



XXIV



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

PAN AMERICAN FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE CENTER

## FINAL REPORT

Caracas, Venezuela

15-16 March, 2007



Veterinary Public Health Unit - PAHO/WHO  
Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center





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South American Commission for the Fight against Foot-and-Mouth Disease, 34, 2007, Caracas, Venezuela. Final Report. Rio de Janeiro: Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center.

63 p.

1. Foot-and-Mouth Disease – Americas. 2. Foot-and-Mouth Disease – Control and Eradication. 1. Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center, ed.

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## **XXXIV ORDINARY MEETING**

### **FINAL REPORT**

#### **1. OPENING OF THE MEETING**

Present at the main table were: Dr. Elías Jaua, minister of Popular Power for Agriculture and Lands of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela; Dr. Renato Gusmão, representative of PAHO/WHO in Venezuela; Dr. Miguel Angel Genovese, director of PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO and Secretary *ex officio* of COSALFA; and Dr. Ângela del Valle Bolívar, General director of the Autonomous Service for Agriculture and Animal Health (SASA) of Venezuela. The National Anthem of Venezuela was played and then, a video on the National Program for Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease in Venezuela was shown emphasizing the investment of US\$ 18.6 million for the strengthening of the program, field and laboratory structure and the participation of volunteers and community councils of animal health.

Dr. Elías Jaua greeted the participants in the name of the president of the Republic. He acknowledged the honor of holding the XXXIV COSALFA and pointed out the importance and political commitment of the government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to eradicate Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) in the framework of agricultural development of the country. He mentioned that the country has been hit by neo-liberal politics, especially in animal and vegetable health, and that it has only subsisted thanks to the work of the private sector and NGOs which supported the government.

Minister Jaua mentioned the inauguration of 23 laboratories and quarantine estation facilities in an effort involving the maximum social participation of proprietors and sons of small and average sized producers to eradicate FMD by 2009. Finally, he acknowledged the support Venezuela is receiving from the governments of Cuba and Argentina for the development of an integral agricultural policy.

Dr. Miguel Angel Genovese presented special greetings from Dr. Mirta Roses, director of PAHO/WHO, highlighted the background of COSALFA, and the importance of the Pre-COSALFA Seminar. He then outlined the vulnerability of countries to health risks, especially FMD, and spoke of the need to ratify the political commitment of the countries to fulfill the goals of PHEFA. Finally, he thanked the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and SASA for their support in the organization of the meeting and for their hospitality.

Dr. Alesandra Burbano, delegate of the Ecuadorian Service of Agriculture and Animal Health - SESA, transferred the presidency of COSALFA to Dr. Ângela del Valle Bolívar, Director of SASA/Venezuela. Dr. Jorge Prado, from Venezuela, and Dr. Deyanira Barrero León, from ICA Colombia, were nominated as Rapporteurs.

## 2. REPORT FROM THE SECRETARIAT

The report covers from March 2006 to March 2007 and begins with a summary of the FMD status in South America, which was widely discussed during the meeting and was followed by evaluation of the fulfillment of resolutions approved by COSALFA XXXIII. Finally, at the Other Activities session carried out by PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO, comments were made on results of agreements, projects and inter-institutional and inter-agencies cooperation activities developed with the Inter-American Group for FMD Eradication - GIEFA, the Permanent Veterinary Committee (PVC) of MERCOSUR, the Regional Technical Mission of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). In addition, important features of cooperation for information and epidemiological surveillance, international standards, biosafety, food safety, zoonosis and local development, and avian influenza were discussed.

Each Resolution is evaluated in accordance with its level of fulfillment by the countries and by the ex officio Secretariat, in the framework of the objectives of the Hemispheric Plan for Eradication of FMD (PHEFA).

### I - Situation of Foot-and-Mouth Disease in the Continent

North America, Central America and Caribbean maintained their FMD-free condition without vaccination while South America recorded occurrences of the disease in some zones and countries of the Southern Cone and the Andean Area.

In the Southern Cone, FMD outbreaks, type O virus, were detected in the states of Mato Grosso do Sul and Paraná, Brazil; and in the Province of Corrientes, Argentina. In Mato Grosso, 33 outbreaks were recorded in 2005 and one in 2006, the latter on April 12<sup>th</sup> in the Municipality of Japorã. Animals of the affected premises as well as susceptible animals from neighboring premises were slaughtered. This municipality, together with Eldorado and Mundo Novo, are interdicted. Seroepidemiologic studies carried out at the beginning of 2007 indicated the persistence of viral circulation in these municipalities, therefore approximately 32 thousand animals were slaughtered.

In the state of Paraná, as a result of intensive epidemiologic research in 10 properties related to the outbreak in Mato Grosso, six were positive to diagnosis techniques for detection of non-structural antibodies (PNE). In accordance with national sanitary norms and OIE regulations, they were considered FMD outbreaks. Premises were interdicted since October 21, 2005, and safety activities were developed, which ended in March 2006 and included the slaughter of susceptible animals. In October 2006, results of complementary seroepidemiologic studies in one of the affected municipalities (Loanda) made it possible to reject viral circulation in the zone and in November 2006, it was recognized as FMD-free area or zone within the national political-strategic framework.

On February 23<sup>rd</sup>, the FMD ad hoc Group of the OIE Scientific Commission of Animal Diseases, approved and presented to the Commission the requests of recognition of the central-south region of the state of Pará and southern-west region of Colombia as free zones with vaccination, and the state of Santa Catarina, in Brazil; the region of Patagonia North B, in Argentina; and the regions of: Amazonas, Loreto, San Martín, Huanuco, Ucayali, Cerro de Pasco and Junín, in Peru; as free zones without vaccination.



The occurrence of FMD in Corrientes, Argentina, in February 2006, resulted in the suspension of the internationally-recognized status of the zone located at the north of parallel 42. The event occurred in addition to the outbreaks caused by the same type of virus during the last 6 years in the subregion of the Southern Cone, especially at the American Chaco and borders between Brazil and Paraguay.

In January 2007, the National Service of Agricultural and Livestock Health and Food Safety (SENASAG) of Bolivia, verified the occurrence of FMD, type O Virus, at the Department of Santa Cruz. On February 22, 2007, the official report of the follow-up of the outbreak indicates the appearance of 5 outbreaks in the provinces N. de Chávez (1), Cordillera (1), A. Ibañez (2) and Chiquitos (1). Characterization studies of the acting virus carried out at PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO, indicate this is an endogenous strain of the Southern Cone, from a different branch of the acting virus of 2000-2006, and also from the virus in Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela during 2000-2005. This strain is relatively close to the isolates of La Paz, Beni and Pando. Immunogenic characterization shows that vaccines currently in use, prepared with vaccine strain 01 Campos, confer 65% protection at primo-vaccination and 99% at revaccination when challenging the acting virus.

In the Andean Area, Ecuador and Venezuela showed sustained persistence of endemism. The other South American countries did not register the disease during the period.

It must be acknowledged that independently from the above occurrences, the countries presented great institutional and programmatic progress, aiming at FMD eradication in the continent.

## II. Fulfillment of Resolutions of the XXXIII COSALFA

### Resolution I - Epidemiological Characterization

Resolves:

1. To request PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO together with specialists from the countries, prepare guidelines strategic proceedings, and operation of sanitary intervention towards the elimination of the problem.

2. To urge the countries to reinforce epidemiologic characterization of their territories and productive systems leading to the identification of eventual existence of risk situations in their territories and to fit actions of their veterinary services to eliminate them, based on the established recommendations.

Status of Fulfillment:

Several countries, in view of the need to identify vulnerability and receptivity factors of the risk of occurrence, diffusion and/or persistence of FMD, associated to requirements of operative interventions circumscribed to subnational zones or international border areas, to support requests for recognition of free areas to OIE, or requirements of national political-strategic definition, proceeded to the revision or updating of cattle production systems and the corresponding epidemiological risk. Among these countries, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Peru and Ecuador stand out. The latter, through the Ecuadorian Service of Agricultural and Livestock Health of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (SESA/MAG), with the technical cooperation of PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO and the support of APHIS/USDA, organized a Workshop which produced the sanitary productive characterization of its livestock as well as strategic action guidelines for the disease eradication project.

PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO, with the financial support from IDB and the International Agency of Development of the United States (USAID), started a cooperative system project for the collection of information by Web, to prepare studies of epidemiological characterization with FMD and avian influenza as initial goals. It will be available to the countries starting in the second half of 2007.

*Resolution partially fulfilled.*

**Resolution II** - III International Workshop of laboratory specialists in Vesicular Diseases. Activities of the Reference Laboratory.

Resolves:

1. To endorse the recommendations of the International Workshop of Laboratory Specialists in Vesicular Diseases, 2005, held at PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO, in particular:

- a) To start, in coordination with PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO, field application of the I-ELISA 3ABC/EITB test in sheep and swine.
- b) That the countries revise and reply within 30 days to the inquiry made by PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO on categorization and availability of their strains inventory.
- c) That representative samples of all events of FMD in the region be forwarded to PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO for reference studies and follow-up with results of local analysis.
- d) To continue carrying out workshops with laboratory specialists and to stimulate collaboration projects with the countries of the region, especially for validation of methods of sensible diagnosis and rapid detection, such as RT-PCR and the validation of PCRs for differential diagnosis.
- e) That within 30 days after this date, the countries report about their conform or not regarding the signature by PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO of the Memorandum of Understanding of the laboratories of reference of OIE/FAO. PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO will sign the document with the absolute majority of approval from the countries, in accordance with the Statute of COSALFA.
- f) To form an ad hoc group with professionals in epidemiology and laboratory of the countries and from PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO, for the correct interpretation of results of epidemiological surveillance and to present proposals on the subject for modification of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code of OIE.

Status of Fulfillment:

With reference to field application of the I-ELISA 3ABC/EITB test in ovines and swine, the cooperation offered by PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO to Curazao, is pointed out in the execution of laboratory tests and the interpretation of results, on which the request of recognition of free zone presented to OIE is based; collaboration with the European Union for the satisfactory application of this methodology in samplings carried out in regions of Israel, Turkey and Zimbabwe; collaboration with the National Center for Exotic Animal Diseases (NCFAD), Canada, for the supply of negative and infected sera from ovines and swine; collaboration with Colombia and Chile in the supply of sera for quality control and for international reference.

During the IV International Workshop of Specialists of Laboratory in Vesicular Diseases, held at PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO from October 30<sup>th</sup> - November 1<sup>st</sup> 2006, the support of the countries was stressed for the progress of field application of this methodology.

In reply to inquiries from the countries to PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO on categorization and availability of its strain inventory, and with regard to agreement or disagreement to signature of the Memorandum of Understanding of OIE/FAO reference laboratories, the countries of the region were requested to send representatives to the above-mentioned international workshop, where these issues were given priority for discussion. During the event, mechanisms for the availability of samples and information to intra and extra-regional reference laboratories were discussed at length.

There was also discussion on subjects for the best use of diagnosis instruments in the region and for their harmonic utilization as well as their equivalence; information material was prepared on the best procedure for a satisfactory reply to diagnosis of suspicion of vesicular diseases; also, greater interaction between laboratories and epidemiology groups was urged and it was proposed to hold a seminar-workshop to discuss topics related to the use of serosurveillance tests and their interpretation in the framework of the OIE Terrestrial Code. The Minutes of the Workshop are part of the Laboratory Report of PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO.

The Laboratory of PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO carried out reference diagnosis studies in two samples sent in Trizol, from the emergency FMD occurrence in Corrientes, Argentina, and molecular characterization tests were performed with them. Also, 35 epithelium samples inactivated in Trizol were received and analyzed, 26 of them corresponded to FMD events recorded from 2003-2005 in Ecuador and Venezuela and nine samples to vesicular stomatitis outbreaks from 2003-2005 in Peru. Results of their molecular characterization were included in the PANAFTOSA-PAHO/OMS Laboratory Annual Report 2006. At the request of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Supply of Brazil (MAPA), support was offered in the follow-up of research carried out after the FMD episode in Paraná, on necropsy and collection of material (organs, tissues, esophagus-pharyngeal fluid and sera) from animals selected several months after the event. Also on the execution and interpretation of viral isolation tests and detection of genomic sequences (RT-PCR) which included approximately 320 samples from 22 animals. In January 2007, samples from the episode in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, were received and processed for diagnosis and genetic sequencing.

Through nine individual and collective modules, the Center has trained a total of 41 professionals from South American countries, covering areas of diagnosis, molecular epidemiology, serosurveillance and vaccine control.

Attention was given to requests of reagents and diagnosis kits to support reference activities of national laboratories networks, covering a demand of over 683,000 assays of 11 different types of sets or kits. Information from the laboratory was issued through nine publications in international magazines, annual reports, meetings reports and web pages.

*Resolution was fulfilled.*

### **Resolution III - Biosafety Laboratory at PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO**

Resolves:

1. To emphasize the urgent need to materialize actions at PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO for the installation of infrastructure to enable it to fulfill its reference activities in the region, which have been repeatedly reiterated by COSALFA.

2. To request PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO deal with member countries on funding alternatives towards the effective fitting of its laboratory to the above requirements.

**Status of Fulfillment:**

The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Supply (MAPA) of Brazil, offered the availability to PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO of the infrastructure of the National Laboratory of Agriculture and Livestock (LANAGRO/MG) located at the municipality of Pedro Leopoldo, Minas Gerais, which has a Biological Safety Level 3 Agriculture, for reference diagnosis of samples with FMD active virus. To this effect, a PANAFTOSA/LANAGRO commission has been appointed to define a working schedule for the immediate implementation by the Center of diagnosis reference activities, which are regularly requested by countries of the region.

The indicated actions and provisions explain why requests to the countries for funding of the fitting of laboratories at PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO, have not been processed, in accordance with resolution of the previous COSALFA Meeting.

*Resolution partially fulfilled.*

**Resolution IV - Operative Plans of Action of PHEFA****Resolves:**

1. To request GIEFA prepare, in coordination with PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO and the involved regional structures, within the framework of PHEFA, operative plans of action for the short term including: indicators of evaluation, participating institutions and financial sources.

**Status of Fulfillment:**

With regard to this resolution, related to the scheduling of operative plans and financial resources of PHEFA, GIEFA - in coordination with PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO and with the support of the National Council of Beef Cattle Production (CNPC) and the National Syndicate of the Industry of Products for Animal Health (SINDAN) of Brazil - the following activities were developed:

- Visited regions of Chaco (Paraguay, Argentina and Bolivia), Rio Amazonas, in Brazil, the border between Brazil and Paraguay and, finally, Ecuador, to review and determine critical actions for short term development, resources, budget and funding sources. It was not possible to visit Venezuela with the same objective.
- The meeting was organized in Ecuador, and had the participation of staff from APHIS/USDA, which took the decision to finance with resources of the PL4-80 Program, the fundamental activities of the national FMD eradication project, and
- The budgets prepared for the different countries and critical zones of PHEFA, were presented at different meetings of GIEFA and processed to potential donor institutions.

*Resolution fulfilled.*

**Resolution V - International Seminar "Ecoproductive Aspects, Structure and Functionality of Veterinary Services, in the Context of the Goals of the Hemispheric Plan of Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (PHEFA)"**

Resolves:

1. To endorse the recommendations of the above Seminar.
2. To request PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO to follow up in the countries that the Seminar recommendations are fulfilled.

