



XXX



SOUTH AMERICAN COMMISSION FOR THE FIGHT AGAINST FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE

PAN AMERICAN FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE CENTER

FINAL REPORT



Public Veterinary Health - PAHO/WHO



FINAL REPORT

Santiago, Chile

March 13 and 14, 2003



**Pan-American Health Organization
World Health Organization**

PAN AMERICAN FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE CENTER

South American Commission for the Fight Against Foot-and-Mouth Disease, 30., 2003, Santiago. Final Report... Rio de Janeiro: Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center.

52p.: 28cm.

1. Foot-and-Mouth Disease– American. 2. Foot-and-Mouth Disease– Control and eradication. I. Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center, ed.

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XXX ORDINARY MEETING

FINAL REPORT

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

The XXX Ordinary Meeting of COSALFA was opened at 9:00 hs at the Salón Pacífico of the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Santiago, Chile. At the main table were present Dr. Darío Baumgarten, Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Paraguay; Dr. Hernán Rojas O., Chief of the Department of Livestock Protection of the Agriculture and Livestock Service (Servicio Agrícola y Ganadero-SAG) of Chile; Dr. Christian Darras, Representative of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) in Chile, a.i.; Dr. Albino Belotto, Chief of the Unit of Veterinary Public Health of the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) and Dr. Eduardo Correa Melo, Director of the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center (PANAFTOSA) and Secretary *ex officio* of COSALFA.

Dr. Hernán Rojas opened the meeting remembering this was the third time COSALFA was meeting in the country. He stressed the importance of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) in international relations in view of the concern from the disease-free countries at its possible introduction or from those countries with operating programs, as the recording of the disease could be higher than expected. He spoke of the importance of agrobusiness in the region's economy and in Chile in particular, and made special mention of the negative impact of FMD on trade of animal-origin products as well as from other origins. He added that cooperation, political will and the determined participation of agrobusiness could shorten the date for continental eradication of the disease to 2006.

Dr. Eduardo Correa Melo, Secretary *ex officio* of COSALFA, stressed the leadership of the region in the fight against foot-and-mouth disease. He spoke of the impact of diseases on commercial relations and of the modern concept of rendering of veterinary services, which requires a close cooperation with the private sector. The certification of activities and the results of programs depend on the quality of these services. To advance in the combat of the disease it is important to improve technical means and to strengthen connections between public and private sectors.

Dr. Hernán Rojas, from the Chilean delegation, was elected President of the meeting. The agenda was approved, including a presentation on the project **Strengthening of the Technical Cooperation of PAHO for Innocuity of Foodstuffs, Foot-and-Mouth Disease and Zoonoses, for the countries of the Americas**, to be financed by the International Development Bank (IDB). It also included a report on the activities of the **South American Commission of Biosecurity for Foot-and-Mouth Disease Virus**, which carried out audits in vaccine-production laboratories of South America, under the coordination of PANAFTOSA.

The opening of the meeting was closed by the Minister of Agriculture of Chile, Dr. Jorge Campos Quiroga. He commented that it is a national priority to count on productive agriculture and that the animal and plant sanitary condition is more than a requirement for the internal or external market, it is a commitment of the institution. After great efforts, Chile is FMD-free without vaccination and the sanitary situation in the rest of the continent is a matter of concern. The country will only rest at ease when its neighbors and commercial partners attain a similar condition.

Dr. Quiroga reiterated that Chile is prepared to collaborate with all the countries to reach the same status and that an adequate agreement between the public and private sectors strengthens their activities while the lack of it reduces them. The recent and increasing advance in Chile's exports is an example that it is possible to strengthen the country's situation within the international markets when zoosanitary conditions are under discussion. Finally, he added that the government is proposing investments in livestock production to duplicate bovine population in the country during the decade.

2. REPORT OF THE SECRETARIAT

Dr. Eduardo Correa Melo, Secretary *ex officio* of COSALFA, took the floor and presented the Report of the Secretariat.

