



**Pan-American  
Health  
Organization**



*Regional Office of the  
World Health Organization*

# **I COHEFA EXTRAORDINARY**

I Extraordinary Meeting of the Hemispheric Committee  
for the Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease

December 1st, 2004 - Brasília DF - Brazil



**Pan-American  
Health  
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**THE FIRST EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE HEMISPHERIC  
COMMITTEE FOR THE ERADICATION OF FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE**

*Brasilia, Distrito Federal, Brazil, December 1, 2004*

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December 1, 2004  
ORIGINAL ESPAÑOL

**Final Report - The First Extraordinary Meeting of the Hemispheric  
Committee for the Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease**

**COHEFA I**

**2004**

## CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
Report of the Meeting .....	05
Executive Table .....	05
Participants .....	05
Sessions.....	06
Opening of the Meeting .....	06
Approval of the Order of the Day .....	06
Report of the Secretariat of the Committee.....	06
Proposal of Plan of Action of PHEFA 2005-2009 .....	07
Closing Ceremony .....	08
Resolution.....	09
List of Participants .....	13

## THE FIRST EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE HEMISPHERIC COMMITTEE FOR THE ERADICATION OF FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE

### FINAL REPORT

The First Extraordinary Meeting of the Hemispheric Committee for the Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (COHEFA I) was held at the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) Representation in Brasilia, Brazil, on December 1, 2004 as convened by the Director of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO).

### EXECUTIVE TABLE

President: Dr. Roberto Rodrigues

Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Supply of Brazil

Vice President: Dr. Martín Aguirrezzabala

Minister of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries of Uruguay

*Rapporteur: Dr. Jaime Giraldo Saavedra*

*Vice-director of the Cattlemen's Federation of Colombia*

Dr. Horacio Toro, PWR/Brazil, representing Dr. Mirta Roses, Director of PAHO, acted as Secretary ex officio of the meeting, and Dr. Eduardo Correa Melo, Director of the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center (PANAFTOSA), served as Technical Secretary.

### PARTICIPANTS

The following delegates represented their respective regions:

**Amazon Subregion:** Dr. Roberto Rodrigues, Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Supply of Brazil and Dr. José Agustín Campos, President of the National Confederation of Farmers and Cattlemen of Venezuela – CONFAGAN.

**Andean Subregion:** Lic. Alexandra Peralta, Director of the Cattlemen's Association of La Sierra and Oriente – AGSO, representing the Minister of Agriculture of Ecuador, and Dr. Jaime Giraldo Saavedra, Vice-director of the Cattlemen's Federation of Colombia.

**Caribbean Subregion:** Dr. Angel Faxas, Subsecretary/Director of Livestock, State Secretariat of Agriculture of the Dominican Republic, and Mr. Carl Khan, Chairman of the Trinidad and Tobago Livestock and Livestock Products Board.

**Southern Cone Subregion:** Eng. Martín Aguirrezzabala, Minister of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries of Uruguay; Mr. Fernando Matos Costa, President of the Rural Association of Uruguay.

**Meso American Subregion:** Mr. Rony Chaves Solano, President of the Corporation for Livestock Development – CORFOGA, of Costa Rica.

**North American Subregion:** Mr. Philip E. Bradshaw, President of the Illinois Soybean Board; Dr. José Angel del Valle Molina, General Director of Animal Health, Secretariat of Agriculture, Rural Development, Fisheries and Foodstuffs – SAGARPA, of Mexico.

Representatives of intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, state governments of Brazil, academic and agriculture and livestock institutions were also present at the Meeting.

## **SESSIONS**

Two plenary sessions and one closing session were held.

## **OPENING OF THE MEETING**

The executive table was integrated by Dr. Roberto Rodrigues, Minister of Agriculture of Brazil, Dr. Horacio Toro, PAHO Representative in Brazil, and Dr. Albino Belotto, Chief of the Veterinary Public Health Unit of PAHO. Dr. Horacio Toro welcomed the participants and stressed the importance of the meeting within the context of PHEFA due to the new approach towards eradication of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD). Dr. Belotto then read a message from the Director of PAHO indicating commitments made by the countries and private institutions in Houston, noting the availability of structure and means for their work and reiterating the need to renew and strengthen the efforts of the countries and of the private sector to bolster the hemispheric program.