Status of Fulfillment:

With reference to the recommendations from the International Seminar it is pointed out their incorporation by the countries of the Andean Community of Nations (CAN) to the subregional plan of action for prevention and control of FMD, prepared for 2007-2009. The detailed fulfillment of each one of the recommendations are the following:

- Updating of eco-productive characterizations of the cattle sector, with national coverage, were carried out by health services of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Ecuador and Peru; these initiatives, circumscribed to sub-national zones or areas were carried out in other countries, with the perspective of identifying vulnerability and receptivity factors related to the risk of occurrence, diffusion and/or persistence of FMD.
- On the strengthening of transit control of animals, the Colombian Institute of Agriculture and Livestock (ICA), Colombia, offered, within CAN, to lead and coordinate the preparation of a proposal of regulation, which should include biosafety features for national and subregional application.
- With regard to audits of veterinary services of the countries: due to a lack of funds, they have been postponed. It is pointed out the reiteration of the Andean countries, for evaluation of national systems as well as those for international borders.
- Regarding efforts of national agreement and fitting of the legal basis of countries considered critical for the execution of PHEFA, Ecuador and Venezuela have been developing activities on this issue. In the case of Ecuador, it is pointed out that the action of GIEFA as well as APHIS/USDA in the consolidation of alliances and agreements of technical and financial cooperation, provided the country presents a clear, legal and coherent basis with the objectives of PHEFA.
- On the strengthening of alert systems and quality of laboratory diagnosis, activities were reiterated for regional and international harmonization of diagnosis procedures and implementation of quality systems management, which are being coordinated by the Unit of Laboratories of PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO, according to Resolution II, and
- With regard to monitoring of vaccination and evaluation of immunizing coverage, health services of Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Peru and Uruguay have developed studies of the issue.

*Resolution fulfilled.*

#### **Resolution VI - Mitigation of Risk**

Resolves:

1. To recommend to the countries to incorporate, in the strategic framework of their eradication programs, actions in the various border areas which, in common agreement, will solve health problems

emphasized by structural deficiencies and trade. This would be based on technical and financial resources, which would mitigate or eliminate sanitary risks in movements of animals towards and from these zones.

#### Status of Fulfillment:

PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO collaborated with the FMD eradication programs of Ecuador and Colombia, within the framework of regulations of the OIE Terrestrial Code, in the characterization and delimitation of a buffer area at the border of Ecuador, in the perspective of protecting the south-western zone of Colombia to be certified FMD-free with vaccination. This will mitigate risks as well as strengthen local actions and optimize mobilization and use of funds between the two countries.

Likewise, PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO offered technical cooperation to the PVC on various activities in border areas of Argentina-Bolivia-Paraguay and Brazil-Paraguay. It also collaborated with Argentina, Brazil and Bolivia in FMD outbreaks. It also supported OIE missions to the Southern Cone.

*Resolution was fulfilled.*

### **Resolution VII - Regionalization of Emergency Situations**

#### Resolves:

1. To request PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO, with the collaboration of public and private sectors of the region, review the occurrence of foot-and-mouth disease outbreaks in zones previously recognized as free by OIE, and propose options based on epidemiologic and not administrative concepts, to prevent losing recognition in the whole territory.

2. To present the results of this study to OIE for analysis by ad hoc Groups on Foot-and-Mouth Disease and Epidemiology, and eventually present them to the Scientific Committee as well.

#### Status of Fulfillment:

For this Resolution, PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO organized at its headquarters in Rio de Janeiro, from August 29-30<sup>th</sup> 2006, a meeting of epidemiologists of the veterinary services from the Southern Cone, to outline proposals 2006, of changes to the OIE Terrestrial Code and to present a new methodology for risk characterization. The proposal pointed out the definition of criteria for the rapid recovery of suspended recognition due to the reappearance of the disease. Prior to the discussion, PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO organized in its internet page a forum of discussions on the issue, for the free interchange of opinions and suggestions. The final document was presented on September 2006 at the Meeting of the ad hoc Group on Epidemiology of OIE and was considered in discussions for the preparation of a proposal to the Scientific Committee, for presentation at the 75th General Session, in May 2007.

At the request of the OIE Mission, when it visited three countries of the Southern Cone, PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO offered support to the preparation of technical proposals for regionalization, as a way to confront reappearance of outbreaks in the region. A group of technical staff of PVC-PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO drafted a proposal which was presented by the Chiefs of the Veterinary Services of Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay to the Scientific Commission of OIE in February 2007.

*Resolution was fulfilled.*

### **III - Other Activities Executed by PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO**

#### **1. Inter-American Group for FMD Eradication (GIEFA)**

As in previous year, the President of GIEFA will have the opportunity at this meeting, specifically on March 17<sup>th</sup> the directing session, to present a detailed report on the activities of the Group. Besides the issues of Resolution IV, it must be included the joint organization PANAFTOSA-GIEFA of the Inter-American Seminar on Veterinary Public Health "Barriers and Challenges for the Expansion of South America as a Supply Point for Quality Meats to the World: Foot-and-Mouth Disease, Veterinary Public Health and Strengthening of Services of Veterinary Defense", to comply with the goals of PHEFA and other diseases in public health, held in Uberaba, Minas Gerais, Brazil, from April 27-28<sup>th</sup>, 2006.

The Seminar was attended by the chiefs of the official veterinary services of South America, representatives of the South American agribusiness, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Inter-American Institute of Cooperation for Agriculture (IICA), the Confederation of Agriculture and Livestock of Brazil (CNA), the Brazilian Association of Zebu Cattlemen (ABCC), and the Brazilian Association of Meat-Exporting Industries (ABIEC). The objective of the Seminar was to construct an instrument for continental association to strengthen animal health in South America.

Furthermore, PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO participated in several meetings held between GIEFA and possible donors, during visits to some countries and critical areas; in the technical and budgetary outlining of working schedules as well as in meetings with international cooperation agencies. Finally, acknowledgement is expressed to the directory of GIEFA for its actions with the Government of Brazil with regard to the donation of two million doses of anti-FMD vaccine to strengthen the national program.

#### **2 - Permanent Veterinary Committee (PVC)**

PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO was invited to and participated in several meetings with the PVC, WHO acts as Technical Secretariat of the Commission for Animal Health (CSA) and as "Coordinator of the Permanent Technical Commission" for action at the border level. It has collaborated in the preparation of the Project for FMD Eradication in Countries of the Enlarged MERCOSUR, based on the Plan of Action of PHEFA 2005-2009, as well as in the outlining of the working schedule for the year, within the context of the Plan of Action.

PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO has participated in extraordinary meetings of PVC for the harmonization of actions at border areas between the countries of the Southern Cone, especially Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil and Paraguay. PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO supports the execution of the project in activities related to seroepidemiological samplings, quality control of vaccines and epidemiological characterization of the countries.

#### **3 - Technical Mission of OIE to the Southern Cone**

Due to the reoccurrence of FMD in the Southern Cone, with reference to the outbreaks recorded in the states of Mato Grosso do Sul and Paraná, in Brazil, and in the Province of Corrientes, in Argentina, the Permanent Veterinary Committee (PVC) requested the OIE send a Technical Mission

to the subregion, which took place from December 6-13<sup>rd</sup>, 2006. The teacher Vincenzo Caporale, Dr. Gideon Bruckner, Dr. Cristóbal Cepeda, Dr. Michel Lombard, Dr. Howard Batho and Dr. Alf-Eckert Fussel, participated in the Mission.

PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO, as a reference organism of OIE, was invited to participate in the Mission and it designated the professionals Dr. Rossana Allende, Dr. Gilfredo Darsie and Dr. Victor Saraiva. Two of the groups carried out field visits to borders of Argentina-Bolivia, Argentina-Paraguay and Brazil-Paraguay. A third group visited official vaccine control laboratories in Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay. The Mission received prior information on the subregional status at a meeting held in Florianópolis, Brazil, with the staff of PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO and representatives of the national services of Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay.

The final report of the Mission was presented to the Director General of OIE. It pointed out the need to strengthen and harmonize actions along the borders, regarding the handling of suspicions, vaccination process, individual identification system of animals and integrated control of international transit, among other issues. The PVC met on two occasions to determine strategies for the harmonization of criteria and procedures to comply with the recommendations of the report.

#### **4 - Information and Epidemiological Surveillance**

Although recommendations urging the countries to use the Information and Surveillance System Web version (SivCont), have been reiterated at the last two COSALFA meetings, only Peru, in 2006, joined the other countries which use it. Colombia, Ecuador and Venezuela have been using it since January 2004, and Brazil has been using it since 2005.

Unfortunately, due to a fire at the building of the Ministry of Agriculture in the third quarter of 2004, Venezuela has not been able to use the system again.