During 2002 some resolutions were fulfilled while others suffered an intermediate or deficient level of fulfillment, as follows:

Through the prompt action of national programs and the private sector, the high incidence of the disease was reduced to levels which made it possible to start recovery of the lost status in some zones/countries. The new approach of the Plan of Action of PHEFA in the preparation of binational programs in the Andean area and the River Plate Basin, and shortly in the Amazon, strengthens actions at the local transborder level.

SIVCONT, in its final development stage and with operation programmed for the second semester of 2003, will also include manuals to attend suspicion of haemorrhagic disease of swine and nervous system diseases of various species

The virtual library established at PANAFTOSA already keeps a high number of documents for consultation on the net. The second auditing cycle was completed. It included evaluation manuals and showed a better structure in regard to last year.

With reference to laboratory activities, a round of biosecurity auditing was carried out in the vaccine-production laboratories and the program for quality assurance was established at PANAFTOSA. The Center has been represented at world scientific forums and in the recognition of free zones. The bank of genetic data of the acting virus in the region was established and the laboratories net is being implemented with strict quality-control requirements.

The following commitments can be considered partially fulfilled: a) PANAFTOSA's capacitation program, which was restricted to in-service training and b) absence of definition from Venezuela on the possible animal importation from regions/countries with exotic diseases to the continent.

Negative factors during the period: a) the impossibility of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Supply of Brazil to finance the installation of a P3+ level laboratory at PANAFTOSA. For this reason

the Ministry offered the possibility to transfer laboratory risk activities to LARA/MG; b) reoccurrence of foot-and-mouth disease in Paraguay; c) difficulties to obtain I-ELISA 3ABC/EITB diagnosis kits for surveillance activities in the countries; and d) the Regional Committee of Epidemiology and the guidelines for risk analysis programmed during the year were not established.

The report was approved with comments from Argentina, Colombia, Brazil, Paraguay and Peru over the need to solve the kits problem immediately through PANAFTOSA, with the possibility of other laboratories providing the kits. The Brazilian delegate commented the need for PANAFTOSA to establish an action group for emergencies and to reassume its role of trainer of professionals, with the contribution of high-level technicians to capacitate trainers in the countries, especially on attention to outbreaks and emergencies.

The financial problem of PANAFTOSA was also mentioned and the need to cover debts was reiterated.

The importation by Venezuela of buffaloes from India was mentioned and the delegation from Venezuela reiterated that they are conscious of the sanitary risk involved and will comply with the applicable regulations and sanitary requirements.

The delegation from Chile expressed its concern over the lack of coordination between the technical cooperation agencies and the fact that PANAFTOSA does not have enough resources to meet technical cooperation commitments on zoonosis. Dr. Albino Belotto informed that this responsibility was given to PANAFTOSA based on the report of an international evaluation group and that there was no reduction of the resources. However, PAHO continues looking for additional external resources to support disease-control programs of the countries, such as the project with IDB.

3. AUDITING REPORT

Dr. Francisco Muzio, Technical Coordinator of the River Plate Basin Agreement, presented the report of the 2nd Auditing Cycle in the River Plate Basin Region, and compared its main points with those of the first round. Comments were made in regard to the methodology used in the compilation and diffusion of the document and on the possibility of discharge by the national authorities before its release.

The delegate from Brazil requested that PANAFTOSA develop an auditing model with minimum parameters for evaluation of each item and activity.

The Delegate from Chile, endorsed by Uruguay, reiterated evaluation criteria should be objective and that high-capacity professionals with training in the activity be selected from each country. Furthermore, he suggested that professionals from other continents be included in the auditing teams. Finally, PANAFTOSA was requested to study the possibility of diffusing results with all transparency in its web page after their systematization.

4. CONTINENTAL SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM

Lic. Antonio Mendes presented the report on development of the Continental Surveillance System-SIVCONT. The system was modified and adapted to the world net (www) to handle the flow of information

to PANAFTOSA which will give it world diffusion. Through the internet any country will access its own information and also that from other countries. The process of development and start of operation of the system in the countries is indicated in a chart and its final date is August 2003.

