



PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION

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

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

Washington, D.C., 6-7 July 1988

RECOHFA1/FR (Eng.)
7 July 1988
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH-SPANISH

F I N A L R E P O R T

FINAL REPORT

The I Meeting of the Hemispheric Committee for the Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (RECOHFA) was held at the Headquarters of the Pan American Health Organization in Washington, D.C., United States of America, on 6 and 7 July 1988, as convened by the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau in compliance with Resolution XIII approved by the V Inter-American Meeting, at the Ministerial Level, on Animal Health (RIMSA).

OFFICERS

The following officers of the Meeting were elected unanimously:

- Chairman: Dr. Iris Resende
Minister of State for Agriculture of Brazil
Representing the governments of the Amazonian
Subregion
- Vice Chairman: Mr. John R. Dahl
National Cattlemen's Association of the United
States of America
Representing the producers of the North American
Subregion
- Rapporteur: Dr. Patrick McKenzie
Minister of Agriculture of Guyana
Representing the governments of the Caribbean
Subregion

Dr. Carlyle Guerra de Macedo, Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, served as Secretary ex officio.

PARTICIPANTS

The following governments were represented in the Meeting: Brazil, for the Amazonian Subregion; Bolivia and Colombia, for the Andean Subregion; Guyana, for the Caribbean Subregion; Argentina, Chile and Uruguay, for the Southern Cone Subregion; Costa Rica, for the Mesoamerican Subregion; and Canada and the United States of America, for the North American Subregion.

The following producers' associations were represented as members of the Committee: the Associação Brasileira de Criadores de Gado Zebu (Brazilian Association of Zebu Cattle Producers), the National Cattlemen's Association of the United States of America, the Confederación Andina de Ganaderos (Andean Confederation of Cattle Producers), the Confederación Interamericana de Ganaderos (Inter-American Confederation of Cattle Producers), and the Federación Rural del Uruguay (Rural Federation of Uruguay).

M

Observers were also present from the following agencies: the Associacao Brasileira da Industria Exportadora de Carne, Brazil; the Commission of the European Communities; the Confederacao Nacional da Agricultura, Brazil; the Federacao Rural do Estado do Rio Grande do Sul (FARSUL), Brazil; the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); the Instituto Colombiano Agropecuario (ICA); the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB); the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA); the International Office of Epizootics (OIE); the Organization of American States (OAS); the South American Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (COSALFA); the United Nations Development Program (UNDP); USAID, United States of America; and the World Bank.

AGENDA AND PROGRAM OF SESSIONS

In its first plenary session the Meeting adopted the provisional agenda and program of sessions (Document RECOHFA I/1).

SESSIONS

The Meeting held one inaugural session, four plenary sessions, and one closing session.

The inaugural session was addressed by Dr. Kenneth Gilles, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, representing the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States of America, who said that a Hemisphere-wide effort would benefit everybody. In particular, he said that the prevention of foot-and-mouth disease was a prime objective of the agricultural services in his country, and that this meeting marked the beginning of a historic event.

Dr. Carlyle Guerra de Macedo, Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, repeated his warm welcome to the participants. He remarked on the need to increase animal production to make available more animal protein, which was in short supply and a prime necessity for the nutrition of peoples. He also noted that integration of the public and private sectors was a basic strategy for gradually paying off that accumulated social debt expressed in health status. Finally, he said that PAHO was aware of the part it must play in this project for the Hemisphere-wide eradication of foot-and-mouth disease, and asked the international technical and financial cooperation agencies to join with the countries to reach the desired goal.

Mr. Iris Rezende Machado, Minister of State for Agriculture of Brazil, thanked the participants in the Committee for electing him Chairman, and spoke of his country's policy on the eradication of animal diseases, and of foot-and-mouth disease in particular, and of regional and subregional cooperation.

Next, Dr. George Alleyne, Area Director, Health Programs Development, PAHO, reported on the background and aims of the Meeting. Dr. Alleyne noted the importance of the work of the Hemispheric Committee and what was expected of it, and spoke of the challenge posed by eradication, and the means currently at hand for its accomplishment.