In Brazil, during May and November 2006, at the request of the Department of Animal Health (DSA) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Supply (MAPA), two Seminars-Workshops were held at PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO to train 22 professionals from 11 states of Brazil in the use of SivCont in the framework of decentralization of information input on action for suspicious sanitary events, to the surveillance system of the country, up to local levels. Brazil is the country which has taken the best advantage of the facilities afforded by SivCont in the improvement of the National System of Epidemiological Surveillance. The country has established SivCont in 22 States. At the end of 2006, Colombia started the same process, decentralizing to one of its Regional Units of Epidemiology the input of information on the occurrence of sanitary events.

The establishment of interface via Web of SivCont, which will avail to any user health information of the Continental Surveillance System, is still subject to a larger incorporation of the countries to the system.

The Sanitary Situation Room, via Web, at the PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO site, has been developed and a large number of staff from the official health services of the countries as well as academicians, students and agents from cattle sector activities in general use it.

#### **5 - Cooperation Project with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)**

PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO, in an agreement with the IDB in 2006, developed cooperation activities



for countries of the Enlarged MERCOSUR for the implementation of a modern and efficient regional system in animal health and food safety. The budget was US\$350,000, of which US\$250,000 corresponded to IDB and US\$100,000 to contributions from PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO.

The execution of the Project has contributed to the strengthening of regional institutions through proposals for joint attention systems implementation of sanitary emergencies, establishment of a regional indemnity fund and adoption of these measures, with the goal of eradicating FMD in the region. Through the updating and publication of the "Manual of Procedures for Attention to Occurrences of FMD and other Vesicular Diseases". It has also contributed to facilitate attention to vesicular diseases in different countries, with a criteria of equivalence.

The project supported the organization of several meetings related to the application of regional strategies of PHEFA, such as the one held at PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO, with epidemiologists of the Southern Cone for proposals to modify to the OIE Terrestrial Code on regionalization after a FMD outbreak.

Within the framework of this Project an information system on web basis was developed, called "Information System in Cooperative Network - SIRCOOP", which will support the countries of the region to prepare registries of population susceptible to FMD. This will strengthen risk analysis capacity, improve information and epidemiological surveillance systems, and the development of database to support epidemiological risk characterization.

At PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO, 12 professionals from the countries were trained and update on differential diagnosis techniques and seroepidemiological surveillance of FMD and 26 professionals of Animal Health Programs and Food Safety were trained in the execution of projects. Guidelines for training in health education, social communication and risk communication, with an emphasis on FMD were developed.

## **6 - Research and Discussion of International Standards**

PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO has participated in ad hoc groups of OIE both, in the development of activities of harmonizing regional and international diagnostic procedures implementing quality systems as in the discussions about non-capsidal proteins, antigens banks and vaccine. In ad hoc groups of epidemiology and FMD, it has collaborated in discussions on proposals of changes to the Terrestrial Code and to the processes for recognition of FMD free zones with and without vaccination. It has worked with the European Union in the harmonization and application of diagnostic tests for active surveillance. In addition, PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO has participated, at the invitation of the Global Alliance for Research on FMD (GFRA), in the second meeting on the "Route Map for the Improvement of FMD Control in Endemic Environments", an initiative of the European Union (EU), Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), Agency of the United Nations for Agriculture and Food (FAO), International Agency of Atomic Energy (IAAE), Government of the United Kingdom, and a pool of laboratories. This initiative includes the establishment of future lines for vaccine research, new diagnostic tests and methodologies for the delivery of these technological advances, and methodological developments to strengthen the fight against FMD in endemic regions. Furthermore, the group tries to find possible donors to carry out research, with the intent to eradicate the disease

worldwide within 15 years. PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO proposed its inclusion in the Alliance to support research applied to South America.

## 7 - Biosafety

PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO provided technical cooperation to seven member countries on various issues.

- In Argentina, with SENASA, in the drafting of the initial project for the construction of the laboratory for quality control of FMD vaccines and fitting of the FMD antigen production installations of the BIOGENESIS-BAGÓ laboratory.
- In Brazil, it participated in the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Supply - MAPA, "Biosafety Commission for FMD Virus", with emphasis on the analysis and discussion of projects for the construction of new vaccine production installations.
- In Chile, with the Agricultural and Livestock Service (SAG), in the evaluation of installations built at the central laboratory to comply with the requirements of Biosafety Level 3.
- In Colombia, with the Colombian Institute for Agriculture and Livestock (ICA), in the preparation of the project for construction of the Biological Safety Level 3 Agriculture (NB3A) laboratory at the Research Center of Animal Health (CEISA), and of a unit for emergency diagnosis of vesicular diseases, to mitigate risks until the maximum biosafety laboratory is not finished. It cooperated with the laboratories of the Colombian Enterprise of Veterinary Products S.A. (VECOL) and Limor of Colombia Ltda. (LIMOR) in the follow-up of construction of FMD vaccine production plants with NB3A. The VECOL laboratory was qualified in virus handling at its new installations and restarted production. Also, support was provided to ICA in the evaluation of the BIOGENESIS-BAGÓ laboratory in Argentina, as a requirement for authorization of import of FMD inactivated antigens by the LAVERLAM laboratory for preparation of vaccines in Colombia.
- In Paraguay, with the National Service of Animal Health (SENACSA), in the guidance of projects for construction of vaccine production installations of the private laboratories Lauda Sociedad Anónima Paraguaya (LAUDA) and GALMEDIC Laboratories, and in the drafting of an initial technical proposal for the construction of an NB3A laboratory of SENACSA for diagnosis of emergency diseases, to be presented to the consideration of funding organisms.
- In Uruguay, with the Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries (MGAP), in technical guidance on a unit for emergency diagnosis with the Division of Veterinary Laboratories "Miguel C. Rubino" (DILAVE), to mitigate risks in the handling of suspicious samples of vesicular diseases.
- In Venezuela, technical guidance was provided to the construction project of a laboratory complex by the Institute of Veterinary Research/ National Center of Agricultural and Livestock Research of Venezuela (INIA-CENIAP) which will consider FMD vaccine production, immunobiologics for various animal diseases and also diagnosis of animal diseases.

## 8 - Food Safety

Cooperation in Food Safety was aimed at strengthening the capacity of the countries in the evaluation,

handling, and risk communication of Diseases Transmitted by Food (DTF). During the year, the technical group specialized in food safety with headquarters at PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO, has been working on training courses at country and regional level to create conditions for adequate surveillance of DTF. Emphasis is made on the political and technical decisions of setting the DTF component within the national surveillance system, as well as on laboratory support, and continuous in-service training.

The new version of the Regional System of Epidemiologic Surveillance of DTF (SIRVETA) has been qualified and distributed to 11 countries of the region. Annual meetings of the WHO-GSS and PulseNet networks for Latin America were held as well as the continuation of distance courses of the Inter-American Network for Food Analysis (RILAA). The networks system is promoting exchange of information referring to collection, verification, analysis and systematic interpretation of exact data on food contaminants and diseases transmitted by food. The networks system has provided training, development of guidelines and standards based on successful experiences; it has promoted and availed the use of external programs of quality control in laboratories and finally, has made available information and support from the more developed to the less developed sectors.

Training courses were held on how to systematically focus on various sources of scientific evidence to take decisions. Courses on systematic revision, goal-analysis and evaluation of microbiologic risk were held. Also, harmonization of laws and food regulations, particularly in the Central American area, has been promoted.

In coordination with IICA, collaboration has been provided to Ecuador and Peru to prepare action plans to update their food safety systems. In Central America, with IICA and OIRSA, work has been carried out in the harmonization of regional regulation to prepare a Central American food code.

Support was provided to the Codex Committee of Latin America in its bi-annual meeting and all countries maintained their Codex contact points. Central America and the Dominican Republic were qualified in courses of Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP), Risk Analysis and Critical Points of Control (HACCP), and auditing. Work is being carried out with Guatemala, Bolivia, Paraguay and the Dominican Republic on strategies of healthy markets.

Training was provided on systematic revisions and goal-analysis to professionals involved in the course on sanitary programs development (IDB-PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO Project) and jointly with FAO-OIRSA a course was held on evaluation of microbiological risks for 41 participants of 19 Latin American countries.