5. SITUATION OF THE COUNTRIES

Dr. Victor Saraiva, Chief of the Vesicular Diseases Unit, informed on the epidemiological situation of vesicular diseases and on control/eradication programs in the American countries through a summary of their yearly reports, stressing outstanding positive and negative points in each subregion. Especially important: a) the reduction of foot-and-mouth disease outbreaks as a result of national programs activities; b) absence of registry of the disease in all of Brazil and the Southern Cone, with the exception of the sanitary situation in Paraguay, at the Brazilian border; c) sanitary situation in El Beni, Bolivia; and d) the epidemic occurrence reported in Ecuador.

The above situations mobilized the countries and PANAFTOSA to find solutions through technical missions and joint activities in binational agreements. Suggestions, additional comments and modifications made were taken under consideration by the Secretariat.

The presentation and discussion of the report on the development of the Plan of Action of PHEFA was guided towards the meetings of the River Plate Basin and the Andean projects to be held parallel to COSALFA.

6. INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR

Dr. Victor Saraiva presented the report on the Seminar of Seroepidemiologic and Virologic Tools in the Surveillance of Foot-and-Mouth Disease. Recommendations made by the participants were approved by the delegates and will be included in a resolution of this XXX COSALFA.

7. OTHER MATTERS

Dr. Julio Barozzi, IBD Consultant presented a report on the state of the study to create the "Regional Foot-and-Mouth Disease Control System in the Expanded MERCOSUL Region". The project aims to strengthen the regional institutions, to develop a regional FMD control strategy and to support training, sanitary education and social communication within the region. The project will be carried out by PAHO, through PANAFTOSA.

A proposal for the creation of the Advisory Committee of PANAFTOSA was presented. Its function would be to orientate PANAFTOSA's guidelines and to search for new financial sources for projects development. The Committee would be integrated by an official representative and a private representative from each subregion of PHEFA, besides Brazil which, as host country, would have a permanent seat. IICA and FAO would also integrate the Committee. The proposal is under analysis at PAHO and a decision is expected during the next RIMSA Meeting.

Dr. Gilfredo Darsie, biosecurity expert at PANAFTOSA, reported on the round of visits to vaccine-production laboratories. PANAFTOSA developed a guide, which was discussed and approved by the countries. A group of professionals from the official services of Argentina, Brazil, Colombia and Venezuela was formed and they visited the laboratories in Argentina and Brazil. Preliminary reports were given to the professionals in charge of the laboratories and final reports were sent through the corresponding national authorities. A chart with corrections to the problems was agreed upon with the responsible authorities. It was considered that the problems were not serious and could be solved; however, recommendation was made for more frequent visits from the national commissions. A proposal was also made for auditing of the official diagnosis laboratories.

The delegate from Brazil suggested the development of a biosecurity manual to be implemented by all the countries. Argentina supported the extension of auditing activities to diagnosis laboratories and informed on the country's legislation for the handling of foot-and-mouth disease virus. Uruguay requested that the matter of samples collection to be forwarded to the laboratories should be included in biosanitary norms.

Dr. Hernán Rojas, from SAG, spoke of the strategic vision of the prevention program of foot-and-mouth disease-introduction, based on the HACCP methodology and on the division of the country in compartments. His analysis stressed the probability of introduction and diffusion of the FMD virus in the country and its economic and social impact. He also informed on the methodology for risk handling applied by SAG.

Dr. Moisés Vargas-Terán, representative of FAO for Latin America and the Caribbean, presented a summary of their joint cooperation with other agencies, especially with PANAFTOSA/PAHO-WHO. He informed on the short-term designation of a professional located at PANAFTOSA, who will be a liaison between the two institutions in the development of common projects of regional interest. The following are some of the projects: a) integration of an auditing group; b) creation of a group for attention to emergencies; c) support to develop a new plan of action for the River Plate Basin Agreement and d) the combination of SIVCONT information systems, managed by PANAFTOSA and EMPRES/TAD-INFO, coordinated by FAO.

