



**COMISION SUDAMERICANA PARA LA LUCHA CONTRA LA FIEBRE AFTOSA**

**SOUTH AMERICAN COMISSION FOR THE CONTROL  
OF FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE**

**XXII Regular Meeting**

**Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, March 9-10, 1995**

**FINAL REPORT**

**SECRETARIAT: CENTRO PANAMERICANO DE FIEBRE AFTOSA  
CAIXA POSTAL 589, 20001-970 RIO DE JANEIRO, RJ, BRASIL**



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The XXII Regular Meeting of the South American Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (COSALFA) held in the City of Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, at the headquarters of the International Center for Training for Development of the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation (CIFD/AECI) on March 9-10, 1995, at the invitation of the Secretariat.

The chairmanship, due to be exercised by Ecuador, was graciously transferred to the host nation, Bolivia, in the person of the Subsecretary for Livestock Production, Dr. Carlos Bruckner B.

Dr. Vicente Astudillo, Director of the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center (PANAFTOSA), acted as Secretary ex officio.

Official delegates to the Meeting came from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Guyana, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela, while observers were representatives of international agencies for technical and economic cooperation, such as Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Office of Epizootics (OIE), the Inter-American Institute of Cooperation for Agriculture (IICA), the European Union (EU), the Financial Fund for the Development of the Plata River Basin (FONPLATA), the Cartagena Agreement Board (JUNAC), as well as bilateral cooperation agencies such as the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), the British Mission in Bolivia and the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation. Other representatives came from the Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, livestock producers from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay and Venezuela, as well as members of the legislative and executive powers of the host nation, professional associations, producers from the pharmaceutical, biological and industrial sectors related to livestock production, and universities and research institutions from the countries in the region (APPENDIX I).

The Regular Meeting included an opening session, four plenary sessions and a closing session (APPENDIX II).

The main officials at the Opening Session were: Mr. Edgardo Talavera Solís, National Secretary for Agriculture and Livestock; Mr. Oswaldo Monasterio, Senator of the Republic; Dr. Julio Leigue, Mayor of the Santa Cruz de la Sierra; Dr. Fernando Sartori, President of the Bolivian Confederation of Livestock Producers (CONGABOL); Mr. Eduardo Araújo, Director of the CIFD/AECI of Spain; Dr. Philippe Lamy, Representative a.i. of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) in Bolivia; Dr. Primo Arambulo III, Coordinator of the PAHO Veterinary Public Health Program; and Dr. Vicente Astudillo, Director of PANAFTOSA.

Dr. Philippe Lamy listed the reasons for the PAHO -an agency devoted to human health- to have a Center within its structure dedicated to foot-and-mouth disease. This is due to the importance that the Organization attaches to this disease because of the damage it causes to the production and productivity of livestock, and consequently to the availability of food. Human health is thus intrinsically connected to social development, which is in turn connected to animal health. Moreover, the important existing structural network of veterinary attention can be used to attend to human-health problems, like vaccination campaigns and distribution of medicine. He mentioned the importance of COSALFA in stimulating technological and methodological advances in national campaigns, like the growing participation of cattle-breeders on committees.

Dr. Fernando Sartori exalted the importance that the XXII COSALFA being held in Santa Cruz de la Sierra has meant for Bolivian livestock production and especially for the Eastern region of the country. He informed the audience that since the 70s several foot-and-mouth disease control programs had been implanted which for different reasons failed to advance significantly. Since 1992 a government decision installed a plan based on shared management of the administrative processes, with strong participation of the livestock-producing sector, thereby creating the CONEFA. He offered his thanks for the important support given by international agencies for technical cooperation and expressed his hopes that the COSALFA might serve as a forum for the evaluation, discussion and recommendation of actions to support implementation of economically and technically feasible plans that are acceptable to the country's livestock-producing sector.

Next, Dr. Vicente Astudillo referred to the growing importance of the COSALFA since its foundation as an eminently technical meeting to its developing into a forum for continental integration. The historic moment exemplified by the progress seen in the control of foot-and-mouth disease, especially in the Southern Cone, offers Bolivia -within the framework of its new institutional organization for the eradication of the disease- an opportunity to move ahead with its national program.

He mentioned that the process of structural modernization of the State has allowed for work to be shared between the public and the private sectors as a form of guaranteeing the program's workability and continuity, with the latter sector assuming the responsibility for conducting the actions. He pointed out that the difficulties faced by national programs are generally of a technical rather than an administrative nature.