With reference to risk communication on DTF, practical guides related to activities on food safety, information on design, execution and evaluation of a food safety program have been produced and issued to provide professionals in health and agriculture, social communicators and staff of public and private organizations. Furthermore, the Web system of PANALIMENTOS has been reactivated to make the social communication guide available to the countries. Support has been continuous for the headquarters work on validation of the WHO of the Five Keys for Safety of Food guides at schools, taking into consideration that at present only Argentina and Cuba use the guide and have continued with a successful campaign.

The first two modules for Master's degrees by distance learning on management of food safety, with 20 students, have been successfully completed. Also, a short course on management of programs for food control was held.

The virtual class of PANALIMENTOS has been reactivated with two virtual seminars to all member countries of RILAA: on inter-laboratory tests and on updating the ISO/IEC 17025:2005 regulations.

## **9 - Zoonosis and Local Development**

The incidence of human rabies has continuously decreased since the beginning of the regional program in 1983 (258 total cases) until 2006 (19 cases) due to the elimination of canine rabies in the majority of large cities in the region. However, it still persists in Bolivia, Guatemala, and El Salvador and is limited to certain regions of Venezuela, Brazil and Mexico, as well as areas bordering the affected countries.

Rabies transmitted by wild life species, especially vampire bats, is a serious problem for public health in tropical and subtropical areas with limited access to health units. In Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela joint health-agriculture action was promoted to alert and train the community on rabies risk, vampire bat aggression and vampire bat control.

In this context, PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO supported the Regional Plan of Rabies Prevention, revision during the XI Meeting of Directors of National Rabies Programs (REDIPRA) held in Brasilia in 2006 and at the Meeting of Experts of PAHO/WHO on Rabies in the Amazon, which preceded REDIPRA.

On brucellosis and tuberculosis, several countries including Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Mexico, Peru and Uruguay, advanced in the certification of free establishments. This only will be beneficial if the elimination of positive animals is ensured.

For the control and prevention of the pest, hydatidosis, visceral leishmaniasis, rickettsiosis and leptospirosis, which are zoonoses associated with poverty of small farmers and the growth of cities lacking adequate sanitary infrastructure, action has started to establish and encourage working networks and cooperation between governments and institutions with laboratories and experts.

Of concern is the global risk of emerging zoonoses, such as the zoonotic avian influenza, bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) and the West Nile Virus (WNV), which in 2006 was diagnosed for the first time in humans and equines in Argentina. This represents an alert sign due to the potential dissemination of its agent in South America.

With reference to BSE, it is stressed the analysis of risk introduction of the agent through meat products, carried out by PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO, as a request of CAN, as a basis for decisions on the subregional agreement for free trade.

Replication of successful experiences and horizontal cooperation are applied in the strengthening of local capacity of zoonosis control. The increase in local capacity is promoted in the strategy of municipalities and healthy communities of PAHO/WHO through the incorporation of agents in the veterinary services. The program of Productive Municipalities developed in Cuba has great potential effects and is an important working model.

In surveillance, prevention and readiness to challenge global emergency situations of transmissible spongiform encephalopathies and zoonotic avian influenza (AI), PAHO/WHO carried out great efforts and cooperation to the countries of the Americas. Together with the health and agriculture areas of the countries, and with international organisms, PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO was established as a focal point, and it offered technical cooperation to strengthen continental and national systems of surveillance,

prevention and preparation for attention to highly pathogenous or zoonotic AI and for BSE.

On diagnostic reference of some zoonosis, the cooperation of PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO covers the identification of laboratories with the capacity to offer technical assistance and to facilitate, whenever possible, and with the support of PAHO/WHO offices in the countries, the transport of samples and biologics between laboratories of the region, the storage of certain rabies biologics and the production of some biologics in national laboratories. The new modality of technical assistance provides the feasibility to cover a larger demand of services and takes advantage of present capacities of the countries, although increasing restrictions to transport of biologics delay timely cooperation.

## 10 - Avian Influenza

The following activities have been developed and participation has been made with the countries on:

- Technical cooperation on AI with the countries in accordance with the PAHO/WHO Plan of Preparation for Pandemics and with plans issued by the Global Framework of Transborder Diseases of FAO-OIE (GF TADs).
- Follow-up of the PAHO/WHO Plan of preparation for pandemics, participation in subregional seminars of evaluation of programs of Central America (Panama), the Caribbean (Trinidad and Tobago), the Southern Cone (Uruguay), and the Andean Community (Peru).
- Coordination and execution of the activities considered in the Influenza Project USAID/PAHO, participation in training seminars for the Caribbean (Trinidad and Tobago), and the Andean Community (Colombia), as well as in the development of models for AI risk analysis.
- Offering technical cooperation in the development of simulacrums of AI to Peru and Uruguay. At present there is the cooperation in the planning of simulacrums in Paraguay.
- Participation in joint activities with FAO/OIE in the scope of GF TAD, participating in the initial seminar of TCP FAO. There is also the participation in the Experts Committee of Avian Influenza within the initiative of the Network of Information on Avian Influenza of OIE (OFFLU).

## 3. DISCUSSION OF THE REPORT

There were several debates on the activities mentioned in the report, which were settled at the meeting. The request for information from the Colombian delegation over the support given to the countries in the joint preparation, under coordination of PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO, of a proposal for changes in the Terrestrial Code on regionalization in case of emergencies was taken into consideration. The proposal was presented to the ad hoc Group on FMD of OIE, is in process for recognition of the Scientific Committee of OIE and will be considered at the 75th General Session. This is within the concern of OIE to facilitate to the countries safe trade, commodities and area bonus, in accordance with Dr. Luís Barcos, Regional Coordinator for the Americas of OIE.

The delegations of Paraguay and Peru requested that the acknowledgement of progress made in the maintenance of countries and areas free from FMD in South America be mentioned in the report.

#### 4. STATUS OF FMD IN THE COUNTRIES

Dr. Victor Saraiva, Chief of the Vesicular Unit of PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO, presented a report of the sanitary situation of FMD in the region, emphasizing the concentration of outbreaks in Venezuela and Ecuador and reiterating the endemic situation in those countries. He mentioned the occurrence of outbreaks in Corrientes, Argentina; the continuation of the situation in Mato Grosso do Sul, where seroepidemiological and surveillance research recognized 7 new outbreaks in the region. In 2007, SENASAG/Bolivia registered 5 outbreaks in the region of Santa Cruz de la Sierra, which were controlled without slaughter of the animals. Another highlighted issue was the recurrence of Vesicular Stomatitis, New Jersey. In endemic countries of South America as well as Central America where there was an increase of 240% in records, which could indicate the beginning of a new epidemic cycle.

The delegation from Colombia reiterated its concern over the strengthening of surveillance and control activities at border areas. The Brazilian delegate contested the concentration of action only at the border region, because they also own, pointing out the importance of looking at the historical FMD occurrence, with data for to 2000-2001, since it is quite likely that the present situation is related to this process of "viral circulation". It has not been possible for Brazil to establish the origin of the virus outbreak at Mato Grosso or the relationship between the acting virus. This was supported by several delegates who voiced their concern over the reduction of the problem at border level. This was observed by the initial concern of the OIE Mission, which does not exclude the extension of action to the rest of the countries.

Dr. Ernesto Salas of SENASAG/Bolivia complemented information on the occurrence of 5 FMD outbreaks in Santa Cruz, in an infected zone, in January 2007, and informed that the status of free with vaccination has been returned to Chiquitania, which shares that condition with Oruro in Bolivia.

The delegate from the private sector of Argentina spoke of the recognition of the Patagónica B zone as free without vaccination as well as the decrease in the intensive control area along the border with Bolivia and Paraguay from 25 to 15 km.

With reference to the endemic situation recorded in Venezuela, the delegate from the private sector expressed his concern and urged SASA to strengthen control actions scheduled in the national program for the disease eradication.

The delegate from the official sector of Ecuador accepted the problem of endemism recorded in the country, emphasized the support of PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO and reiterated the need of support from other cooperation entities.

