



COMISION SUDAMERICANA PARA LA LUCHA CONTRA LA FIEBRE AFTOSA

**SOUTH AMERICAN COMMISSION FOR THE CONTROL OF FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE
X REGULAR MEETING**

Asuncion, Paraguay, March 10-11, 1983

FINAL REPORT

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FINAL REPORT

The X Regular Meeting of the South American Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (COSALFA) was held March 10 & 11, 1983, in the Conference Room of the Ita Enramada Hotel in Asuncion, Paraguay. The meeting was attended by representatives from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Guyana, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay. Observers were also present from these countries and Canada, Kingdom of The Netherlands, United States of America, and from the following organizations: Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Inter-American Institute for Agricultural Cooperation (IICA), International Office of Epizooties (OIE) and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) (Appendix I).

In accordance with the COSALFA bylaws, the Representative of Guyana should have chaired the meeting, but he suggested that the participants elect as chairman Dr. Juan Pablo Romero, the representative from the host country, Paraguay. The proposal was approved unanimously. Dr. Raul Casas Olascoaga, Director of the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center (PAFMDC), acted as the Secretary ex officio.

The inaugural act was attended by the Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of the Republic of Paraguay, Agr. Engineer Hernando Berton, authorities from the National Government, representatives of International Organizations with offices in Paraguay, the Rural Association of Paraguay, the Directing Council of the National Animal Health Service (SENACSA), the School of Veterinary Sciences of Paraguay, and special guests.

The Paraguayan National Anthem was sung to the accompaniment of the Symphonic Orchestra of the City of Asuncion.

The welcome address was given by Dr. Juan Pablo Romero, President of SENACSA, who thanked the PAHO for the opportunity of holding the COSALFA meeting in the Republic of Paraguay. He likewise pointed out the attention directed by the Paraguayan Government to the nation's livestock industry.

On behalf of Dr. Carlyle Guerra de Macedo, Director of PAHO, Dr. Mario V. Fernandes, Head of the PAHO Veterinary Public Health Program, welcomed the participants and representatives of the Paraguayan Government. He stressed the progress made by the countries in their efforts to control foot-and-mouth disease and the COSALFA's fundamental role in achieving that

progress. He also emphasized PAHO's interest in continuing to support the Commission's activities.

The Commission's session meetings were opened by the Minister of Agriculture and Livestock, who expressed his pleasure at having the meeting held in Paraguay and wished the participants much success.

The agenda proposed by the Secretary, based on the recommendations of the COSALFA-IX Regular Meeting, was approved without alteration (Appendix II).

A. Report of the Secretary ex officio

As Secretary ex officio of the COSALFA, Dr. Raul Casas Olascoaga, Director of the PAFMDC, submitted a report on the following topics:

- Compliance with the resolutions of COSALFA-IX;
- Other matters.

1. COMPLIANCE WITH THE RESOLUTIONS PASSED AT COSALFA-IX

Resolution I - Definition of the policy of the foot-and-mouth disease control programs in South America, with respect to disease-free areas.

In compliance with the Resolution, the Director of the PAFMDC instructed the consultants from the Center and the countries to review the aspects of the technical cooperation scheduled for 1982, according to that definition.

One of the immediate consequences of that decision was to include the overall policy orientation set forth in that Resolution in the programs of the field courses of the Training Program for Animal Health in Latin America (PROASA).

Although no new concrete plans for eradication (item 2) have been received, nor any economic studies received to justify such a decision (item 4), constant contact with the countries' animal health authorities has indicated that the final goal of eradication of foot-and-mouth disease on the continent is being assumed little by little at both the technical and political levels.

The work developed to date by Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay in their common border area is an example of concrete action by countries working concertedly to intensify efforts in their shared ecological areas (item 5). Another example are the Center's intentions to engage in a cooperative effort with Bolivia and Peru in a specific border project. These comments do not disregard the activities of the other border agreements, the majority of which have proceeded with their active operations. A summary of accomplishments in 1982 and the tentative 1983 schedule of activities of the border agreements was distributed.

The last topic mentioned was the Resolution's item 7, which resolves to establish mechanisms for the certification of free areas. In this regard the Secretary had called a meeting of the Working Committee composed of representatives from Argentina, Brazil, Colombia and Chile. The Committee met at the PAFMDC from May 31 through June 4, 1982. It acknowledged the importance that such a certification committee would represent for the commercial interests of the region. However, it decided to postpone its conclusions until after compliance with Resolution VII of COSALFA-IX, which recommends modification of the COSALFA bylaws.

Resolution II - Methodological definitions for the identification and delimitation of foot-and-mouth disease-free areas in South America. This Resolution urges the countries to identify and delimit the areas that are most suitable for the start of national eradication programs.

In order to evaluate the progress made in this regard, a specific item was included on the form sent out by the PAFMDC to the countries for the preparation of the respective national reports to COSALFA on the status of the foot-and-mouth disease control programs.

Specific replies were received from Brazil, Colombia, Paraguay and Peru. They reported having conducted studies for regional characterization and having selected areas in which to initiate action tending to achieve eradication. In the particular case of Brazil, that country submitted the project for the implementation of the 2nd Stage of the Foot-and-Mouth Disease Control that includes specific areas with a five-year goal of attaining the eradication of the disease. The reports returned by Bolivia and Venezuela indicated that those countries have not yet undertaken any specific work in this regard.

The specific information will be discussed at the X Regular Meeting of COSALFA.

Resolution III - Methodological definitions for the establishment, consolidation and expansion of foot-and-mouth disease-free areas in South America. As a result of the conclusions of the Seminar on Foot-and-Mouth Disease-Free Areas in South America, this Resolution requested that the PAFMDC, in common accord with the member countries, draw up a Manual of Procedures to standardize the corresponding methodological criteria.

The PAFMDC therefore contracted a short-term consultant, Dr. Jose Fernando P. Dora. From June 14 to October 11, 1982, Dr. Dora collaborated with consultants from the Center on the draft of the "Manual of procedures to achieve, expand and preserve foot-and-mouth disease-free areas in South America".

On November 10, 1982, the draft was sent to the countries for their review; comments have been received by the Secretariat from Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Chile and Venezuela. The final version of the document incorporating the comments received was distributed for discussion by the Commission.

Resolution IV - Sanitary standards for livestock expansion. The Resolution required the countries to establish strict standards for preventing the introduction of the foot-and-mouth disease virus into the livestock expansion areas, and to forward copies of those standards to the Secretariat ex officio for distribution among the member countries.

Whereas the Secretariat did not receive the requested material, the matter was included in the form for preparation of the national reports that were sent out to each country on November 27, 1982.

Colombia and Paraguay included the item in their reports, with details of the livestock development projects and required sanitary measures. Peru reported that it has a project for raising buffalo in the Amazon region, but did not specify the required sanitary measures. Venezuela reported that it has presently no livestock development projects. The remaining countries did not provide any information on the subject.

Resolution V - Policy and strategies for the control of foot-and-mouth disease in South America. COSALFA, by means of this Resolution, adopted the document entitled "Policy and strategies for the control of foot-and-mouth disease in South America in the ten-year period 1981-1990" urging the member countries to establish goals and their respective plans of action in accordance with the document's guidelines. Such plans should be sent to the Center no later than 90 days prior to this Meeting, which would undertake to consolidate the national plans into a plan for continent-wide action that would be submitted to the consideration of COSALFA-X.