He mentioned that the creation and execution of an eradication plan should be based on the technicians' knowledge of the epidemiological situation of the disease and its inter-relationship with the systems of livestock production, and should also enjoy the participation of the community.

The National Secretary for Agriculture and Livestock, Mr. Edgardo Talavera Solis, on behalf of the National Government, expressed his pleasure at the presence of the delegates of the member countries, national production entities, professional associations, and national and international observers at the XXII COSALFA. He stressed that until foot-and-mouth disease is controlled and finally eradicated all over the Continent, livestock producers will be ostracized from

full economic development. The President of the Republic of Bolivia, at the moment of the change of state administration, ordered reforms to lend more agility to the animal-health structure. He mentioned the importance of the support of the international agencies for cooperation to the development of the National Plan for Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease, and especially to the technical administration of PANAFTOSA, not to mention the vital participation of the private sector through the Federation of Livestock Producers. He ended by expressing his thanks that Bolivia should be honored as the venue for the Meeting.

The opening ceremony was closed with the words spoken by Mr. Eduardo Araújo of the CIFD; on behalf of the Spanish Government and as its Ambassador to Bolivia, he welcomed all the participants and underscored the work carried out by the Spanish International Cooperation in developing the region, the country and the Continent. He mentioned the presence of observers from international agencies such as the EU and Spain's Ministry of Agriculture, which aim to re-establish ties between Spain and the EU and the countries of Latin America. He went on to point out that the Casa de España welcomed all the participants of the COSALFA and expressed his hopes for success in the deliberations to be made.

After a short interval, Dr. Vicente Astudillo read the Secretariat's Report, which was approved with slight alterations. The Report follows.

## REPORT OF THE SECRETARIAT

### 1. Background to the XXII Regular Meeting

COSALFA has reached its 22nd anniversary with its role strengthened as a forum for discussing questions related to the epidemiological situation of foot-and-mouth disease and the progress made by the control programs in the regions and subregions of the Continent, as well as the consequences on the commercial exchange of products of animal origin between countries. These advances have come about with the participation of both official sectors and representatives of the livestock-producing sector of each country, the reference point being the Hemispheric Program for Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease.

The most significant facts observed in the region during 1994 were as follows:

The Southern Cone - in the Plata River Basin Project, Uruguay completed almost two years as a country free of foot-and-mouth disease through vaccination and suspended it throughout the country as of the month of June, thus lending continuity to the process of control. In the Argentine Mesopotamia, two years were completed without any clinical presence of foot-and-mouth disease and the country registered a 92% decrease in the number of foci recorded. In Brazil, the states of Rio Grande do Sul and Santa Catarina commemorated one year without foci. Paraguay showed a drop of 50% in the disease against the year before.

The geographical coverage of the project grew with the inclusion of the Brazilian states of Paraná and Santa Catarina, the Argentine provinces of Chaco,

Formosa, Santa Fé and the northeastern "partidos" of the province of Buenos Aires, and the western region of Paraguay. To this end, the institutions for technical and financial cooperation are being sounded for resources to continue the second phase of the project.

**The Andean Area** - the situation was seen to deteriorate, with 1730 foci of vesicular diseases being registered, notably in Colombia (1452 cases). Foci occurred in areas of the northwestern region of the Atlantic Coast, which had recorded nothing for the last few years. No success was met in effectively implementing the regional subprojects to eradicate foot-and-mouth disease in the Andean area. The Urabá Antioqueño and Chocoano regions remained disease-free.

**The Amazon Area/Brazil (except Southern Brazil)** - a stationary situation persisted, with 2033 foci being registered and the occurrence of 3 in the state of Roraima. On the other hand, the Northeastern region with 1002 foci (48% of the total) and the Southeast with 514 (25%) were the worst affected. The Center-West region witnessed an increase of 10% in the number of foci as compared with the year before.

The areas remaining free from foot-and-mouth disease were Guyana, Suriname and French Guyana, as well as the countries of North America, Mesoamerica and the Caribbean.

In compliance with the regulations of the Commission, the Secretariat convoked the countries' delegates in the form of letters addressed to the Ministers of Agriculture and the respective Directors of Veterinary Services and/or Animal Health. Invitation letters were likewise sent to observers from countries in the Americas, Europe, Japan and the Netherlands, as well as international agencies for technical and financial cooperation such as the FAO, GATT, OIE, OIRSA, EEC, IDB, JUNAC, CAF, CEPAL, IAEA, World Bank and the USDA. Invitations were also sent out to livestock associations, members of the legislative and executive powers, professional groups, producers of pharmaceutical, biological and industrial products, and universities and research institutions in the countries in the region.