#### 5. OIE PRESENTATION

The OIE Regional Coordinator for the Americas, Dr. Luís Barcos, mentioned the mandates of the Organization regarding the statement of countries free from FMD, BSE, Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia and New Castle Disease, and observed that in the last years there has been an occurrence of outbreaks inside large FMD free areas. This causes uncertainty about the system to define non-viral circulation, and prevention and surveillance systems. He mentioned the OIE Mission visit and consequent commitments which establish the need to execute coordinated and continued

joint actions among the countries, such as in border areas (high surveillance areas). These actions are set in cooperation schedules and agendas, such as the PVC. The border area Argentina-Brazil-Paraguay, 30 km, 15 km at each side of the country, would not receive the status of free with vaccination but of high surveillance. The Mission/Scientific Commission report will be known in May at the OIE General Session. The delegate from the private sector of Brazil requested that representatives from the sector be included in future evaluation missions, using criterion of each national veterinary service.

There was discussion on viral reactivity in samplings, attributed to the vaccine or to sensibility/specificity conditions of the samples, and Dr. Barco reiterated it was important for sanitary services to analyze results of the samplings under these limitations and, if possible, to use purified vaccines. The result of the OIE Mission visit will be made known to the public.

With reference to the sanitary situation, several delegates confirmed that previous reports had already mentioned the deficiencies and problems and that nothing had been done to solve them. It was suggested to organize a workshop to evaluate and update the Plan of Action of PHEFA.

## **6. REPORT FROM THE PRE-COSALFA INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR**

After the presentation of the report from the International Seminar by Dr. Hugo Tamayo, it was discussed and there were questions on some concepts, such as Local Services of Veterinary Attention and public-private management, which were later debated.

The delegates of the countries believe that the subject of enlargement and diversification of activities of Veterinary Public Health, based on social inequities; technology transfer; healthy municipalities and communities, as well as working stability which affects the continuity of program activities, must be considered within the context of the recommendations of the Seminar. However, due to administrative factors from each country, recommendations on these topics cannot be accepted as a priority, thus they remain as a general suggestion for reference for the countries.

Dr. Julio Pompei then presented the activities report of GIEFA. He spoke of the results of meetings of the Executive Secretariat of the Group and studies of costs developed by special border plans of Argentina-Bolivia-Paraguay; Brazil-Paraguay and Brazil-Bolivia, as well as for the region along the Amazon River in Brazil. There followed punctual questions to the presentation. The delegation from Ecuador requested the organization of a meeting to discuss a proposal to fund special programs for the country.

## **7. PRESENTATION OF LABORATORY ACTIVITIES**

Dr. Ingrid Bergmann then presented a report on laboratory activities. She mentioned that from January-December 2006 the laboratory continued to strengthen its regional and international harmonization activities for diagnosis and implementation of systems for quality management procedures. The training program was continued by carrying out 9 modules covering areas of diagnosis, molecular epidemiology, serosurveillance and vaccine control. As an OIE Laboratory of Reference, harmonization activities and methodology validation are highlighted. South America Network of National Reference Laboratories on diagnosis and vaccine control continued their WNR in vesicular diseases, promoting a focus on participation and encouraging the exchange of information. Support was continued

to the zoonosis area in actions to establish a zoonosis laboratory network, with particular emphasis on avian influenza. With its participation, the laboratory consolidated the position of the region in international forums, such as FAO, OIE, EU, IAEA, also promoting interaction with other organisms of international reference. Regional reference activities were carried out, including the characterization of samples, provision of biologics and diagnosis kits, training, assessment to consultations, information diffusion, and activities in response to detected local requirements. The whole document can be obtained on the PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO site ([www.panaftosa.org.br](http://www.panaftosa.org.br)).

One of the topics of discussion was the interpretation of diagnosis results, biomolecular characterization of field strains and the possible impact of this information on trade relations. The subject of mapping acting strains in the two "viral circuits", one in the north of South America and one in the Southern Cone region, was discussed. For the laboratory to be able to contribute to knowledge of these circuits, it is necessary to increase the number of samples sent to improve classification and mapping of the geographical distribution. With reference to the interference of some vaccines in NCP tests, it was informed that results in the Americas are below 2% of reactivity, due to non-specificity of the test, and that even in free areas or without vaccination there would be a certain level of reactivity.

The definition of outbreaks, in accordance with the OIE Terrestrial Code, was discussed. It was agreed that for any changes in the Code, input from the Chiefs of Services is important during discussion of proposals.

The Delegation from Uruguay, supported by Peru and by the OIE representative for the Americas, questioned the sanitary situation in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, which during 5 years had no occurrence of clinical FMD. This could indicate an imbalance between field and laboratory, thus it was considered urgent to hold an epidemiological/laboratory meeting to discuss research guidelines.

The private sector delegate from Bolivia reported the continuation of seroepidemiologic studies in the outbreaks region and at the probable origin from animals.

General Francisco Visconti, for SASA/Venezuela, spoke about activities on FMD, emphasizing that in 2007, the Project of Free Vaccination carried out by SASA for unassisted cattlemen stood out. The main goal was to ensure uniform immunity in the small producers sector, which for various reasons, have been left without the traditional medical-veterinary assistance. This sector represents approximately 30% of the total national cattlemen, with a population almost 10% of the total national herds.

The Autonomous Service of Agricultural and Livestock Health (SASA) purchased 2,600,000 doses of the FMD vaccine and delivered the required materials and equipment for vaccination to the 750 hired and trained vaccinators to achieve the national goal of FMD eradication.

Co-management between the public and the private sector, which acts as support for actions to achieve the goals of the Program, has been strengthened by the reorganization of the National Commission for FMD Eradication, which includes the representation of several public and private organisms, associations of cattlemen and professionals, to attend to the requirements of the Program at the national level.

One of the achievements of 2007 has been to increase vaccination coverage from 90 to 92% of the national bovine population, and from 78 to 88% at livestock premises, as a result of vaccination at the small livestock producers level, which has been carried out by SASA.



Through social communication, there has been improvement in the awareness of small livestock producers of the purposes, objectives, strategies and reach of the program, as well as the way they can participate in this issue.

In the area of political communication, strategies have been aimed at better information at the local level within the whole country to support changes in health education and diffusion, in view of the budget reinforcement required by this Program.

During the third plenary session, Dr. Karen Sliter was invited to present a report on the APHIS/USDA cooperation in the region. The agency has recently invested 2 million dollars and in the last 10 years, 27 million from the funds of the PL480 project. The agency has actively participated in the efforts of Bolivia and Ecuador to support implementation of laboratories; development of field activities and especially for Ecuador, they have appointed a co-director for the national sanitary service. With Venezuela, they have intensified technical interchange with SASA. The coordination link with activities of GIEFA and PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO is through Dr. David Ashford, located in Brazil.

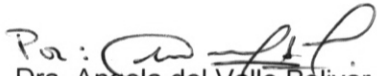
To end the session, the floor was given to Dr. Jamil de Souza, official delegate of Brazil who, as president of PVC, presented the project of Zone of High Surveillance at the level of international borders of Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia and Paraguay. This was prepared as a result of the visit of the OIE Mission to the region. Dr. Jamil commented that the activities coordination will be done by PVC and resources will be offered by each country or charged to what each country can finance with IDB, World Bank or other credit agencies. The scheduled activities will include the strengthening of Veterinary Services and joint or shared execution of the registry of premises; attention to outbreaks; harmonized vaccination and seroepidemiologic monitoring of the project region, continued by active surveillance with follow-up of seropositive animals. Audits are scheduled for PVC by PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO and OIE.

## 8. CLOSING OF THE MEETING

The closing ceremony of the meeting was attended by Dr. Ana María Álvarez, representing the General Director of SASA; Dr. Albino Belotto, chief of Public Veterinary Health of PAHO and Dr. Miguel Genovese, Director of PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO and Secretary *ex officio* of COSALFA. In view of the discussions and considering the contents of resolutions, Dr. Álvarez expressed her pleasure at the results of the meeting, mentioned the event will be of great relevance to the development of the

Venezuelan national program and the strengthening of the program at a continental level, and wished to the public and private delegates as well as to observers of national and international institutions a very happy return to their countries. She then closed the XXXIV Ordinary Meeting of COSALFA.