Whereas no country had complied with the Resolution up to the end of December, the Secretariat sent a reminding telex to each member country.

The following countries then replied by forwarding the required documents: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Chile and Peru. Whereas five countries failed to reply, and given the short time remaining before the meeting, the PAFMDC was unable to prepare the document in question. It is hoped that the countries which have not complied with the resolution will forward their reports as quickly as possible to enable the consolidated document to be prepared.

Resolution VI - The XVI Conference of the Permanent Commission on Foot-and-Mouth Disease of the International Office of Epizooties. In compliance with this Resolution, the Center Director presented the following papers at the conference: "Production of foot-and-mouth disease virus and control of vaccines in South America" and "Status of the foot-and-mouth

disease control programs in South America, 1981". The papers were based on information submitted by the countries and have been published by the OIE.

The representatives from Argentina, Colombia, Ecuador and Paraguay likewise presented papers on the epidemiological situation of foot-and-mouth disease and the status of the control programs in their respective countries.

Resolution VII - Measures to elevate COSALFA to the position of a permanent institutionalized commission at the subregional level. Bearing in mind the matters discussed by the members of COSALFA at the IX Regular Meeting, and with the participation of several consultants from the PAFMDC, the Center drafted a set of bylaws for COSALFA and submitted it for study to several diplomatic personalities and international law experts on the continent.

Based on their comments, a proposal altering the bylaws was drafted and, between February 1st and 3rd, 1983, forwarded to all member countries for their consideration. This matter is to be discussed as a specific item at this X Regular Meeting of COSALFA.

Resolution VIII - Project for free areas in the Andean Pact. With regard to this Resolution, the Secretariat sent a letter dated April 20, 1982, to the Cartagena Agreement office, with a copy of the resolution. In his reply dated June 30, 1982, Dr. Enrique Torres Llosa, General Secretary of the Agreement, fully shares COSALFA's concern and suggests maximum cooperation at the meetings called by the Board to deal with the subject of foot-and-mouth disease-free zones.

Resolution IX - Quarantine stations for the international animal trade. In order to evaluate the present status of the quarantine stations in the member countries, the PAFMDC included a specific item on the subject in the reporting form sent to the countries members of COSALFA.

Although all the countries except Bolivia and Ecuador provided information on the volume of imports and exports by country of origin and destination, and the type of product commercialized, only Bolivia and Colombia expressly mentioned the topic of quarantine stations in their reports.

Details of the afore-said information are summarized in the report on the situation of the programs in 1982.

Resolution X - Customs procedures for the transport of biological materials. On May 3, 1982, the Secretariat sent a letter with a copy of the Resolution to the Head Minister of the Immunities and Privileges Division of the Brazilian Foreign Relations Ministry.

Thanks to the support that the Center receives from the Brazilian authorities, no further problems of any kind have been encountered with

respect to customs clearance of the material in question. The procedure has been simplified so that it is only necessary to send a telex to Itamarati each time vaccines are exported to the COSALFA member countries.

Resolution XI - Seminar on the creation of foot-and-mouth disease-free areas in South America. In accordance with the resolution passed at COSALFA-VIII, the seminar was held from March 8 to 10, 1982. In adopting its conclusions and recommendations, the COSALFA-IX approved Resolutions I, II and III, which have already been discussed in this report.

As requested by Resolution XI of COSALFA-IX, the PAFMDC, with the efficient cooperation of the Paraguayan authorities, organized and conducted the International Seminar on Information Systems and Epidemiological Surveillance. The Seminar was held prior to the COSALFA-X Meeting.

Resolution XII - Genetic engineering for the development of antigens for preparation of foot-and-mouth disease vaccines. With the cooperation of the Animal Virology Center of Argentina (CEVAN), the PAFMDC remodelled and equipped laboratories for the implementation of virus fingerprinting and other modern virological techniques. The exchange program with CEVAN has been extremely successful, resulting in the transfer of technology that will be of utmost use for the Center and the member countries.

The PAFMDC has also actively participated in testing the immunogenicity of several products produced by private firms that are conducting research into the production of antigens through genetic engineering and polypeptide synthesis.

These results are preliminary. The practical aspects of vaccine production using these products have not yet been resolved. It will also take time before the new techniques manage to change the basic concepts of immunization utilized in present-day control efforts.

2. OTHER MATTERS

a) - Document on events and progress in foot-and-mouth disease control efforts in South America in the 1971-1981 ten-year period

Resolution IX, taken at COSALFA-VIII, requested that the PAFMDC prepare a document in this regard.

The draft of the document was not sent to the member countries until June, 1982, due to involuntary delays as explained in the Secretary's report to COSALFA-IX.

The document submitted at this Meeting reflects the comments made by the countries and is the final version that will be distributed soon.

b) - Sending of virus strains to the World Reference Laboratory (WRL)

By request of the European Economic Community (EEC), and with express agreement of the respective countries, samples of virus strains A Argentina/79 and Brazil/79 were forwarded to the World Reference Laboratory at Pirbright. A study will be undertaken to determine the protection afforded by the European vaccines against the Argentina₇₉ and A₈₁ strains. The PAFMDC has been asked to participate, together with technical personnel from Argentina and the EEC, in planning and conducting the study.

c) - Designation of Plum Island Animal Disease Center (PIADC) as the Regional Reference Laboratory for vesicular diseases

The PAFMDC received a copy of a memorandum sent by Dr. F. R. Bommer, Assistant General Director of the Department of Agriculture of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), to Dr. J. J. Callis, Director of the Plum Island Animal Disease Center, advising him that the referred Center had been designated as the FAO's Regional Reference Laboratory for vesicular diseases and other animal viruses in North America, Panama, Central America, the Antilles and the Bahama Islands.

A copy was also received of the answer sent by Dr. Callis to Dr. Bommer, accepting the terms of the agreement by which the PIADC was designated as the Regional Reference Laboratory.

In view of the mandate of the PAHO and its Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center, as set forth in Resolution X of the II Inter-American Meeting, at the Ministerial Level, on Foot-and-Mouth Disease and Zoonosis Control (RICAZ-II), held in May 1969 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Dr. Mario V. Fernandes, Head of the PAHO Veterinary Public Health Program, addressed a letter to Dr. Bommer, requesting an explanation about the designation.

Copies of the correspondence exchanged between the FAO and the PIADC have been distributed.

d) - Vaccine bank and vaccine distribution to the countries

By virtue of Resolution III of COSALFA-VIII, the recommendations made by the International Seminar on Foot-and-Mouth Disease Immunization Programs (Resolution VII of COSALFA-VIII), the PAFMDC has expended considerable effort in remodelling some physical aspects and reequipping the vaccine production plant. Consequently, the annual production capacity has been raised to 3½-4 million doses to meet the requirements of special pilot programs, control and eradication demonstration areas, emergency situations, or the eventual appearance of new field virus strains that require the use of specific monovalent vaccines. The production costs are covered through a rolling fund maintained by charging the production costs to the interested countries. Because the Center does not have a budget

allowance for this service, it must receive payments from the countries to cover production costs in order to continue the vaccine-production cycles. The countries are therefore requested to cooperate by paying their assessments. Moreover, the PAHO auditing system requires that the real cost price be set in dollars. Therefore, when the countries pay their bills in local currency, the conversion must be made at the official exchange rate in effect on the day of payment, because of the constant devaluation of the currencies of most of the countries.