The first plenary session also considered the topics "Status of Foot-and-Mouth Disease and Programs in South America, and Strategies for Control and Eradication of the Disease," presented by Dr. Vicente Astudillo, Chief of Field Services, Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center; "Proposal for the Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease in the Plate Basin Subregion," presented by Mr. Pedro E. Bonino Garmendía, Minister of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries of Uruguay, and "Subregional Proposal for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease in the Andean Pact Countries," presented by Dr. Eduardo Alvarez, Epidemiologist in the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center.

Following a recess, the second plenary session was opened with Mr. John R. Dahl, Vice Chairman of the Meeting, in the Chair. The topic of "Socioeconomic Considerations regarding the Hemispheric Plan for the Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease," was presented by Dr. Hernán Vallejo Mejía and Mr. Aníbal Zottele, consultant economists of the Pan American Health Organization. This plenary session also considered the topic "hemispheric Plan of Action for the Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease from South America," presented by Dr. Raúl Casas Olascoaga, Director of the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center.

Members of the Committee, delegates of participating countries and observers took the floor to note the importance of the topic presented and especially of the choice of strategies, first and foremost those for subregional integration.

The Vice Chairman, Mr. John R. Dahl, opened the third plenary session, in which the delegates of countries, the technical assistance and financial cooperation agencies and the cattle producers' associations expressed their views on the Hemispheric Plan for the Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease. Statements were made by representatives of the Federación Rural del Uruguay; the World Bank; the Confederación Andina de Ganaderos; the Associação Brasileira de Criadores de Gado Zebú; the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; the United States of America; Argentina; the Commission of the European Communities; the Confederação Nacional da Agricultura of Brazil; the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture; Colombia; the Confederación Interamericana de Ganaderos y Agricultores; the Federação de Agricultores do Rio Grande do Sul of Brazil; the Inter-American Development Bank; the Associação Brasileira de Importadores e Exportadores de Carne; the

Agency for International Development of the United States of America; and the International Office of Epizootics. In their interventions they addressed technical, administrative, methodological, scientific and commercial matters of intra- and interregional interest and aspects of local and international financing, and supported with special emphasis cooperation between public and private sectors.

During the recess the members of the Hemispheric Committee held a working meeting in which they considered the procedure for the functioning of the Committee. The Committee requested the Secretariat to draw up internal rules of procedure embodying the basic points considered.

The Chairman opened the fourth plenary session with a request to Dr. Patrick McKenzie, Rapporteur, to read out the draft of the Meeting's conclusions and recommendations.

Following a discussion in which members of the Committee and participants in the Meeting took the floor, the following conclusions and recommendations were approved:

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

Having concluded that:

In the South American countries foot-and-mouth disease inflicts great economic losses, which reduce livestock production and profitability, and require yearly high public and private expenditures for its control;

Foot-and-mouth disease imposes severe constraints on and impediments to the international trade in livestock, genetic material, meat and meat products, as well as in other farm products;

The presence of the disease impairs socioeconomic development and seriously reduces the availability of animal protein, to the detriment of the nutrition of the population;

Foot-and-mouth disease poses a permanent threat to American countries which are free of the disease and possess enormous wealth in livestock, which it is essential to protect,

RECOMMENDS:

1. Approval of the Hemispheric Plan of Action for the Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease, and that the countries be urged to adopt the purposes and strategies for its rapid implementation.

2. That full support be given to the subregional projects of the Plan of Action. In the specific case of the Plate Basin, it congratulates the member countries for the agreements concluded and gains made. It recommends earliest implementation of the project for the Andean subregion, and requests PAHO to prepare, in conjunction with the constituent countries, a draft project for the Amazonian subregion.

3. That the countries be urged to give maximum support to their national programs, which should be implemented with broad community participation, for the immediate launching of the proposed projects in order to advance toward the eradication of foot-and-mouth disease by the year 2000.

4. That the countries strengthen the infrastructures of their programs of animal health and for the control and eradication of foot-and-mouth disease, which must be adjusted to the requirements of their national objectives and of the subregional and regional strategies.