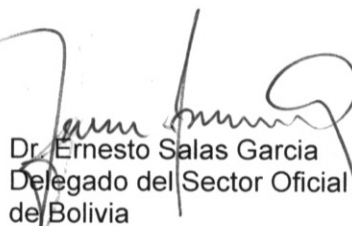
IN WITNESS WHERE OF, the President of the Meeting, Dr. Ángela del Valle Bolívar Acosta, director of the Autonomous Service of Agricultural and Livestock Health - SASA and the director of the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center - PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO, Secretary ex officio of

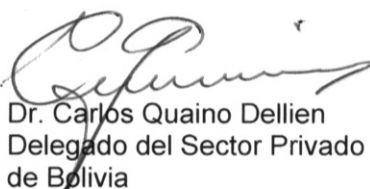
  
Dra. Ángela del Valle Bolívar Acosta  
Presidente de la Reunión  
Directora General del Servicio Autónomo  
de Sanidad Agropecuaria – SASA

  
Dr. Miguel Genovese  
Secretario *Ex Officio*  
Director del Centro Panamericano de  
Fiebre Aftosa – PANAFTOSA-OPS/OMS

  
Dr. Jorge Horacio Dillon  
Delegado del Sector Oficial  
de Argentina

  
Dr. Federico González Grey  
Delegado del Sector Privado  
de Argentina

  
Dr. Ernesto Salas García  
Delegado del Sector Oficial  
de Bolivia

  
Dr. Carlos Quaino Dellien  
Delegado del Sector Privado  
de Bolivia



Dr. Jamil Gomes de Souza  
Delegado del Sector Oficial  
de Brasil

Dr. Alexandre Antonio Jacewicz  
Delegado del Sector Privado  
de Brasil

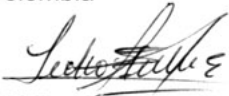


Dr. Claudio Ternicier González  
Delegado del Sector Oficial  
de Chile




Dr. Luis Fernando Salcedo  
Delegado del Sector Privado  
de Colombia


Dra. Deyanira Barrero Leon  
Delegado del Sector Oficial  
de Colombia



Dra. Lidia Alexandra Burbano  
Delegado del Sector Oficial  
de Ecuador




Dr. John Macedo  
Delegado del Sector Privado  
de Guyana



Dr. Kenrick Elias  
Delegado del Sector Oficial  
de Guyana




Dr. Alberto Soljancic Vargas  
Delegado del Sector Privado  
de Paraguay



Dr. Hugo Corrales  
Delegado del Sector Oficial  
de Paraguay



Dr. Oscar Miguel Domínguez Falcón  
Delegado del Sector Oficial  
de Perú



Dr. Francisco Muzio  
Delegado del Sector Oficial  
de Uruguay



Dra. Lourdes Silva  
Delegado del Sector Oficial  
de Venezuela



Dr. Jorge Prado  
Delegado del Sector Privado  
de Venezuela



# XXXIV COSALFA

Caracas, Venezuela

March 15-16, 2007

## RESOLUTIONS



COSALFA, and the delegates of the official and private sectors of the member countries of COSALFA, have signed the present final report in Spanish, Portuguese and English, all texts being equally authentic.

Done in Caracas, Venezuela, on the sixteenth day of March of the year two thousand and seven.

## **RESOLUTION I**

### **Situation of Foot-and-Mouth Disease in the Region and Activities of PHEFA**

THE XXXIV ORDINARY MEETING OF COSALFA,

Considering:

The progress made by some countries in the recognition of new areas as free with and without vaccination, a status which has to be maintained with prevention programs;

Despite all efforts, sporadic occurrence continues in zones recognized as free with vaccination, and the origin of the virus has not been determined;

The endemic situation in Venezuela and Ecuador, which is a risk to neighboring countries and others with which they hold trade relations;

The importance of PHEFA as the main conductor of national and regional strategies for FMD eradication in the continent;

The dynamism of economic proceedings and their epidemiologic impact on FMD occurrence;

The need to revise progress of PHEFA in its continental performance;

The institution and operation of PAMA in the strategic framework of PHEFA;

The need that within the scope of PHEFA and its subregional version, PAMA, harmonious and joint programs should be developed to achieve eradication of the disease in the subregion,

### **RESOLVES:**

1. That the countries reaffirm their commitment to the strategic guidelines of PHEFA.
2. That PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO, together with the countries, look for resources to convince an ad hoc Group to prepare an evaluation methodology to be presented for consideration by the countries.
3. To propose a meeting for an evaluation of activities of PHEFA.
4. That PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO should continue offering support to the countries of PVC in the development of PAMA, especially in the development of the emergency plan for the region, which was approved by the ministers of CAS at the extraordinary meeting of March 8, 2007.
5. That PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO should intensify technical cooperation to Ecuador and Venezuela.

(Approved by the plenary session on  
March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2007)

## **RESOLUTION II**

### **Action of OIE with reference to Eradication Programs of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD)**

THE XXXIV ORDINARY MEETING OF COSALFA,

Considering:

The active participation of OIE in the development of FMD programs in certified FMD-free areas;

The conclusions and recommendations of the OIE Mission to the Southern Cone, in compliance with a request from the PVC of MERCOSUR,

#### **RESOLVES:**

1. To thank OIE for its interest in supporting the development of the programs.
2. To request OIE include representatives of the private sector to participate of in its future technical missions to



the region.

(Approved by the plenary session on  
March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2007)

## **RESOLUTION III**

### **IV International Workshop of Laboratory Specialists in Vesicular Diseases**

#### **Activities of Reference Laboratory**

THE XXXIV ORDINARY MEETING OF COSALFA,

Considering:

The importance of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) diagnosis results as scientific basis for the status of the disease South America;

The relevance in confirmed outbreaks, of complementing diagnosis with the genetic characterization and the protection conferred by the vaccines used in the region to confront field strains - vaccine matching;

The importance of presenting a consensual regional voice to international forums on validation and harmonization of methodologies;

The need to strengthen the surveillance system including conclusive diagnosis in cases of negative suspicions of FMD;

The importance of backing the recommendations of the IV International Workshop of Laboratory Specialists in Vesicular Diseases, which was held at PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO from October 30<sup>th</sup> to November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006.

#### **RESOLVES:**

1. To endorse recommendations of the IV International Workshop of Laboratory Specialists in Vesicular Diseases, and in particular:

2. To request PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO convoke a working group of laboratory and epidemiology specialists of the countries to support definition of the attributes of the tests for different objectives, incorporating the experience of the countries.

3. That the services of the countries reinforce the forwarding to PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO of representative samples of all FMD-confirmed events for reference studies, including genetic characterization and vaccine matching, together with results of local analysis.

4. That the services of the countries reinforce the collection and forwarding of adequate samples for a conclusive differential diagnosis.

5. To request PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO activate mechanisms to strengthen the laboratories network through virtual forums, joint yearly reports, mobilization of resources and preparation of the basis for those reports.

6. To continue holding meetings of laboratory specialists in vesicular diseases.

7. That the countries, in cooperation with PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO, start field application of the I-ELISA

3ABC/EITB test in sheep, buffaloes, goats and swine.

(Approved by the plenary session on  
March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2007)

## **RESOLUTION IV**

### **Inter-American Group for Foot-and-Mouth Disease Eradication - GIEFA**

THE XXXIV ORDINARY MEETING OF COSALFA,

Considering:

The Inter-American Group for Foot-and-Mouth Disease Eradication - GIEFA has been working on the updating budgetary requirements for action to be carried out in the countries and priority areas of the Hemispheric Plan for the Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease - PHEFA;

GIEFA continues processing with possible donors the granting of the required funds for the execution of priority components of PHEFA.

#### **RESOLVES:**

1. To request GIEFA inform officially and periodically the animal health services of the countries on the result of activities regarding the granting of complementary financial resources for the execution of PHEFA.

2. To request GIEFA continue promoting the participation of the public and private sectors of the countries in discussions of priority actions, identification of investment headings and the corresponding budgetary estimate.