The official delegate from Uruguay took the floor and informed that the Executive Committee of the River Plate Basin, at a meeting on the same day, March 14, had approved the creation of a Permanent Veterinary Committee of the Southern Cone, which will benefit all the countries of the subcontinent in joint activities with the countries of the Andean area.

The next topic was the election of the host city for the XXXI COSALFA. The Republic of Panama, through its National Director for Animal Health, Dr. Manuel González, reiterated its offer for 2004. However, the delegates decided to accept the offer of Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, due to its epidemiologic importance to the region and also because the event will bolster the Bolivian program.

On the other hand, considering the importance of Panama in Central America, Dr. Albino Belotto suggested that after the XXXI COSALFA in 2004, the International Conference on Foot-and-Mouth Disease be organized and held in the city of Panamá.

The delegate from the private sector of Brazil proposed the creation of a South American livestock

breeders commission to support PANAFTOSA. The Secretary *ex officio* was requested to promote a meeting of the group to discuss the necessary supporting guidelines to strengthen PANAFTOSA's activities. He reiterated the determination of the private sector in Brazil, in common agreement with the official sector, to increase its support to the national programs of Paraguay and Bolivia, in order to ensure the advances achieved in the sanitary situation of the River Plate Basin region.

The delegates from the official and the private sectors discussed and approved 10 resolutions which are annexed to this document.

8. CLOSING OF THE MEETING

The closing of the meeting was presided by Dr. Rojas who gave the floor to the Secretary *ex officio*. Dr. Correa mentioned that the meeting had achieved success, as shown in the resolutions, and thanked the delegates, participants and organizers of the event.

Dr. Rojas adjourned the meeting and thanked the delegates and PANAFTOSA for its guidance and technical support. He especially thanked the responsible authorities of SAG for their efforts in the organization and holding of the meeting.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the President of the Meeting, Dr. Hernán Rojas Osorio, the Director of the Pan-American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center (PANAFTCISA), Secretary ex officio of COSALFA and the Delegates of the official and livestock sectors of the member countries have signed the present Final Report in Portuguese, Spanish and English, all texts being equally authentic.

Done in Santiago, Chile, on March fourteenth of the year two thousand three.

Secretary ex officio
Director of Pan American Foot-and-Mouth
Disease Center (PANAFTCISA-PAHO/WHO)

Delegate of Argentina
(Official Sector)

Delegate of Argentina
(Livestock Sector)

Delegate of Bolivia
(Official Sector)

Delegate of Bolivia
(Livestock Sector)

Delegate of Brazil
(Official Sector)

Delegate of Brazil
(Livestock Sector)

Delegate of Chile
(Official Sector)

Delegate of Chile
(Livestock Sector)



Delegate of Colombia
(Official Sector)



Delegate of Colombia
(Livestock Sector)



Delegate of Ecuador
(Official Sector)



Delegate of Ecuador
(Livestock Sector)



Delegate of Guyana
(Official Sector)



Delegate of Paraguay
(Official Sector)



Delegate of Paraguay
(Livestock Sector)



Delegate of Peru
(Official Sector)



Delegate of Uruguay
(Official Sector)



Delegate of Uruguay
(Official Sector)



Delegate of Uruguay
(Livestock Sector)



Delegate of Venezuela
(Official Sector)



Delegate of Venezuela
(Livestock Sector)

XXX COSALFA

Santiago, Chile

March 13 and 14, 2003

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION I

Subregional project for foot-and-mouth disease eradication in the River Plate Basin

THE XXX ORDINARY MEETING OF COSALFA,

Considering:

That the emergency situation of foot-and-mouth disease which affected an important area of the Southern Cone subregion has been controlled in a short time through the coordinated efforts of the public and private sectors and Programs have been strengthened and have shown great advances, although in certain areas of the Southern Cone endemism can still jeopardize progress achieved in the eradication of the disease;