The Minister of Agriculture of Brazil noted that at present one of the greatest fears is the possibility of a pandemic, derived from the current risk of occurrence of influenza in several countries of the East. He further spoke that we all wish for economic growth but unfortunately it brings higher social exclusion, representing a threat to peace in the world. Thus, one of the most important challenges of the human species in the XXI century is the reduction of social differences and the point is how to do it in a consistent way to benefit the more needy population. In his opinion, the answer involves a fair trade relationship between the countries, ending subsidies and opening markets. The whole process is at risk if we do not reach eradication of diseases such as FMD. The success of the countries was seen at Houston when GIEFA was created and a plan of action was prepared emphasizing problem regions in South America, which proposed specific strategies and the strengthening of national programs and auditing. He also proposed the strengthening of PANAFOSA as reference and laboratory support for the countries where some regions will be the object of special programs to attend well-known risk situations. He mentioned the progress of the Brazilian program, especially the strategy to be used to control the disease in the north of the country and the impact of recent outbreaks on international trade of Brazilian products. FMD is an international problem and it is a shame it still has not been eradicated with the available means. The president of Brazil has made the commitment to provide the means for the eradication of the disease in the country and has informed the governments of the neighboring countries about it, requesting their commitment towards the objectives of PHEFA.

Finally, he proposed the ratification of the present members of GIEFA to continue developing the plan of action.

## **ORDER OF THE DAY**

The work agenda submitted was accepted in its entirety.

## **REPORT OF THE SECRETARIAT OF THE COMMITTEE**

Dr. Eduardo Correa Melo, Director of PANAFOSA - PAHO/WHO, presented a report on the present situation of FMD highlighting the last events in the Amazon region of Brazil, the endemic situation found in Ecuador and Venezuela and also actions taken by the countries and PANAFOSA - PAHO/WHO for its control. He then outlined progress and drawbacks of the last years and the activities carried out by GIEFA in the development of the Plan of Action 2005-2009.

## PROPOSAL OF THE PLAN OF ACTION OF PHEFA 2005-2009

Dr. Sebastião Guedes mentioned the recent occurrences in the Brazilian Amazon, the serotypes acting in the region, and especially the action taken by the government of Brazil, which launched sanitary education program about the disease in the northern region. Continuing with the agenda he presented a proposal for the Plan of Action of PHEFA for the eradication of FMD, as prepared by GIEFA. He reiterated that the participating countries are committed to the strengthening of their programs and outlined the working agenda of GIEFA and its results. He emphasized the progress of the programs in the Southern Cone subregion and the missions to Ecuador and Venezuela, aiming to the development of proposals for national programs and the outlining of critical zones for priority action, in accordance with regional risk characterization and its programmatic components. Special attention was given to the description of the proposal of the Managing Unit of the plan of action and to the estimated supplementary budget for activities of the program for the period.

During various presentations reiterations were made to support the approval of the Plan of Action. Pending modifications to be proposed by the countries and the contribution of members of GIEFA and the technical secretariat of PANAFTOSA - PAHO/WHO, to prepare the new version to be presented at the X COHEFA and RIMSA XIV at Mexico City in April 2005. The Minister of Uruguay proposed a resolution requesting the ministers of the countries represented at COHEFA to meet at six-month intervals to maintain the political interest, due to the importance of the Plan of Action. He also stressed the need for the Managing Unit to communicate directly with the national authorities at the highest level of decision and that incoming resources be used as a lever to strengthen national action. He mentioned that in order to modify the present situation, vaccines must be available as well as a good livestock registry. He requested that the group be in charge of informing about the distribution of funds in accordance with the carrying out of activities.

Dr. Emerio Serrano, Chief of Veterinary Services of Cuba, informed that his country shares the political will of everybody but that Cuba is a poor country and has not registered FMD. Due to the embargo, a system of veterinary and surveillance services has been created with the support of PANAFTOSA - PAHO/WHO. Cuba is not in condition to contribute with funds but it can offer human resources and support to train staff, with emphasis on the strengthening of the local level.

Dr. Jorge Amaya, of SENASA Argentina, indicated that the general objective is to stamp out the disease in the continent and reiterated the need of the Managing Unit of the Plan of Action to work closely with CVP/CAS.

