dr. Hernán Rojas, of SAG/Chile, said that the plan is the result of the joint efforts of the public and private sectors and the cooperation of PANAFTOSA. As such, commitment by all the parties should be the guiding force of plan, as this commitment is even more important than the amount of resources. Audits, he said, are an instrument that allows for ongoing evaluation. In his opinion, the consultants assigned to certain countries should assume the

role of advisors, with the countries themselves taking responsibility for the management of their programs. Dr. Amaya said that the possibility of the private-sector participating in PVC is being discussed. With regard to the audits, he said that they should also be used to address emergencies. Dr. Ronny Chavez underlined how important it is that disease-free countries be subject to these audits in order to evaluate their prevention capacity. He suggested that OIRSA (Regional International Organization for Plant Protection and Animal Health) support the creation of a regional institution that includes producers, with a view to promoting preventive activities on a regional level. Dr. Torres mentioned the technical capacity of the region in eradicating major diseases. Dr. Zaglul referred to his previous comment to highlight the problem of donations from non-disease-free countries to poor countries in the sub-region. These, he said, should be subject to certification by their governments of origin. The OIRSA representative mentioned the preventive activities developed by the organization in the sub-region, taking into consideration the proposal of Dr. Chavez. Dr. Bradshaw said he was satisfied with the reports given and that the productive sectors of North America should be informed of the level of progress achieved. He is convinced that the objectives of the plan can be reached, but emphasized the importance of the audits and the participation of the private sector in order to do so. In his view, the western hemisphere will be responsible for producing the world's food supplies, while the flow of people to the United States represents a sanitary risk to the country and this needs to be communicated to the general public. Dr. Héctor Acuña, former PAHO director, congratulated the GIEFA secretariat on the quality of the plan and suggested that it be presented to the health and agriculture ministers of the countries, so that its approval could be validated at this COHEFA. He also suggested that alternative plans that are more acceptable to the countries be drawn up, plans that allow for the shortening or extension of terms. Dr. Jaime Giraldo, a private-sector representative for the Andean Area, noted that this sub-region presents the greatest problems within the plan, as it lacks a sanitary culture and the participation of the private sector is essential. He also called on PANAFTOSA to continue supporting the countries in the implementation of their programs. Mrs. Melean, speaking for the Amazon Region, cited the difficulties Venezuela is facing with the management of the program. The public and private sectors continue to work together and a bill was presented for the eradication of the disease. Also, the Zulia project was put forward as a structural model for the reorganization that is going to take place in the country.

Closing Ceremony

18. Dr. Belotto thanked all the delegates for their contribution to the meeting and noted that there was high level of agreement on the proposals presented. Dr. Gabriel Maciel from Brazil thanked the delegates for the opportunity to participate in this meeting and commented on the progress attained over the last six years in his country. He also referred to future projects for the inclusion of states in the northeast and northern regions of Brazil, in which the private sector and state entities will collaborate. Dr.

Correa thanked all those present and reminded them of the important role fighting foot-and-mouth disease plays in improving economic conditions, adding that eradicating this disease will serve as a basis for combating other diseases. Dr. Del Valle Molina brought the meeting to an end by thanking everyone, on the behalf of Minister Usabiaga Arroyo, for their contribution to the development of the plan and their commitment to fulfilling its objectives.

Resolution

19. During the second working session, the resolutions proposed were presented for discussion and these were approved by the delegates with the proposed modifications, as described in the attachment to this document.

RESOLUTION N° 1

THE 10th ORDINARY MEETING OF THE HEMISPHERIC COMMITTEE FOR THE ERADICATION OF FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE,

Considering:

The complete and detailed report presented by the Technical Secretary of COHEFA on the status of programs to prevent and eradicate foot-and-mouth disease on the American continent, and the positive comments of participants in the X COHEFA;

The 2005-2009 Plan of Action of the Hemispheric Program for the Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (PHEFA), presented at this X COHEFA, and drawn up by the Inter-American Group for the Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (GIEFA) in conjunction with the official veterinary services and private sectors of the countries, together with the international organizations affording technical cooperation in the region;

The effectiveness of the work carried out by the current members of GIEFA, which has culminated in the preparation of the document for the 2005-2009 Plan of Action of PHEFA;

The importance of the aforementioned plan as a guide for the work of national programs in the securing of PHEFA's goals, bearing in mind the broad participation of all players in the drawing up of the document;

The importance the audit process acquires in terms of transparency and in the follow-up of all actions undertaken, and the need for this process to be applied to all the countries in the region, both under normal circumstances and in emergency situations;

The need for greater inclusion of the private sector in measures to prevent and eradicate the disease throughout the continent;

The importance of making the relationship between GIEFA and the Pan American Health Organization official as soon as possible, so that the Plan of Action can be initiated effectively and executed promptly;

RESOLVES:

1. That the report of the Technical Secretary for the 2003-2004 period be approved, without comment.
2. That all the terms of the 2005-2009 Plan of Action of PHEFA be approved, and that the Technical Secretariat be responsible for the editing, final publication and diffusion of the plan.
3. That the extension of the mandate of the current members of GIEFA be ratified and that PAHO be asked to nominate public and private-sector representatives for the Caribbean.
4. That the countries be asked to strengthen their commitment to attaining the goals proposed in the Plan of Action within the framework of PHEFA, and that the plan be used as a guide for national programs and the application and optimization of resources.
5. That the audit process be applied to national programs for the eradication of foot-and-mouth disease and to the veterinary services and systems that implement them in all the countries of the region, both under normal circumstances and in emergency situations, in accordance with the methodologies developed in the Southern Cone and validated in the Andean Area, and that annual programs be defined in this area.
6. That the countries and sub-regional organizations be called upon to encourage the participation and integration of the private sector in measures to prevent and eradicate the disease, both in terms of the financing of these measures and their participation in the decision-making process;
7. That a Memorandum of Understanding be signed by PAHO and GIEFA, with a view to making the relationship between both parties official and implementing the Plan of Action as soon as possible.
8. That all members of GIEFA and PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO be thanked for their efforts.

9. That the Mexican authorities be thanked for their hospitality and for providing the facilities to hold this meeting.

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