That the auditing and evaluation cycles of the last two years in the countries of the subregion have made an important contribution towards the strengthening and consolidation of programs to eradicate the disease, and

That recently the River Plate Basin Committee approved the Plan of Action 2003-2009 of the Hemispheric Program for Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease – PHEFA Southern Cone, with a regionalization strategy strongly emphasizing the development of border areas subprojects,

RESOLVES:

1. To urge the member countries of the Agreement to continue the process to consolidate eradication strategies within the framework of the Plan of Action 2003-2009 of PHEFA-Southern Cone, at the same time maintaining and strengthening auditing cycles for the fulfillment of activities established in the Plan of Action.

2. That PANAFTOSA, together with the countries, develop the study of epidemiologic characterization in risk areas within the River Plate Basin scope during 2003.

3. That the River Plate Basin Agreement put forth maximum efforts in their technical cooperation to support programs in strategic areas, such as El Beni, Bolivia and the Department of Canindeyú, Paraguay, at the Brazilian border.

(Approved by the plenary session
on March 14, 2003)

RESOLUTION II

Andean subregional project for foot-and-mouth disease eradication

THE XXX ORDINARY MEETING OF COSALFA,

Considering:

That the National Projects for Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease in the subregion are in full operation and that there has been a substantial increase in agriculture and livestock products trade, involving the risk of affecting epidemiologic advances achieved, it is necessary to strengthen the regional vision of the Project, emphasizing the bi- and multinational border areas, conceived as operative spaces for integration and strengthening of efforts and common objectives,

RESOLVES:

1. To back priorities of activities planned for the Andean Subregion in the document "Situation of Foot-and-Mouth Disease Eradication Programs in South America, 2002" and to incorporate them as part of the Subregional Project for Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease. These priorities refer to the following cooperation from PANAFTOSA:

- To incorporate an Auditing System of the National Programs for Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease, for fulfillment of the subregional program, prior to joint preparation with the countries of a plan and chart, which will materialize at the CAN meeting in May in Bogotá, Colombia.

- To prepare a unified protocol for the application and interpretation of serologic and virologic tests for epidemiologic surveillance and research, and differential diagnosis.

- To support the countries in the preparation of Emergency Plans.

- Capacitation, organization and legislation on biosecurity in the handling of foot-and-mouth disease virus.

2. That PANAFTOSA study the convenience and feasibility of transferring the Elisa 3ABC/EITB system to other firms or laboratories of the countries, with experience in kits production, and until then to strengthen the production-distribution process of their laboratories, considering technical and financial feasibility.

(Approved by the plenary session
on March 14, 2003)

RESOLUTION III

Subregional project for eradication of foot-and-mouth disease in the Amazon Basin

THE XXX ORDINARY MEETING OF COSALFA,

Considering,

That the Cooperative Republic of Guyana maintains its status of foot-and-mouth disease-free country without vaccination, and

The need of new guidelines for epidemiologic surveillance at the border region between Brazil, Guyana and Venezuela, strengthening activities for prevention of foot-and-mouth disease- introduction to Guyana within the scope of PHEFA's Plan of Action 2003-2009, due to the potential increase of animals trade in the region,

The importance of relying on the participation of Suriname and French Guiana as members of COSALFA,

RESOLVES:

1. That PANAFTOSA, as technical secretary of the Tripartite Agreement Brazil/Guyana/Venezuela, convoke its members to a meeting in the second week of April 2003, when animal trade within the prevention project at the Brazil/Guyana/Venezuela border will be discussed, according to the guidelines of the Plan of Action 2003-2009 of PHEFA;

2. That PANAFTOSA issue invitations to the sanitary authorities of Suriname and the Ministry of Agriculture of France to become members of COSALFA.