Dr. José Agustín Campos, of CONFAGAN/Venezuela, for the private sector of the Andean subregion, seconded the statement made by the Minister of Brazil and mentioned that the government as well as the private sector are committed to the establishment of a nation-wide program and they wait for any support offered within the scope of PHEFA.

Dr. Hernán Rojas, of SAG/Chile, stated that Chile supports the plan. The document shows effective progress, identifying priority areas, and does not point out negatively to any special country. However, international cooperation will only be forthcoming when the counterpart contribution of the countries is clear. This requires political will to commit resources towards the program.

Mr. Rony Chavez, representing the private sector of Central America, reiterated the need to strengthen prevention and control systems of the free countries as there is a lack of awareness from the countries and the sector itself of the impact of an outbreak on the economy of the subregion. Future trade relations, with higher integration between the countries and freeing of national customs, will increase the risk of diffusion of any agent. He stressed the need to strengthen integration of all the countries and to include the private sector within OIRSA.

Lic. Alexandra Peralta, of the Cattlemen's Association of la Sierra and Oriente, representing the Minister of Agriculture of Ecuador, expressed concern with the status of the disease in her country and with commitments made between the Ministry of Agriculture, CONEFA and regional associations of cattlemen, to implement a national program based on PHEFA. She congratulated the government of Brazil for its leadership on the topic and for the letter from President Lula urging the presidents of the Americas to fight the disease. Finally, she requested the countries which have gone through epidemics to help countries with problems.

Dr. Allan Bojanic, National Director of SENASAG of Bolivia, spoke of the progress of the Bolivian program towards liberation in 2007. He commented on relations with Brazil, Paraguay, Argentina and Peru and stated the support of his country to the Plan and the commitment to provide the required counterpart contribution. He

requested information on human resources in the document and suggested to include other diseases within the Plan to make it more efficient.

Dr. Angel Faxas, representative of the Caribbean official sector, stated his support to the Plan and emphasized the need of the obligatory inclusion of the private sector and that its application will support the control of other diseases.

Dr. Gerardo Bogado, Vice Minister of Livestock of Paraguay, informed that the national veterinary service of the country is being updated; that it has the support of the private sector and that the structure of the Plan regarding Paraguay meets established strategies.

Dr. Antenor Nogueira, president of the National Forum of Beef Cattle Production, emphasized that the Brazilian private sector is backing the campaign and is working together with the Brazilian government. He supports the Plan and reiterated interest on the participation of the private sector in audits to increase the transparency of the process. He requested a discussion on provision of funds, including additional resources estimated in the Plan as well as counterpart contributions of the countries towards the achievement of the goals of the Plan.

Mr. Philip Bradshaw, delegate of the private sector of North America, apologized for the absence of Dr. Alfonso Torres and explained why the American private sector is interested in the problem. It is an organized sector and he believes that this is the first opportunity to meet those involved in the execution of the Plan. He mentioned statistical data showing an increase in the demand of foodstuffs and that this region is the natural provider of the market. He urged the development of production chains, which was seconded by Minister Rodrigues of Brazil.

Dr. Abelardo De Gracia Scanapieco, representing OIRSA, informed that the institution has been working with GIEFA and that its commitment during the last 50 years has been to protect the Central American region, with the support of Colombia due to its work in the region of Urabá. They continue trying to get the private sector involved in the implementation of prevention activities. They are also in the process of establishing an auditing program based on the model of PANAFTOSA.

Dr. João Carlos Meirelles, Secretary for Science and Technology of the State of São Paulo, remarked on the start of continental awareness, which includes livestock and agricultural production chains for rural development. He suggested that the impact of the occurrence of FMD in the United States would not only affect the market of products of animal origin in the region and in the world, but it would also affect world markets of soja, corn and other grains. He supported the invitation to representatives of the livestock sector of North America to come to South America to learn more about the programs and the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center. Finally, he supported the idea that the strengthening of the surveillance and control structure to eradicate FMD would assist other control programs.

In the second working session, proposals of the enclosed resolution were presented for discussion and approval.