5. That the international technical cooperation agencies, in their assistance programs, give priority to activities for implementation of the Hemispheric Plan of Action for the Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease.

6. That PAHO draw up as soon as possible, in coordination with the officers of COHEFA, a proposal of alternative ways to finance the first stage of the Plan of Action.

7. That the international financing agencies contribute and support both the initiative for drawing up a proposal of financing alternatives for the Hemispheric Plan, and the work of COHEFA and its officers.

8. That PAHO continue cooperating with the countries in strengthening and implementing the national foot-and-mouth disease control programs, and cooperating with and participating in bilateral meetings between countries with common borders.

9. That the countries free of the disease maintain and reinforce their activities for preventing the disease from crossing their borders, particularly epidemiological surveillance, differential diagnosis, port and airport controls, the implementation of emergency plans, personnel training, and international coordination.

10. That special importance be attached to the presence and participation of cattle producers in the fight against foot-and-mouth disease, and that appropriate mechanisms be implemented to ensure their ongoing involvement in the planning, programming, execution and evaluation of national programs and subregional projects.

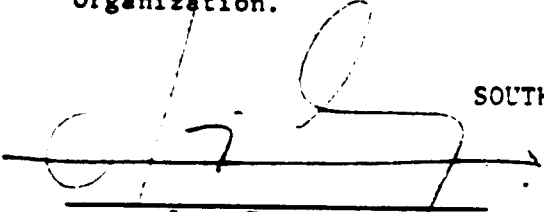
11. That the importance of existing bilateral and subregional agreements on animal health and foot-and-mouth disease be underscored, these agreements having proved to be a valuable springboard for the coordination of programs and measures of common interest.

In the closing session the Chairman referred to the work of the Meeting and thanked the Organization and the participants for their support. The Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau reiterated the Organization's willingness to continue supporting Member Countries in their fight against foot-and-mouth disease and the Committee in the performance of its functions. The Final Report was then read out, and approved by the participants.


IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the members of the Hemispheric Committee and the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, Secretary ex officio, sign the present Final Report in the English and Spanish languages, both texts being equally authentic.

DONE in Washington, D.C., United States of America, this seventh day of July, nineteen hundred eighty-eight. The Secretary shall deposit the original texts in the archives of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, and shall send copies thereof to the Member Governments of the Organization.

SOUTHERN CONE SUBREGION




Juan Figueras
Secretario de Agricultura,
Ganadería y Pesca
Argentina

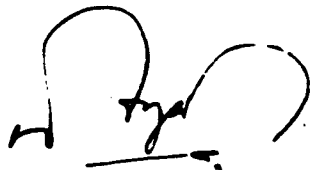


Walter H. Páges
Federación Rural
Uruguay

ANDEAN SUBREGION




Luis Guillermo Sorzano
Viceministro de Agricultura
Colombia




Vicente Lozano Rivas
Director Ejecutivo
Confederación Andina de
Ganaderos
Venezuela

AMAZONIAN SUBREGION




Iris Rezende
(Chairman of the Meeting)
Ministro de Estado de Agricultura
Brazil



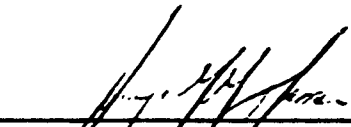
João Gilberto Rodrigues da Cunha
Presidente da Associação Brasileira
dos Criadores de Gado Zébu
Brazil

CARIBBEAN SUBREGION




Patrick McKenzie
Senior Minister of Agriculture
Guyana

MESOAMERICAN SUBREGION




Jorge Alvarado Herrera
Director de Salud Animal y
Producción Pecuaria
Costa Rica




Justo Díaz del Castillo
— Presidente
Confederación Interamericana
de Ganaderos y Agricultores
Mexico


NORTH AMERICAN SUBREGION



Ross Reid
Senior Advisor to the Assistant
Deputy Minister
Canada



John R. Dahl
National Cattlemen's Association
Englewood



Carlyle Guerra de Macedo
Secretary ex officio of
the Meeting
Director of the Pan American
Sanitary Bureau