(Approved by the plenary session
on March 14, 2003)

RESOLUTION IV

International Seminar on the use of serologic and virologic tools in the active surveillance of foot-and-mouth disease

THE XXX ORDINARY MEETING OF COSALFA,

Considering:

The advances achieved in foot-and-mouth disease eradication in South America during the last decade, as a result of the efforts of the countries and the development of strategies of the regions' combat to the disease;

The modifications in international foot-and-mouth disease regulations, as established in Chapter 2.1.1 of the International Zoosanitary Code of OIE, and the development of guidelines on minimum criteria of surveillance which require a redirectioning of epidemiologic surveillance in the countries;

That serologic and virologic tools are available to follow up and investigate the origin of a disease episode and that they have offered a finer analysis for identification of the agent and its immunological response;

That the complexity of the field, with its productive processes and respective risk levels in regard to maintenance or diffusion of the disease, makes it necessary to rely on an integrated laboratory-field approach for a better interpretation of the results obtained in serological tests, and

The need to continue developing the above-mentioned tools together with sampling methods to support an active surveillance of foot-and-mouth disease,

RESOLVES:

1. That PANAFTOSA lead research on development and adaptation of serologic and virologic tests to the new requirements; the development and operation of sampling activities for active surveillance of foot-and-mouth disease as well as studies of its epidemiologic situation, in accordance with guidelines approved during the seminar (Annex).

(Approved by the plenary session
on March 14, 2003)

ANNEX

International Seminar on the use of serologic and virologic tools in the active surveillance of foot-and-mouth disease

Considering:

The advances achieved in foot-and-mouth disease eradication in South America during the last decade as a result of the countries' efforts and the development of a strategic vision of regional combat;

The changes in foot-and-mouth disease international regulations, as established in Chapter 2.1.1 of the International Zoosanitary Code of OIE, and that the development of guidelines on minimum criteria of surveillance need a redirectioning of epidemiologic surveillance in the countries, with emphasis on the development or adaptation of serologic and virologic techniques and the application of field research techniques;

That serologic and virologic tools are available to follow up and investigate the origin of a disease episode, and that they have offered a finer analysis for identification of the agent and its immunological response;

Phylogenetic analysis can help in the classification of agents in regard to their common origin or their distribution in the field; however, interpretation of these results are jeopardized by the lack of knowledge of the lost links that may exist in the population under analysis.

The complexity of the field, with its productive processes and its risk levels regarding maintenance or diffusion of the disease, makes it necessary to rely on an integrated laboratory-field approach for a better interpretation of the results obtained in serological tests.

RECOMMENDS:

1. To reaffirm resolution of the XXIX COSALFA on the use of complete kits:
 - To use validated kits according to international recommendations. If using kits different from those recommended by OIE, to guarantee performance equivalency in the region.
 - To establish and implement the format of a harmonic diagnostic system for active surveillance in the region, which should include screening and confirmatory tests under the coordination of PANAFTOSA.
 - To harmonize the criteria for analysis and interpretation in the region, following procedures and recommendations from PANAFTOSA.
 - To urge the countries to collaborate in the forwarding of sera for the establishment of the reference serum bank which are necessary to support incorporation of the I-ELISA 3ABC/EITB system as a reference test of OIE.
 - To strengthen capacitation programs and internal quality control in the countries.
 - To carry out permanent control to ensure non-interference of vaccinal non-capsidal proteins (NCP) in eradication programs.

To establish a permanent forum for the exchange of information to guarantee harmonization, equivalence and transparency in the utilization of these tests when attending the needs of a regional program.

2. To urge the countries to collect and send adequate samples, including those required for differential diagnosis, and to participate together with PANAFTOSA in characterization studies of field samples.

3. To urge the countries to collaborate and consolidate the project proposal presented by PANAFTOSA to study the possibility of FMD virus-transmission from persistently-infected animals and to evaluate eventual clinical

reactions. Also, if necessary, to develop studies of populations and sampling techniques within an epidemiologic-productive vision of the new requirements.