## CLOSING CEREMONY

It was presided by Eng. Martín Aguirrezzabala, Minister of Agriculture of Uruguay. He highlighted the need for the sanitary services of the member countries to send their considerations of the proposal within the established time limit and to state their support and commitment to the Plan of Action. He urged the private sector and technical cooperation institutions present at the Meeting to give full support to the Plan and to inform the Secretariat ex officio of COHEFA before the next meeting.

## **RESOLUTION**

The delegates approved the following resolution.

## **RESOLUTION**

### **THE FIRST EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE HEMISPHERIC COMMITTEE FOR THE ERADICATION OF FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE,**

Considering

- The important advances in the eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) from South American countries and prevention in the countries of Central America, North America, and the Caribbean, resulting from the application of the Hemispheric Plan for the Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease-PHEFA;
- That the availability of technical tools and animal health infrastructure for the control and eradication of the disease in the region, create favorable conditions for the final phase of the PHEFA;
- That the eradication of FMD from the American continent represents enormous benefits to the economies of the countries, with a positive impact on the livestock sector, the industries and populations of the regions, avoiding losses in livestock production as well as eliminating barriers to internal and international trade;
- That in the region still persist endemic areas that can be permanent sources of viruses and that recent occurrences made clear the risk of recrudescence of FMD;
- That environmental, cultural and trade related differences, as well as availability of resources, affect the progress of the countries toward the goals of eradicating the disease and that it is necessary to adjust the strategies according to these conditions, and to strengthen active surveillance systems which are functioning as a scientific basis for the evaluation of the progress of eradication programs;
- The agreement reached during the Hemispheric Conference for the Eradication of FMD held in Houston, Texas, USA, in March 2004, which renewed the political, technical and administrative commitment of the countries of the region to accomplish FMD eradication from the American continent, and also created the Interamerican Group for the Eradication of FMD-GIEFA;
- The Plan of Action 2005-2009, that resulted from the work of GIEFA, which took into consideration the present situation of FMD in the Americas; the strategies of control and eradication presently used; and special situations observed in some regions, to fulfill PHEFA goals,

## **RESOLVES:**

1. To ratify the political, technical, financial and administrative commitment of the governments and of the private sector to strengthen the structures of veterinary attention and to develop new strategies for control, eradication and prevention for use in the region.
2. To establish that the Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas convene at 6-month intervals to consolidate and keep in force the Plan of Action.
3. To approve the Plan of Action 2005-2009 of PHEFA, prepared by GIEFA, and determine a period of 60 days (January 30, 2005) for the countries to send in writing to the technical secretariat of GIEFA, observations or proposals for adjustments to the Plan, which will be considered in the document to be presented at the X COHEFA and RIMSA XIV, to be held in Mexico City in April 2005.

4. To request the governments of those countries with difficulties in their FMD programs to send explicit information to GIEFA, if possible within a period of 60 days, so that the Plan of Action can be adjusted and the efforts for cooperation coordinated.
5. To maintain the mandate given to the GIEFA, during the Hemispheric Conference for the Eradication of FMD, so it can continue developing the Plan of Action for presentation to the X COHEFA and RIMSA XIV.
6. To recognize the support given by the Brazilian Government to this meeting, and the leadership shown in the fight against FMD, as well as the efforts to stimulate the governments of the continent to accomplish the eradication of the disease.
7. To request the governments of the countries and related private sector institutions of the continent to express their formal commitment to the Plan for FMD Eradication, previous to the RIMSA XIV.
8. To recognize that the strengthening of the regional animal health organizations and their integration with the private sector is essential 'for the execution of this Plan.

## PROVISIONAL PROGRAM

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**08:00** - Inscription

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

**09:10** - Words of the Executive Secretariat of COHEFA

**09:20** - Election of the President, Vice President and Rapporteur

**09:30** - Words of the Minister of Agriculture of Brazil

**09:40** - Adoption of the Agenda

**09:50** - Report of the Secretariat on activities of GIEFA and the epidemiological situation of the countries – Recent events.

**10:20** - Interval

**10:35** - Presentation of the Plan of Action 2005-2009 of PHEFA

**11:30** - Analysis and discussion

**12:00** - Lunch

**14:30** - Conclusions and resolutions

**16:30** - Closing Ceremony

## **LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

## LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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