Through this service, the Center is complying with and responding to the COSALFA resolution concerning a vaccine bank. It may be said that the Center's personnel have put forth considerable and laudable effort in setting up this service, and that the vaccine being produced combines excellent standards and characteristics.

Pilot and demonstration programs, whether ongoing or to be scheduled with the Center's cooperation, should therefore have the financial backing required to ensure that commitments will be met.

The Representative of Peru then explained that the document on policy and strategies was sent to the Center through the PAHO. Since the document was not received, he delivered a copy thereof.

The Head of the PAHO Veterinary Public Health Program then explained the terms of the communication sent to the FAO at the end of 1982 about the Plum Island Laboratory's designation as the Reference Laboratory for vesicular diseases in the Caribbean, North America, Central America and Panama. To date he has received only a telex asking to be excused for the delay in answering his memorandum and advising that a reply was forthcoming.

The Representative of Brazil suggested that the matter should be clarified at the forthcoming FAO meeting on sanitary and livestock matters to be held in the next few months.

The Representative from the United States informed the Meeting that four countries have signed an agreement with the Diagnostic Laboratory in Panama and are sending samples there for diagnosis.

The Chairman submitted the Secretariat's report to the appreciation of the representatives who approved it unanimously.

B. Epidemiological situation and status of the foot-and-mouth disease control programs in South America, 1982

A consultant from the PAFMDC read a summary of the report forwarded by the COSALFA-member countries, underscoring the following aspects:

The incidence of foot-and-mouth disease in South America continued to decline in 1982, year of the lowest occurrence of affected herds since the control programs began.

This positive situation was most pronounced in the Rio de la Plata basin where important zones of Argentina, Uruguay and Rio Grande do Sul (Brazil), in which the disease had been historically persistent, reported only occasional or no occurrences.

In 1982, the number of affected herds dropped on the order of 38% in relation to 1981, 61% in relation to the 1978-1980 three-year period, and 75% in relation to the 1976-1977 period.

These results indicate that quantitative effects of the control measures applied probably began to be felt from 1978 on. However, this assessment should not disregard the influence of the current worldwide economic crisis and its curtailing effect on the livestock industry.

A clearly epidemic situation was recorded in 1982 in southern Peru, caused by type C virus and possibly related to the occurrence of an episode involving the same virus in Bolivia in the second half of the year. Ecuador, Paraguay and Venezuela reported that the frequency of affected herds was high, in certain periods of the year, being very persistent in Ecuador (virus A), in two distinct periods in Venezuela (O and A viruses) and in May and April in Paraguay (virus A).

It should be noted that Peru and Paraguay were the only countries that reported an increase in the number of affected herds in relation to the year before.

However, regarding the active virus types, there was an obvious decline in the incidence of all types. Virus type A predominated in the majority of the countries and was diagnosed in 65% of the herds affected with vesicular disease whose samples were laboratory tested and in more than 77% of the foot-and-mouth disease foci. Virus type O was not diagnosed in Bolivia or Peru. Virus type C was again diagnosed in Paraguay after an absence of approximately three years.

Regarding the occurrence of vesicular disease in other animal species, the problem in pigs is the only one worth mentioning. Not because the disease is very frequent or widespread, but because despite having recorded a low morbidity rate (8.6 per 10,000), the internal morbidity of the affected droves and the lethality rate are high (29.1 and 21.5% respectively). These rates, in epidemiological terms, are very coherent with the typical pig-raising systems.

If the epidemiological situation of foot-and-mouth disease was favorable in 1981, it was much more favorable in 1982. This is undoubtedly due to the greater efficacy that control measures have attained in some of the countries.

These facts constitute an excellent beginning for the commitments assumed by the services that will carry out the control programs, inasmuch as the document "Policy and strategies for the control of foot-and-mouth disease in South America in the ten-year period 1981-1990" proposes disease eradication goals.

As a means to consolidate the proposals contained in that document, the PAFMDC, authorized by the countries, is submitting to this X Regular Meeting of COSALFA a document entitled "Manual of procedures for achieving, preserving and expanding foot-and-mouth disease-free areas in South America". This effort reflects the countries' determination to achieve the general objectives set forth in the document on policy and strategies for the ten-year period.

Over the past ten years, some activities of the services and agencies carrying out the control programs have shown a noticeable tapering off. This could be a side effect of the domestic economic crisis now affecting the individual countries as well as a natural loss of momentum within the programs. This factor must encourage them to confront the reality in the coming years with imaginative alternatives as required to attain the goals proposed. The countries will have to coexist through an economically tight period with the subsequent reflection on available resources. It will be necessary to seek options, make maximum use of available resources, optimize the effects of some control measures and, above all, motivate the services' personnel to face this difficult period successfully. The conditions reigning within the programs today - and probably during the coming year - are less favorable than those existing some years ago. If this overall unpropitious picture is not offset by the creative drive and steadfastness needed to move toward the proposed objectives, the epidemiological situation could fall back to the undesirable levels of the past.

The foot-and-mouth disease control programs in South America attained the following cover levels during 1982:

Geographic coverage	61%
Coverage of bovine herds	81%
Coverage of bovine population	89%

These data show that almost all the countries have complete territorial coverage, with the exception of Bolivia (23%) and Brazil (31%), the latter rate being affected particularly by the extensive Amazon region not covered by the program. The coverages of bovine herds and bovine population are not complete only in Bolivia, where they are 11% and 13% respectively, and in Brazil, where the respective levels are 67% and 79%.

There are 1663 field units throughout the continent, each one covering an average of 6481 Km² with 2021 herds and 115,905 head of cattle.

The total vaccination coverage in South America reached 62% of the cattle population (135,706,139).

Finally, an evaluation of the Epidemiological Surveillance and Information System was presented. In general, it indicated that the system continues to function satisfactorily with respect to the receiving, publication and quality of information.

The Representative of Uruguay explained that the disparity between the figures for vaccine produced and controlled is due to the fact that some batches were still in the process of control.

The Representative of Brazil explained that the financial resources informed refer only to federal funds and do not include state funds.

The Representative of Colombia indicated that the percentages of vaccine coverage are not clear when the vaccine produced is compared to the needs of the population to be vaccinated.

Various representatives intervened to explain that the discrepancies may be due to the use of different vaccination cycles and to vaccines left over from one year to the next.

A consultant from the PAFMDC suggested that the vaccination cycles be specifically stated so that the report could include explanatory notes.

The Representative of Paraguay informed about the foot-and-mouth disease outbreaks that affected the country in 1982. They were caused by virus type A79 and were controlled by means of monovalent vaccine imported from Argentina.

The PAFMDC Director reiterated the need for all the representatives' countries to send in their reports on the date indicated so that the report on the situation of the programs could be prepared on time.

The Head of the Veterinary Public Health Program said that the next meetings of RIMSA (Inter-American Meeting on Animal Health, at the Ministerial Level) will be held at the end of the year. This will enable the delay of the COSALFA meeting allowing more time for the countries to forward their reports.

The Commission approved the report on the "Situation of the Foot-and-Mouth Disease Control Programs in South America in 1982".

C. COSALFA Bylaws

The Secretariat informed about the measures to draw up the COSALFA bylaws and asked the representatives for their observations on the matter.

All the representatives agreed to eliminate Article V concerning the creation of a Permanent Committee. They indicated that the Committee's functions could be developed by temporary committees, or eventually by permanent committees as set forth in the present Article VIII. A working group was assigned to do the final revision based on the representatives' suggestions and remarks.