(Approved by the plenary session on  
March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2007)

## RESOLUTION V

### International Seminar

#### "The Local Level: Critical Link in Management of Animal Health Programs"

THE XXXIV ORDINARY MEETING OF COSALFA,

Considering:

The subject of the Seminar, related to the acknowledgement of the importance of Local Systems of Veterinary Attention, which are a result of public-private integration in the operative management of health programs:

#### RESOLVES:

To endorse the recommendations of the Seminar and request PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO, in coordination with the Official Sanitary Services of the countries, follow up the fulfillment of the recommendations approved at the Seminar:

01. To suggest to the countries the convenience of enlarging and diversifying actions at the Permanent Veterinary Service - PVS local level, related to FMD eradication programs, to the improvement of animal production, prevention and control of zoonosis and diseases transmitted by food.
02. To suggest to the countries to intensify efforts for the strengthening of strategic alliances between the official and private sectors as well as between sectors with larger and smaller productive development at the local level, for technology transfer and interchange, and also in support of field activities of the program, with the perspective of achieving and preserving common health goals.
03. To request PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO continue information diffusion to the countries, through its Web page, on conceptual, methodological and operative aspects of the initiative of municipalities, markets and healthy schools, as well as experiences and projects which are being carried out in different countries of the Americas.
04. To request veterinary services of the countries try and coordinate with health services, inter-sector and inter-programmatic action on animal health, zoonosis control, security and food safety within the strategy of municipalities and healthy communities and as a means for health promotion in the operative execution of sanitary programs.
05. That Veterinary Attention Services - VAS promote at the local level a larger and better use of information for studies of productive-sanitary characterization of the livestock sector, management of the programs and administration of resources.
06. That VAS should intensify the training of human resources acting at the local level of veterinary attention, on technical features to improve strategic-operative actions.
07. That the countries and PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO strive to reactivate Border Sanitary Agreements to establish joint working programs to be carried out by Local Units of Veterinary Attention - LUVAs.
08. That the countries, with the cooperation of PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO, develop minimum standard information for consideration at the data base of veterinary attention services, to permit characterization of cattle production systems.
09. Due to the administrative peculiarities of each country, encourage initiatives aimed at the stability, promotion and working motivation of local level staff, especially at border areas, to ensure sustainable programs.
10. Due to the administrative peculiarities of each country, promote the incorporation of LUVAs in operative decentralization procedures of animal health activities.
11. That VAS should promote the possibility of technical training for students of veterinary sciences at LUVAs.
12. That VAS should promote and support the incorporation of the community in the follow-up of vaccination programs

as well as other health activities developed at the local level.

13. That VAS should consider the inclusion of representatives of the animal production chain in structures destined to the preparation, execution and evaluation of animal health programs.

(Approved by the plenary session on  
March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2007)

## **RESOLUTION VI**

### **Project of Technical Cooperation Agreement PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO with IDB for the Andean Subregion**

THE XXXIV ORDINARY MEETING OF COSALFA,

Considering:

The positive results of the IDB/PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO Project: "Program of Regional System of Foot-and-Mouth Disease Control in the Enlarged MERCOSUR", carried out by PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO;

The accumulated experience of PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO in the management and execution of the above Project;

The need of the Andean Subregion countries to strengthen their national animal health services;

The permanent disposition of IDB to support the countries of the region,

#### **RESOLVES:**

To request PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO prepare jointly with the countries of the Andean Sub-region and the General Secretariat of the Andean Community of Nations - CAN, a proposal of technical cooperation agreement on

the same model of the agreement for the subregion of the Enlarged MERCOSUR, for presentation and process with the Inter-American Development Bank - IDB.

(Approved by the plenary session on  
March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2007)

## **RESOLUTION VII**

### **Foot-and-Mouth Disease Program of Venezuela**

THE XXXIV ORDINARY MEETING OF COSALFA,

Considering:

The Delegation of Venezuela presentation on the institutional policy of the Ministry of Popular Power for Agriculture and Lands, related to the strengthening of structures and function of animal health services, as well as the present situation at and future plans for FMD-eradication programs in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

#### **RESOLVES:**

1. To congratulate the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela for its decision to assign strategic priority to animal health in its policy of institutional improvement of the agricultural and livestock sector, particularly the FMD eradication program in its territory.
2. To express the commitment of member countries of COSALFA to offer rapid and effective support to this

initiative, and to request that PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO intensify its technical cooperation efforts to contribute to the strengthening of Foot-and-Mouth Disease Eradication Program in Venezuela.

(Approved by the plenary session on  
March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2007)

## **RESOLUTION VIII**

### **Acknowledgements**

THE XXXIV ORDINARY MEETING OF COSALFA,

Considering:

The excellent conditions provided by the official authorities and by representatives of the private sector of Venezuela, in particular the courtesies of the staff of the Autonomous Service of Agricultural and Livestock Health - SASA, for hosting the XXXIV Regular Meeting of COSALFA and the Pre-COSALFA International Seminar.

### **RESOLVES:**

To thank the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, in the name of Soc. Elías José Jaua Milano, minister of Popular Power for Agriculture and Lands; the technical and administrative staff of SASA and the private sector represented

by the Confederations of Cattlemen of Venezuela, for their hospitality and courtesy during the course of the Meeting.

(Approved by the plenary session on  
March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2007)

## **RESOLUTION IX**

### **Designation of the Host City for COSALFA XXXV**

THE XXXIV ORDINARY MEETING OF COSALFA,

Considering:

The offer made by the Delegation of Brazil for the country to host the XXXV Ordinary Meeting of COSALFA,

### **RESOLVES:**

To designate the city of Porto Alegre, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, as the host city of the XXXV Regular Meeting of COSALFA, to be held in March 2008.

(Approved by the plenary session on  
March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2007)

## **RESOLUTION X**

### **Acknowledgement of Dr. Miguel Angel Genovese Linares**

THE XXXIV REGULAR MEETING OF COSALFA,

Considering:

The retirement of the present director of PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO and his services rendered to the Organization,

#### **RESOLVES:**

To thank Dr. Miguel Angel Genovese Linares for his dedication and professionalism shown as consultant and subsequently as director of the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center.

(Approved by the plenary session on  
March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2007)



# XXXIV COSALFA

Caracas, Venezuela

March 15-16, 2007

## ANNEXES



**Annex 1**

**AGENDA**



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

Caracas, Venezuela  
March 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>, 2007

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**AGENDA**

**THURSDAY, March 16<sup>th</sup>**

09:00-09:30 - Opening of the Meeting

09:30-10:00 - Presentation and discussion of the Report of the Secretariat - PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO

10:00-10:30 - Interval

10:30-11:00 - Situation of national programs for Foot-and-Mouth Disease Eradication - PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO

- Southern Cone
- Andean Area
- Amazon Area and Brazil

11:00-12:00 - Report of OIE Mission to the Southern Cone

12:00-12:30 - Discussion

12:30-14:30 - Lunch

14:30-15:00 - Report on the Pre-COSALFA Seminar - The Local Level: A Critical Link in Management of Animal Health Programs

15:00-15:45 - Discussion

15:45-16:15 - Report on GIEFA/PHEFA activities

16:15-16:30 - Discussion

16:30-17:00 - Interval

17:00-17:30 - Report on activities of the PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO laboratory

17:30-18:00 - Discussion

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**FRIDAY, March 17<sup>th</sup>**

09:00-10:00 - Strategies and perspectives of the National Program for Foot-and-Mouth Disease Eradication in Venezuela

10:00-10:30 - Discussion

10:30-11:00 - Interval

11:00-12:00 - Other matters

12:00-12:30 - Discussion

12:30-14:30 - Lunch

14:30-16:00 - Presentation and discussion of Resolutions

16:00-16:30 - Closing of the Meeting



**Annex 2**

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**





**XXXIV COSALFA**Caracas, Venezuela - March 15<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup>, 2007**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

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Edited and printed  
in July, 2006 at the

**Veterinary Public Health Unit - PAHO/WHO**  
Pan-American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center

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<http://www.panaftosa.org.br>