- To promote joint and comparative analysis of the available results in the countries in regard to the serologic surveys carried out in the region under different field conditions, and to integrate laboratory analysis with epidemiological research.

4. That due to their relevance, PANAFTOSA organize a Seminar-Workshop to discuss the above-mentioned topics.

RESOLUTION V

Information and epidemiologic surveillance continental system

THE XXX ORDINARY MEETING OF COSALFA,

Considering:

That in compliance with Resolution IV of the XXIX Ordinary Meeting of COSALFA, the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center presented a working chart for the start of the new Web version of SIVCONT and stressed the need to review and develop guidelines for attention to situations with symptoms of vesicular, neurologic and swine haemorrhagic diseases, as well as the execution of activities to establish requirements in the countries and in PANAFTOSA to set the system in operation.

RESOLVES:

1. That PANAFTOSA coordinate activities together with FAO and other organisms to obtain technical and financial resources towards the preparation of Guidelines for attention to suspicious cases of diseases and for collection of adequate samples for the differential diagnosis of vesicular, nervous and swine haemorrhagic diseases.
2. That PANAFTOSA program the training of SIVCONT users for July 2003 and that its operation should start in August 2003.

(Approved by the plenary session
on March 14, 2003)

RESOLUTION VI

The diagnostic kits of I-ELISA 3ABC/EITB

THE XXX ORDINARY MEETING OF COSALFA,
Considering,

The general acknowledgement of the importance of using complete kits of the I-ELISA 3ABC/EITB system, to guarantee reliability of results as well as harmonization of criteria on performance of seroepidemiologic samplings;

The limitations found by some of the National Services in the timely availability of a sufficient number of kits,
and

That the level of development of the programs requires an immediate supply of the kits,

RESOLVES:

1. To urge the countries to deliver a listing of their needs of diagnostic kits to EMBRABIO, with copy to PANAFTOSA, at least three months in advance before their required use.

2. To request PANAFTOSA to evaluate as soon as possible the feasibility of transferring the I-ELISA 3ABC/EITB technology to other firms or laboratories of the countries, with production experience of diagnostic kits. PANAFTOSA will attend production emergencies and kits distribution, in accordance with a technical-economic evaluation.

(Approved by the plenary session
on March 14, 2003)

RESOLUTION VII

Auditing of control and foot-and-mouth disease eradication programs

THE XXX ORDINARY MEETING OF COSALFA

Considering:

The favorable impact for the strengthening of foot-and-mouth disease programs of the Southern Cone – River Plate Basin and coordinated auditing by PANAFTOSA performed with technicians of the countries of the region during 2001 and 2002;

That the annual auditing cycles have improved the programs through recommendations for adjustments and corrections of their operative strategies, allowing the continuation of programmed activities of PHEFA;

That this methodology is also an instrument to give transparency to the eradication process within the regional scope.

RESOLVES:

1. To recommend the execution of auditing cycles in all the macroregions of PHEFA in South America, to ensure fulfillment of the established goals in the Plan of Action 2003-2009.

2. That PANAFTOSA, based on the experience in the Southern Cone Region, promote the specialized auditing training of technicians in the countries; it should also develop a process for optimization of auditing procedures and hold a Seminar on the subject with contribution of instructors of the highest level.

(Approved by the plenary session
on March 14, 2003)

RESOLUTION VIII

Biologic Security

THE XXX ORDINARY MEETING OF COSALFA,

Considering:

That in compliance with the IX Resolution of the XXVIII Ordinary Meeting of COSALFA, the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center carried out biosecurity auditing in laboratories of antiaphthose vaccine production in Argentina and Brazil and results were presented at this meeting;

The increasing importance of biologic security to reduce risks and as a component of the guarantee of vaccines quality and laboratory diagnosis in systems for animal care and sanitary surveillance, and

The need for biologic security procedures to be incorporated within activities covering attention to suspicion of foot-and-mouth disease and other diseases, by the official services and private practice professionals, especially in the collection and sending of biologic samples.