The revised document was unanimously approved (Appendix III).

D. Implementation of the policy and strategies for the control of foot-and-mouth disease in South America in the ten-year period 1981-1990

A consultant from the PAFMDC explained that this topic followed through on Resolution V of COSALFA just as it was submitted in the Secretariat's ex officio report. All the countries had thereby committed themselves to sending in their plans of action based on the document entitled "Policy and strategies for the control of foot-and-mouth disease in South America in the ten-year period 1981-1990". He asked each representative to inform about the progress attained in his country insofar as related to that document.

The Representative of Argentina said that the policy and strategies of the foot-and-mouth disease program are a continuation of what the country has been developing to control the disease. He pointed out that Patagonia has been maintained as a disease-free area, that the area of sporadic occurrence has been enlarged and that there has been a significant decline in disease occurrence as a result of the program now underway.

The Representative of Bolivia informed that the policy and strategies were presented in the document already submitted related to the Second Stage of the Foot-and-Mouth Disease, Rabies and Brucellosis Control Program. He explained that the delay was due to the negotiations with the IDB.

The IDB Representative explained the review and negotiations procedures at the national and IDB levels that could delay consideration of the project submitted to the IDB representation in Bolivia.

The Representative of Brazil explained that a situational diagnosis has been conducted for several years as a continuation of the foot-and-mouth disease control program. The results were consolidated and served as basis for the document on the second stage that encompasses specific strategies, including among others the strengthening of the eradication program in the Federal Territory of Roraima and in the south along the borders with Argentina and Uruguay.

The Representative of Colombia summarized his country's policy and strategies document. He underscored the goals of expanding the disease-free area along the northern coast by means of differential strategies of vaccination, use of oil-adjuvanted vaccine in endemic areas and control of animal mobilization. The goal for 1990 is to have the northern coast free up to the western bank of the Magdalena River and to decrease cases on the eastern side. Massive vaccination will be used in the major risk areas along the border with Ecuador. Strategies for the other zones of the country have also been established.

The Representative of Chile informed that the national goal is to keep the country free of foot-and-mouth disease through an extensive prevention program now being implemented.

The Representative of Paraguay said that goals have been defined based on the regional characterization of foot-and-mouth disease. This includes the implementation, already underway, of the program to maintain and expand the unaffected zone in the western region and the use of oil-adjuvanted vaccine provided under an agreement with the PAFMDC for massive application in the endemic areas of the western region. Additionally, it is planned to repeat the study conducted in 1976 on virus sources in the Chaco.

The Representative of Ecuador stated that there are definite control goals for the central area, the coast, the south and the eastern region. He indicated that implementation has been hampered by the recent outbreaks and the shortage of resources.

The Representative of Guyana explained that the last foot-and-mouth disease outbreak occurred in 1978 and that the country has a preventive program based on strict surveillance of animal mobilization along the Brazilian border during the eight months of the dry season. Guyana remains free of foot-and-mouth disease and continues to participate in the animal health agreement with Brazil and Venezuela.

The Representative of Peru said that the control program was revised and reoriented in 1982. It includes vaccination with oil-adjuvanted vaccine in the endemic area of San Martin, the result of which was the absence of outbreaks in that region. Additionally, feasibility studies have been conducted aiming to create disease-free areas in southern Peru, with cooperation from the Cartagena Agreement Board.

The Representative of Uruguay said that a complete characterization of foot-and-mouth disease has been compiled and that the target is now eradication of the disease.

A consultant from the PAFMDC emphasized the fact that the countries are already submitting definite goals that could be evaluated in the future.

E. Manual of procedures to preserve, expand and achieve foot-and-mouth disease-free areas in South America

As presented in the Secretariat's report, Dr. Jose Fernando P. Dora, a PAFMDC consultant, submitted a summary of the objectives and contents of the manual compiled in response to Resolution II of COSALFA-IX. He indicated that the manual incorporates suggestions made by directors of various countries' animal health programs and submitted for discussion two suggestions relating to standards for the introduction of animals into disease-free areas and the necessity of pasteurizing milk from buffer zones intended for consumption in free areas. The standards were not included because they were considered very strict, and he explained that the guidebook aims to establish minimum safe standards that do not hamper the establishment of free areas.

The Representative of Colombia explained that the suggestions regarding the introducing of animals were based on the standards that govern Colombia's disease-free area on the border with Panama.

It was explained that the manual is a guidebook to be used and applied by the countries according to their individual situation.

The Representative of Argentina informed that he had sent in a suggestion about economic incentives, whose purpose is to stimulate participation by the producers.

The Representative of United States of America said that whereas the manual serves as a guidebook, the countries could include other strict standards that would be applied at the discretion of the individual countries.

The Commission approved the manual and expressed its appreciation to the PAFMDC for preparing it.

F. International Seminar on Information Systems and Epidemiological Surveillance

The Seminar's conclusions and recommendations were read, approved and included as Appendix IV hereof.

G. Other matters

The Director of the PAFMDC proposed that the evaluation of the PROASA oil-adjuvanted vaccine subprogram should be the theme of the seminar to be held prior to next year's COSALFA Meeting. The proposal was accepted.

The Head of the Veterinary Public Health Program explained the new structure of the PAHO. He said that this program includes foot-and-mouth disease and the main zoonoses, and now also includes food inspection and

control. He further stated that the program emphasizes coordinated efforts with the countries in all areas, just as has been achieved with the foot-and-mouth disease control programs.

The OIE Representative informed about the following topics:

- World FMD Conference held in October, 1982, with the participation of the PAFMDC Director.
- The meeting on anabolic and hormonal substances, held February 15-17 in Paris; the conclusions will be presented at the OIE's next regular meeting.
- The meeting to study the proposal for compiling a compendium of veterinary drugs, held in Columbia in January. The OIE would be in charge of compiling and disseminating the information on new veterinary drugs and on the control and approval standards.
- The seminar on biotechnology that will be held prior to the next REDISA Meeting. It will cover topics of genetic engineering, monoclonal antibodies and virological methods.
- The regular meeting of OIE to be held in May. The representative encouraged greater participation by the countries of the Americas.

At the request of Dr. Raul Casas Olascoaga, the Director of the PAFMDC, the USA Representative, Dr. Norvan Meyer described the vesicular stomatitis situation in his country. A widespread outbreak occurred and extended from the west coast to the state of Missouri. Several states were affected, with a large number of herds having diseased animals. The disease has behaved differently in that cases have been recorded during the winter, although cases normally occur in the summer months from June through August. The disease also affected a large number of horses.

The Representative of Bolivia thanked the Paraguayan government for having hosted the COSALFA-X Regular Meeting.

The Commission approved the suggestion that the Final Report be presented at RIMSA-III by the Chairman of COSALFA-X.

H. Resolutions

The Chairman submitted the proposed resolutions to the appreciation of the representatives.