## **2. Compliance with the Resolutions of COSALFA XXI**

The level of compliance with the Resolutions of COSALFA XXI, by the countries and/or the Secretariat, is discussed below:

### **2.1 Resolution I - Subregional Project for Foot-and-Mouth Disease Control and Eradication in the Plata Basin**

With respect to point 2 of said Resolution,

"To urge member countries to proceed in their efforts to consolidate the goals of the Agreement through development of its second stage",

it is reported that:



The member countries of the Plata River Project, in light of the progress made in the epidemiological situation of foot-and-mouth disease, have demonstrated their interest in moving onwards to the second phase of the project. To this end a program was drawn up with the support of PANAFTOSA, approved by the Project's Technical Group at its 3rd Regular Meeting in December 1993, and then forwarded to the FONPLATA for their consideration.

Analysis of the activities undertaken in 1994 points to several important successes. Since only two disbursements of the total resources previously agreed upon between the countries were made during the year, it became necessary to trim the activities scheduled and cancel some of them.

In brief, the countries registered the following changes in the epidemiological situation of the disease: Uruguay, recognized as a country made free by means of vaccination, suspended this nationwide as of June 1994.

Throughout Argentina there was no record of the disease since April 1994, and at year's end the Argentine Mesopotamia completed 24 months without presenting the disease, just like the country's mountain region.

The Brazilian states of Rio Grande do Sul and Santa Catarina completed 12 months disease-free, while Paraguay registered a marked drop in the presence of foot-and-mouth disease.

In Argentina, the provinces of Santa Fé, Chaco and Formosa and "partidos" of the northeast section of the province of Buenos Aires have now been incorporated in the Agreement, just like the Brazilian states of Paraná and Santa Catarina and the western region of Paraguay.

With respect to point 3 of said Resolution,

"To request that PANAFTOSA, in conjunction with the countries, continue to solicit that FONPLATA provide the funding for the second stage of the Agreement",

it is reported that:

After meetings in Rio de Janeiro with the President of the Board, the Executive Secretary and technical staff of the FONPLATA, the first steps were taken towards substantiating the financing of technical cooperation for the second phase of the Plata River Basin Agreement.

It was agreed that the countries, through their representatives on the Executive Board of the FONPLATA, should make the appropriate official request. However, to date there has been no news of any significant progress having been made.

## 2.2 Resolution II - Regional programs in Bolivia and Brazil

With respect to point 1 of said Resolution,

"To support the regionalization efforts of the foot-and-mouth disease control and eradication program of the Federative Republic of Brazil",

it is reported that:

Brazil's Ministry of Agriculture, Supply and Agrarian Reform (MAARA) institutionalized the Regional Projects, with special emphasis on the Project referring to the Center-West circuit covering the states of Mato Grosso, Mato Grosso do Sul, Minas Gerais, São Paulo and Paraná, the latter being a region of high livestock productivity. Activities were developed aiming to bring down the incidence of foot-and-mouth disease, such as increasing vaccination, regulating the oil-adjuvanted vaccine as the official type, and training 149 professionals in field activities.

Three municipalities in the state of São Paulo are developing a computerized system of information and epidemiological surveillance emphasizing the use of information for decision-taking at the local and state levels with the technical support of PANAFTOSA.

With respect to point 2 of said Resolution,

"To support the Bolivian Government so that the integrated action with the livestock-producing community is able to establish the foot-and-mouth disease control and eradicating program in Bolivia",

it is reported that:

The Subsecretariat of Livestock, in coordination with the CONGABOL and the National Service for Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease, Rabies and Brucellosis (SENARB) prepared a project for eradication of foot-and-mouth disease in Bolivia to be presented for external financing, the special feature of which is the coordination between the official service and the livestock-production associations. The economic feasibility of the project was analysed by a PANAFTOSA consultant and the report forwarded to FONPLATA for their analysis. A copy was sent to the official FAO/World Bank mission to help in preparing the draft project to apply for financing.

In order to coordinate future work in organizing local systems of veterinary attention with the participation of livestock producers, PANAFTOSA sent a consultant to the Livestock Producers Associations in the provinces of Warnes and Obispo Santiesteban.