RESOLVES:

1. That member countries of COSALFA, at short term, should define and officialize biologic security regulations in harmony with those already existing in the region, for handling foot-and-mouth disease virus in their territories.
2. That the countries commit themselves to create "National Biosecurity Commissions" to monitor the fulfillment of regulations.
3. That PANAFTOSA support activities of National Commissions through the "South American Commission of Biosecurity for Foot-and-Mouth Disease Virus" and to promote capacitation activities for public and private professionals of the countries.
4. That PANAFTOSA should coordinate with the countries the preparation of a Biosecurity Manual to permit auditable application of the established proceedings of national regulations.
5. To maintain the auditing program and to extend it to all instances which handle foot-and-mouth disease virus.

(Approved by the plenary session
on March 14, 2003)

RESOLUTION IX

Designation of the host city of COSALFA XXXI

THE XXX ORDINARY MEETING OF COSALFA,

Considering,

The offer of the Republic of Bolivia to host the XXXI meeting;

That the Republic of Panamá reiterated its offer to host the same meeting;

The importance of strengthening regional instances of combat to the disease, especially in the River Plate Basin and in the Andean area, and

The possibility to promote an ample debate over future lines of action to combat the disease at the continental level,

RESOLVES:

To designate the city of Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, as the host city of the XXXI Meeting in April 2004;

That PANAFTOSA should program and carry out, with the cooperation of other technical and economic cooperation organizations, a Pan American Conference on Foot-and-Mouth Disease in the city of Panamá during the second semester of 2004; and

To express our applause and recognition to the Delegation of Panamá for reiterating their offer as host city of the event.

(Approved by the plenary session
on March 14, 2003)

RESOLUTION X

Acknowledgements

THE XXX ORGINARY MEETING OF COSALFA,

Considering the excellent conditions provided by the Agriculture and Livestock Service (Servicio Agrícola y Ganadero – SAG) and its staff for hosting this XXX Meeting of the South American Commission for the Combat against Foot-and-Mouth Disease (COSALFA),

RESOLVES:

To thank the Agriculture and Livestock Service (SAG), through its National Director, for their effort and care and all the success achieved in this XXX Meeting of COSALFA, and

To thank Dr. Hernán Rojas O., Director of Animal Health of SAG, for the brilliant direction of the meeting.

(Approved by the plenary session
on March 14, 2003)

XXX COSALFA

Santiago, Chile

March 13 and 14, 2003

ANNEXES

**SOUTH AMERICAN COMMISSION FOR THE FIGHT AGAINST FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE
XXX MEETING**

Santiago, Chile, March 13 and 14, 2003

AGENDA

THURSDAY, March 13

- 09:00 Opening of the Meeting
09:30 Report of the Secretariat
10:30 Discussion of the Report
11:00 Interval
11:15 Report on the Second Auditing Cycle in the region of the River Plate Basin Project
12:00 Discussion
12:30 Lunch
14:00 Report on the development of the Continental System for Surveillance and Information of Animal Diseases – SIVCONT
14:30 Situation of national and subregional programs
 - River Plate Basin
 - Andean Area
 - Amazon Area and Brazil
15:15 Discussion
15:30 Interval
16:00 Plan of Action of PHEFA
 (Subregional Projects of the River Plate Basin, Andean Area, Amazon and Brazil)
16:30 Discussion
17:00 Seminar on Seroepidemiologic and Virologic Tools for Surveillance of Foot-and-Mouth Disease
17:30 Discussion
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FRIDAY, March 14

- 09:00 Advisory Committee of PANAFTOSA (Proposal)
09:30 Discussion
10:00 Interval
11:00 Experience of Chile in the application of Risk Analysis in Foot-and-Mouth Disease Prevention
11:30 Other Matters
13:00 Lunch
14:30 Presentation and discussion of the Resolutions

16:30 Closing of the Meeting

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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Printed
April, 2003

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Pan-American Health Organization
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