- Resolution I - Expression of gratitude to the Republic of Paraguay.
- Resolution II - COSALFA Bylaws.
- Resolution III - Steps to obtain recognition of the COSALFA Bylaws by the countries' foreign ministries.
- Resolution IV - Action by the COSALFA Representatives to obtain recognition of the Bylaws from their countries' foreign ministries.
- Resolution V - The document "Facts and progress in foot-and-mouth disease control in South America in the 1971-1981 ten-year period".
- Resolution VI - Evaluation of the progress achieved in the implementation of foot-and-mouth disease control policy and strategies.
- Resolution VII - Manual of procedures to preserve, expand and achieve areas free of foot-and-mouth disease in South America.
- Resolution VIII - International Seminar on Information Systems and Epidemiological Surveillance.
- Resolution IX - International Seminar on Evaluation of the Oil-adjuvanted Vaccines Subprogram of the Training Program for Animal Health in Latin America (PROASA).
- Resolution X - Border agreements.

The Commission duly discussed and reviewed all the Resolutions. Their complete texts are shown in this Report as approved at the session held on March 11, 1983, during the Tenth Regular Meeting of COSALFA which took place in the Conference Room of the Hotel Ita Enramada, Asuncion, Paraguay.

Dr. Juan Pablo Romero, the Chairman of COSALFA-X, thanked the representatives, observers and participants for their excellent contributions to the development of the discussions of the topics. He likewise thanked the Secretariat, the company that helped to organize the meeting, and the PAFMDC personnel for their outstanding work.

Dr. Raul Casas Olascoaga, the Secretary ex officio, then proceeded to read the Final Report, which was unanimously approved without comments.

The Spanish original of this document was duly signed by all the countries' representatives in attendance at the Meeting.

Como constancia se firma el presente informe por los delegados de los países a la Reunión.



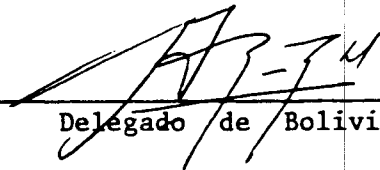
Presidente
Delegado de Paraguay



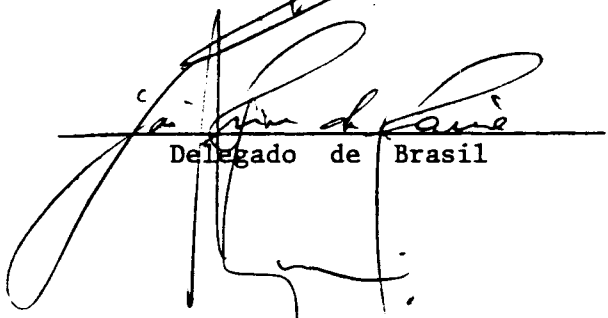
Secretario ex officio
Director del CPFA



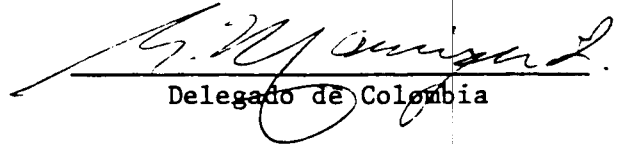
Delegado de Argentina



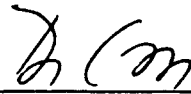
Delegado de Bolivia



Delegado de Brasil



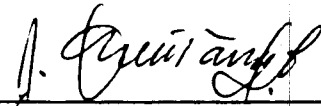
Delegado de Colombia



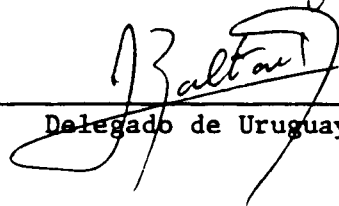
Delegado de Ecuador



Delegado de Guyana



Delegado de Perú



Delegado de Uruguay

R E S O L U T I O N S

RESOLUTION I

EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE TO THE REPUBLIC OF PARAGUAY

WHEREAS:

The COSALFA-X meeting has received extraordinary support from the Government of the Republic of Paraguay,

THE SOUTH AMERICAN COMMISSION FOR THE CONTROL OF FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE

HEREBY RESOLVES:

To acknowledge its gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Paraguay, and especially to the National Animal Health Service (SENACSA), for the remarkable organization and warm support rendered for the development of the X COSALFA meeting, thus enhanced by a special framework of American friendship.

(Approved at the tenth regular meeting
held on March 11, 1983)

RESOLUTION II

COSALFA BYLAWS

WHEREAS:

The Ninth Regular Meeting of COSALFA, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on March 11 and 12, 1982, passed Resolution VII, thereby assigning to the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center (PAFMDC), subjunct to the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) and acting in its capacity as the Secretariat ex officio of COSALFA, the task of drawing up, with the cooperation of the member countries, a Draft of Bylaws and Regulations intended to attain, among the foreign offices of the member countries, acknowledgement of COSALFA as a permanent institutionalized commission of regional character; and

The PAFMDC, in compliance with the assignment, and after consultation with the countries, has drawn up a Draft of COSALFA Bylaws,

THE SOUTH AMERICAN COMMISSION FOR THE CONTROL OF FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE

HEREBY RESOLVES:

To approve the attached Bylaws of the South American Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (Attachment III).

(Approved at the tenth regular meeting
held on March 11, 1983)

RESOLUTION III

STEPS TO OBTAIN RECOGNITION OF THE COSALFA BYLAWS BY
THE COUNTRIES' FOREIGN MINISTRIES

WHEREAS:

By request of the South American countries, the Pan American Health Organization in 1973 did set up the South American Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease, whose objective is to study annually and coordinate foot-and-mouth disease control action, and which has since then held regular annual meetings;

Resolution VII, passed at the Commission's 9th Annual Regular Meeting held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on March 11 & 12, 1982, did assign to the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center in its capacity as Office of the Secretariat ex officio of COSALFA, the task of drawing up, in cooperation with the countries, a set of bylaws and regulations intended to obtain recognition of COSALFA by the Foreign Ministries of the member countries;

In compliance with this assignment, the Bylaws were approved by Resolution II of the 10th Annual Regular Meeting of COSALFA and will be submitted to RIMSA-III, which is scheduled to be held in April of this year at the headquarters of the Pan American Health Organization; and

The Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center, seat of the COSALFA Secretariat ex officio, is located in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil,

THE SOUTH AMERICAN COMMISSION FOR THE CONTROL OF FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE

HEREBY RESOLVES:

To request that the Brazilian Ministry of Agriculture, solicit the Brazilian Foreign Ministry to initiate steps intended to obtain recognition of the aforesaid Bylaws by the Foreign Ministries of the COSALFA member countries.

(Approved at the tenth regular meeting
held on March 11, 1983)

RESOLUTION IV

ACTION BY THE COSALFA REPRESENTATIVES TO OBTAIN RECOGNITION
OF THE BYLAWS FROM THEIR COUNTRIES' FOREIGN MINISTRIES

WHEREAS:

COSALFA must obtain institutional recognition at the level of the
Foreign Ministries of the respective member countries,

THE SOUTH AMERICAN COMMISSION FOR THE CONTROL OF FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE

HEREBY RESOLVES:

That the representatives of the countries, when notified by the
Brazilian Government, should initiate action through their respective
Ministries of Agriculture, to obtain from their Governments' Foreign Rela-
tions Ministries the recognition of COSALFA and its respective Bylaws.

(Approved at the tenth regular meeting
held on March 11, 1983)

RESOLUTION V

THE DOCUMENT "FACTS AND PROGRESS IN FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE
CONTROL IN SOUTH AMERICA IN THE 1971-1981 TEN-YEAR PERIOD"

WHEREAS:

Resolution IV, adopted at the Eight Meeting of COSALFA, requested that the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center compile a document on "Facts and Progress in Foot-and-Mouth Disease Control in South America in the 1971-1981 Ten-Year Period" based on the results attained by the foot-and-mouth disease programs conducted by the member countries; and

The document prepared by the aforesaid Center in cooperation with the countries complies with the request,

THE SOUTH AMERICAN COMMISSION FOR THE CONTROL OF FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE

HEREBY RESOLVES:

To approve and adopt the aforesaid document and to request that the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center print and distribute it.

(Approved at the tenth regular meeting
held on March 11, 1983)

RESOLUTION VI

EVALUATION OF THE PROGRESS ACHIEVED IN THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE
CONTROL POLICY AND STRATEGIES

WHEREAS:

The member countries have assumed the commitment to put forth greater effort on the programs tending to eradicate foot-and-mouth disease from the continent; and

The document entitled "Policy and strategies for the control of foot-and-mouth disease in South America in the ten-year period 1981-1990" was approved at the COSALFA-IX Meeting,

THE SOUTH AMERICAN COMMISSION FOR THE CONTROL OF FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE

HEREBY RESOLVES:

1. To reiterate the terms of Resolution V approved by COSALFA-IX.
2. To express its satisfaction for the progress achieved in some of the member countries in 1982.
3. To include on the Agendas of the COSALFA Regular Meeting the evaluation of the progress achieved in the Region in relation to the guidelines set forth in the aforesaid document.
4. In this regard, to request that each member country forward to the Secretariat ex officio, before January 31st of each year, a progress report on the respective plan of action.
5. To require that a report on the development of the consolidated plan of action, with special reference to the subregional spheres, be presented by the Secretariat ex officio at the annual regular meetings of COSALFA.

(Approved at the tenth regular meeting
held on March 11, 1983)

RESOLUTION VII

MANUAL OF PROCEDURES TO PRESERVE,
EXPAND AND ACHIEVE AREAS FREE OF FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE
IN SOUTH AMERICA

WHEREAS:

Resolution III of the Ninth Regular Meeting of COSALFA asked the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center to prepare a "Manual of procedures to preserve, expand and achieve areas free of foot-and-mouth disease in South America"; and

The PAFMDC, in cooperation with the countries, has prepared the aforesaid Manual,

THE SOUTH AMERICAN COMMISSION FOR THE CONTROL OF FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE

HEREBY RESOLVES:

1. To adopt the "Manual of procedures to preserve, expand and achieve areas free of foot-and-mouth disease in South America" as a guidebook for the execution of the corresponding measures at the national level.
2. To request that the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center give priority to the cooperation with the countries requesting it as required to put the aforesaid Manual of Procedures into practice.

(Approved at the tenth regular meeting
held on March 11, 1983)

RESOLUTION VIII

INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND
EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SURVEILLANCE

WHEREAS:

The International Seminar on Vesicular Diseases Information and Epidemiological Surveillance Systems was successfully held in Asuncion, Paraguay, from March 7 to 9, 1983; and

These systems have achieved a good level of development in the countries of South America,

THE SOUTH AMERICAN COMMISSION FOR THE CONTROL OF FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE

HEREBY RESOLVES:

1. To acknowledge its gratitude to the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center of the Pan American Health Organization for the organization and development of the International Seminar on Vesicular Diseases Information and Epidemiological Surveillance Systems, as well as to the Paraguayan Government and to the Animal Health Service (SENACSA) for their valuable contribution in implementing the development of the Seminar.
2. To adopt the recommendations and conclusions emanating from this Seminar, for their significance in relation to the control of foot-and-mouth disease in the countries (Attachment IV).

(Approved at the tenth regular meeting
held on March 11, 1983)

RESOLUTION IX

INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON EVALUATION OF THE OIL-ADJUVANTED
VACCINES SUBPROGRAM OF THE TRAINING PROGRAM FOR
ANIMAL HEALTH IN LATIN AMERICA (PROASA)

WHEREAS:

It is important that this Seminar be held prior to the Regular Meetings of COSALFA; and

The Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center has scheduled a Seminar on Evaluation of the Oil-adjuvanted Vaccines Subprogram of the Training Program for Animal Health in Latin America (PROASA), to be held on a date close to the Eleventh Meeting of COSALFA,

THE SOUTH AMERICAN COMMISSION FOR THE CONTROL OF FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE

HEREBY RESOLVES:

To request of the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center that the seminar held prior to the Eleventh Regular Meeting of COSALFA be dedicated to the aforesaid evaluation of the PROASA courses.

(Approved at the tenth regular meeting
held on March 11, 1983)

RESOLUTION X

BORDER AGREEMENTS

WHEREAS:

The Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center, at the request of the countries, has acted as a coordinating and advisory body to the South American countries in establishing and developing bilateral animal health agreements; and

Important achievements have been made in the coordinated control of foot-and-mouth disease and other animal diseases,

THE SOUTH AMERICAN COMMISSION FOR THE CONTROL OF FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE

HEREBY RESOLVES:

1. To ask the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center (PAFMDC), in its capacity as coordinator of the meetings of the animal health bilateral agreements, to prepare, in coordination with the countries, a document containing information on the evolution of the agreements up to the present, the work methodology of the joint commissions, subcommissions and technical groups, and a summary of the main results.
2. That the aforesaid document be published and distributed to serve as a guidebook for the development of future activities of the agreements.

(Approved at the tenth regular meeting
held on March 11, 1983)

ANNEX I – LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

ANNEX II – PROGRAM

ANNEX III – ORGANIC BYLAW OF THE COSALFA

**ANNEX IV – RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR
ON INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND EPIDEMIOLOGICAL
SURVEILLANCE**

SOUTH AMERICAN COMMISSION FOR THE CONTROL OF FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE

X REGULAR MEETING

Asuncion, Paraguay, March 10-11, 1983

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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Secretário
Secretaria de Defesa Sanitária Animal (SDSA)
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Estadístico

Dr. Albino Alonso Fernández
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Dr. José Fernando P. Dora
Consultor

Sr. Antonio José Mendes da Silva
Estadístico

SOUTH AMERICAN COMMISSION FOR THE CONTROL OF FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE

X REGULAR MEETING

Asuncion, Paraguay, March 10-11, 1983

Place: Conference Room of the Ita Enramada Hotel and Casino

P R O G R A M

March 10, Thursday

- | | |
|------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 08:00 a.m. | Inaugural session |
| 09:00 | A. Report of the Secretariat ex officio |
| 09:30 | Discussion of the report |
| 10:15 | Coffee break |
| 10:30 | B. Epidemiological situation and status of the foot-and-mouth disease programs in South America, 1982 |
| 11:30 | C. COSALFA Bylaws |
| 12:30 p.m. | Lunch |
| 14:30 | D. Implementation of the policy and strategies for the control of foot-and-mouth disease in South America in the ten-year period 1981-1990 |
| 16:00 | Coffee break |
| 16:15 | E. Manual of procedures to preserve, expand and achieve foot-and-mouth disease-free areas in South America |
| 17:15 | Proposal of Resolutions |
| 18:30 | Closing session |

March 11, Friday

- | | |
|------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 08:30 a.m. | F. International Seminar on Information Systems and Epidemiological Surveillance |
| 09:00 | G. Other matters |
| 09:30 | H. Resolutions |
| 10:00 | Final Report |
| 11:00 | Closure |

ORGANIC BYLAW
OF THE
SOUTH AMERICAN COMMISSION FOR THE CONTROL OF
FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE

ARTICLE I

Purpose

The purpose of the South American Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (COSALFA) is to develop and consolidate in South American countries any programs designed for:

- preventing, controlling and eradicating foot-and-mouth disease; and
- avoiding the entry of exotic diseases affecting cattle.

ARTICLE II

Objectives

1. To foster the continued advance of programs for the control of foot-and-mouth disease establishing as a common final goal the eradication of this disease in South America.
2. To assure the coordination, at the regional level, of national programs for the control of foot-and-mouth disease in their formulation, implementation and evaluation.
3. To further and provide advisory assistance to programs intended for the investigation of foot-and-mouth disease and contribute towards the interchange of results obtained.

4. To see that any emergency situations that may eventually affect cattle-raising in South America are promptly dealt with.
5. To further the development of any systems for the prevention and early detection of any exotic diseases in South America, and the organization of control programs in case of introduction of any of these diseases.
6. To further the formation of national commissions for foot-and-mouth disease eradication, with the participation of sanitary officials and livestock industry.
7. To recommend the adoption of such measures as are designed to support the international trade of animals and animal by-products which are related to the problem of foot-and-mouth disease and exotic diseases.
8. To maintain relations with similar organizations of other regions in representation of the member countries of the Commission.

ARTICLE III

Members

1. COSALFA's members are Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Guyana, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela. Each country will be represented by the highest-ranking veterinarian of the animal health services of the Ministry of Agriculture or the entity to which these functions has been delegated.

2. Representatives of COSALFA's member countries may be accompanied by:

- a. any advisors whom they deem necessary, and
- b. representatives of cattle-raisers' associations officially designated by the country involved.

Both the advisors and the representative of cattle-raisers may take part in any discussions by COSALFA, with no voting rights.

ARTICLE IV

Observers

1. Representatives of other American countries and representatives of the Cartagena Agreement, Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), International Office of Epizooties (OIE), and the International Regional Organization for Animal Health and Agriculture (OIRSA) may participate as observers.

2. COSALFA will be free to invite as observers any representatives of other countries and international organizations connected with the anti-FMD campaigns.

3. Observers may submit documents and take part in discussions, with no voting rights.

ARTICLE V

COSALFA's Secretariat

1. The Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center (PAFMDC) of the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) shall act as Secretariat for COSALFA. The PAFMDC Director shall act as Secretary ex officio.

2. The Secretariat's function will be to receive and distribute any documents, reports, recommendations and resolutions of the Commission, draw up minutes of the meetings and carry out other assignments as required by the Commission.

3. The Secretariat will be responsible for the follow-up of COSALFA's approved resolutions and shall inform about its results at the subsequent regular meeting.

ARTICLE VI

Headquarters

1. The Commission's headquarters will be in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, at PAFMDC's Offices.

ARTICLE VII

Organization

1. COSALFA shall be presided over by representatives of one of the member countries, which will be appointed according to the alphabetical order of the countries. The Chairman's term of office will last one year, beginning with the regular meeting at which the appointment is made and will cease at the subsequent regular meeting.

2. In the absence of the delegate, the country to which the chairmanship would correspond such chairmanship would be exercised by the representative of the country upon whom it would be incumbent to do so in the subsequent period.

3. COSALFA shall hold two types of meetings:
 - a. Regular meeting to be held every year.
 - b. Special meetings to be held as circumstances may require or when so requested by at least three of its members.
4. COSALFA's meetings shall be called by the Secretary ex officio on behalf of the Chairman.
5. Meetings shall take place at COSALFA's headquarters and, exceptionally, at such place as may be designated by the Commission.
6. Commission's resolutions shall be adopted by a favorable vote of the absolute majority of its members and so expressed in resolutions.
7. If COSALFA's Chairman cannot attend any special meeting, he may authorize the Secretary ex officio to act as coordinator of the proceedings.
8. Reports on COSALFA's meetings, with their respective resolutions, shall be forwarded by the Secretariat to the Agriculture Ministers of member countries for considering any decisions to which said resolutions may refer.
9. The Secretariat shall also forward reports on COSALFA's meetings to:
 - . Any countries and international organizations which designate observers; and
 - . other countries or international organizations which may request such reports.

10. Representatives of member countries agree to implement, on a nationwide level, all resolutions adopted, and shall account for the outcome thereof in the subsequent regular meeting or when the Commission considers it necessary.

ARTICLE VIII

Committees

1. COSALFA shall be free to constitute special, temporary or permanent committees to examine and report on specific aspects of the prevention, control and eradication of foot-and-mouth disease or exotic diseases of the animals; to analyze sanitary problems between the countries, and other aspects specially identified by COSALFA.

2. Members of the committees shall be specialists of great repute in the particular field involved, and may be nationals of the member countries of COSALFA or other countries.

3. Committee meetings shall be called by the Secretariat at such date and place as may be more suitable for their purpose.

ARTICLE IX

Admission

Admission of other countries entitled to become members shall be effective on the date on which COSALFA shall approve the respective application for admission. The Secretariat will report the receipt of each and every application for admission to each of the member countries of the Commission.

ARTICLE X

Withdrawal

Any member country may withdraw from COSALFA by means of a written communication to the Secretariat, at least six months from the following regular meeting. The Secretariat shall report such applications for withdrawal to the member countries.

ARTICLE XI

Financing

1. Member countries will finance such costs as may result from the participation of their representatives in the Commission meetings and in the Committees provided for in Article VIII of this Bylaws.
2. The Pan American Health Organization will contribute, through the PAFDMC's regular budget, such funds as may be required for the Secretariat's services.
3. Financing of any other expenses shall be determined by COSALFA on each particular occasion.

ARTICLE XII

Amendment to Bylaw

1. The present Bylaw may be revised upon request of any member country and amended as approved by three-fourths of the Commission's member countries, at a regular meeting.
2. Amendments will be submitted to the respective countries and shall be incorporated to the Bylaw.

ARTICLE XIII

Termination

COSALFA shall cease its operations by a resolution adopted by three-fourths of its members. It shall also automatically cease operations in the event that, as a result of the withdrawal of members, the number of such members has been reduced to five.

Asuncion, Paraguay, March 10, 1983

The Spanish original of this Bylaw was duly signed by all the countries' representatives attending the X Regular Meeting of the COSALFA as follows:

ARGENTINA:	Dr. Emilio Juan Gimeno
BOLIVIA:	Dr. Orlando Aguirre Banzer
BRAZIL:	Dr. Jose Freire de Faria
COLOMBIA:	Dr. Gustavo Manrique Londoño
CHILE:	Dr. Jorge Rafael Benavides Muñoz
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INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND
EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SURVEILLANCE

Local and date: Asuncion, Paraguay, March 7-9, 1983

Participants: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador,
Guyana, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, USA, IDB, PAHO, PAFMDC
and CEPANZO.

Objectives: The main objective of the Seminar will be to review and
analyse the functioning of the information systems and
epidemiological surveillance in each one of the countries
in order to adequate them to the strategies of action for
the control and eradication of foot-and-mouth disease in
the ten-year period 1981-1990.

Conclusions and Recommendations

RECOMMENDATION I

Orientation of the vesicular disease epidemiological surveillance
and information systems.

WHEREAS:

1. The vesicular disease surveillance and information systems systematically produce a valuable amount of epidemiological data;
2. Indicators and procedures for analysis of the information have been selected to facilitate the interpretation thereof;
3. A methodology is currently being developed for the regional epidemiological characterization of foot-and-mouth disease; and
4. The countries have decided to orient their efforts toward eradication by establishing disease-free areas,

HEREBY RECOMMENDS:

1. That the countries undertake intensive and diversified application of the information and surveillance to generate permanent feedback on the programs, thus enabling them to be readjusted as required, always bearing in mind that the final goal is to foster animal production and achieve the sanitary conditions that facilitate commerce in animal products.
2. That "selective action" be determined and applied according to the regional epidemiological behavior of foot-and-mouth disease, as a result of the epidemiological surveillance process.

3. That the surveillance and information mechanisms be rendered commensurate with the characteristics of the programs, through adjustments in the system's observation procedures, speed of communication and degree of sensitivity.

RECOMMENDATION II

Organization of the use of the information in the epidemiological surveillance of vesicular diseases.

WHEREAS:

1. The utilization of epidemiological information in the foot-and-mouth disease control programs must be rationalized;
2. The feedback of such information is of utmost use for the strategic and operational surveillance of the programs,

HEREBY RECOMMENDS:

That each Animal Health Service orient and define the needs and forms of information use according to the pertinent policy, strategy, tactical and operational decision-making levels.

RECOMMENDATION III

Use and application of indicators for the epidemiological surveillance of vesicular diseases.

WHEREAS:

The present status of the epidemiological situation of foot-and-mouth disease and the progress achieved by the control programs now require a more objective and active surveillance in order to permit a complete awareness of the risk levels and monitor their evolution,

HEREBY RECOMMENDS:

1. The use of indicators like those submitted by the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center and discussed at the Seminar as risk-evaluation mechanisms.
2. That the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center prepare a document to explain the concept and use of such indicators, for distribution to the Veterinary Services.
3. That the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center compile and periodically distribute the consolidated information on the risk level.

RECOMMENDATION IV

Utilization of socio-economic indicators in the epidemiological surveillance of vesicular diseases.

WHEREAS:

1. The effectiveness of foot-and-mouth disease control measures depends on an adequate awareness of the critical environmental factors;
2. The present economic panorama is a factor contributing to the current favorable foot-and-mouth disease situation,

HEREBY RECOMMENDS:

The utilization of socio-economic information related to the forms of animal production, especially those indicators that signal a change in livestock industry trends (prices - trade agreements).

RECOMMENDATION V

Adjustment between control measures and epidemiological surveillance in low or no-frequency areas.

WHEREAS:

1. The frequency of foot-and-mouth disease has declined to a low level on the Continent;
2. This situation must be preserved; and
3. The areas with these characteristics may possibly be exposed to the agent with greater intensity,

HEREBY RECOMMENDS:

1. That, in those areas having disease-free or occasional-occurrence epidemiological characteristics, the surveillance system should adopt alarm procedures that permit timely acknowledgement of the situation and application of the required measures.
2. That the grid squares corresponding to areas where foot-and-mouth disease viruses are handled be regarded as areas of permanent active observation in terms of surveillance.

RECOMMENDATION VI

Epidemiological studies and special measures for the control of foot-and-mouth disease virus type "C".

WHEREAS:

The occurrence of virus type "C" on the Continent has been sporadic for several years,

HEREBY RECOMMENDS:

That the epidemiological surveillance policy be oriented according to the occurrence in each country, seeking adequate knowledge of its spatial and temporal distribution as well as its origin and diffusion; and

The following measures be considered as some of the preferential epidemiological surveillance measures:

- a) Extensive epidemiological research into the source of clinical foci due to virus type "C", including the investigation of the virus' subclinical activity in the outbreak's areas of influence;
- b) Establish a specific system of surveillance in the areas of influence of diagnosis and vaccine production and control laboratories that handle said virus.
- c) Establish a system for immediate notification of virus type "C" diagnosis;
- d) Disseminate these diagnostic results immediately and quickly through the continental information system;
- e) That the countries, based on the epidemiological and diagnostic indicators obtained, study special measures to perfect the control and eradication systems.

RECOMMENDATION VII

Epidemiological surveillance for the prevention of exotic diseases.

WHEREAS:

1. The systems presently utilized by the countries' veterinary services for the prevention of exotic diseases must be improved and perfected; and

2. There is information both inside and outside the countries, the use of which must be rationalized in order to permit the development of preventive and emergency programs that adequately meet the goal of reducing the risks of introducing new diseases into the countries,

HEREBY RECOMMENDS:

1. That the present exotic diseases surveillance and information systems be strengthened to permit an awareness of the diseases' behavior, in order to diminish the risk of their introduction into the countries, by means of a prevention and emergency program.

2. That the surveillance and information system inside the countries be oriented toward an awareness of the behavior of the possible host and its interaction with the environment.

RECOMMENDATION VIII

Expansion of the epidemiological surveillance and information system.

WHEREAS:

1. The II Inter-American Animal Health Meeting at the Ministerial Level (RIMSA - 1981), mindful of the advanced level of development and effectiveness shown by the system of information and epidemiological surveillance of vesicular diseases in animals as developed by the countries with coordination and advisory assistance from the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center, approved Resolution I through which the PAHO was asked to extend the system to other diseases, especially those zoonoses dealt with by the Pan American Zoonoses Center; and

2. Several countries have already undertaken to expand the surveillance and information system,

HEREBY RECOMMENDS:

To reiterate all parts of Resolution I of RIMSA-II and, as the implementation thereof proceeds, to request that the PAHO Veterinary Public Health Program cooperate with the countries in expanding the System of Information and Epidemiological Surveillance of Rabies, Brucellosis, Tuberculosis, Equine Encephalitis, Hydatidosis and other zoonoses, using the vesicular disease epidemiological surveillance and information system as a reference.

RECOMMENDATION IX

Inclusion of other subsystems in the vesicular disease surveillance and information system.

WHEREAS:

1. There exists a reciprocal influence between foot-and-mouth disease occurrence and the action taken to control it, and the administrative, economic and productive aspects of the sanitary programs and the livestock industry in general;
2. The national foot-and-mouth disease control programs have acquired extensive experience in the implementation and development of epidemiological surveillance and information systems; and
3. There is a possibility to apply the experience and methods of the vesicular disease epidemiological surveillance and information systems to the needs of other animal health livestock development projects,

HEREBY RECOMMENDS:

To promote the development of other subsystems within the epidemiological surveillance and information system, such as:

Administrative (costs-operational-inputs-human resources);

Economic (physical losses-commerce and trade-benefits); and

Productive (production and productivity), to be implemented as the programs may require.

RECOMMENDATION X

Laboratory support for the vesicular disease epidemiological surveillance systems.

WHEREAS:

1. The diagnosis laboratories are fundamental parts of the epidemiological surveillance and information systems for the identification of the viruses active in the field, the determination of viral activity in the populations and the measurement of the levels of immunity;
2. This support must increase as the foot-and-mouth disease control programs move forward toward the goal of disease eradication,

HEREBY RECOMMENDS:

1. To proceed to integrate the diagnosis and research laboratories into the epidemiological surveillance systems, particularly with respect to diagnosis, quality control of vaccines and epidemiological research.
2. To support the Center's efforts to develop projects related to the epidemiology and diagnosis of other animal diseases that, because of their clinical similarity, interfere in the current vesicular disease prevention and control programs.