With respect to point 3 of said Resolution,

"To highlight the importance of the foot-and-mouth disease control and eradication program in eastern Bolivia, the departments of Beni and Santa Cruz, which, because of the epidemiological and commercial relations of the livestock-producing community with the Central-Western Region of Brazil, constitute interdependent ecosystems",

it is reported that:

On the initiative of the livestock-producing entities (FEGASACRUZ) and the Subsecretariat of Livestock, the first Provincial Committee for Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (COPEFA) was installed in the department of Santa Cruz in the western region of the country close to the border with the Brazilian states of Mato Grosso and Mato Grosso do Sul, for the purpose of encouraging common activities between the state animal-health entities and MAARA with regard to epidemiological surveillance and control of foot-and-mouth disease in the region.

With respect to point 4 of said Resolution,

"To encourage the PAHO/PANAFTOSA to cooperate in organizing and supporting the aforementioned programs",

it is reported that:

The Center, within the scope of an Agreement of Technical Cooperation signed with the Subsecretary of Livestock, supported the installation of the Provincial Committees and donated 20 thousand doses of vaccine to the Provincial Committee for the Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease in the province of Angel Sandoval, for vaccination in the areas bordering on Brazil. The Center, along with consultants from the Argentine Mesopotamia program, then lent support to structuring the administrative processes of the Committees.

In answer to the request from the National Committee for Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (CONEFA), a workshop was held in Santa Cruz de la Sierra to reformulate the System of Epidemiological Information and Surveillance of Vesicular Diseases coordinated by the SENARB, with the participation of nine functionaries from the central and provincial levels, in addition to two advisers from the British Mission in Santa Cruz. This workshop led to the regulation of the weekly and monthly flow of information in the country and to the Continental System of Information and Epidemiological Surveillance of Vesicular Diseases.

Three slaughterhouses in the region were visited to study the possibility of including the results of ante- and post-mortem inspection in the information mechanism for the surveillance of vesicular diseases.

### **2.3 Resolution III - Development of pilot areas of foot-and-mouth disease control in the Bolivia-Brazil border strip**

With respect to point 1 of said Resolution,

"To encourage both countries to increase bilateral coordination to define the pilot areas and emphasize joint action on the national, regional and local level, for the development of such action",

it is reported that:

Within the framework of the animal-health border agreement between Bolivia and Brazil, both countries set up local committees to coordinate activities to promote an increase in vaccination coverage and epidemiological surveillance actions.

With respect to point 2 of said Resolution,

"To solicit that the PAHO/WHO, through PANAFTOSA and the Representation in Bolivia, provide the technical cooperation and the coordination of action between both countries, for the development of foot-and-mouth disease control pilot areas as agreed between the two countries",

it is reported that:

The Representation of the PAHO in Bolivia and the PANAFTOSA helped to develop a joint project of the Subsecretariat of Livestock, CONGABOL and FEGASACRUZ on the Bolivian side, and the INDEA-MT and the IAGRO-MS on the Brazilian side, for implementation of common areas showing control activities.

#### **2.4 Resolution IV - Subregional Project of the Andean Area**

With respect to point 1 of said Resolution,

"To make the National Sanitary Services responsible for immediately undertaking, in cooperation with PANAFTOSA, revision and updating of the different zonal components of the Andean Subregional Project for Foot-and-Mouth Disease Eradication",

it is reported that:

Subproject 3 - the Ecuadorian Coast and the Colombian and Peruvian Borders, prepared with the cooperation of PANAFTOSA, was submitted to analysis by the countries, and observations concerning its implementation were gathered by the Colombian Agrolivestock Institute (ICA). This institute concluded the studies for extending the Atlantic Coast Subproject to its eastern region, especially the department of Magdalena, to be carried out in 1995.

With respect to point 2 of said Resolution,

"To encourage the Sanitary Services of the countries, backed by political agreements and decisions taken at the ministerial level, to give priority within the national programs to eliminating foot-and-mouth disease in the border areas",

it is reported that:

On the occasion of the 25th meeting of the Colombian-Ecuadorian Border Agreement, an increase was registered of animal mobilization to the Colombian border as a result of the process of economic opening and a difference in prices that stimulates such transit, including the illegal sort.

The lack of coordination between vaccination activities and deficient actions in epidemiological surveillance due to the scarcity of human resources in the border area of both countries, have contributed to an increase in the occurrence of foci. Agreement was made on a coordinated chronogram of actions related to the control of foot-and-mouth disease, as well as swine cholera,

tuberculosis and brucellosis, which is of interest to the region and the local committees.

Given the intense trading of animals and animal products on the Colombian-Venezuelan border, the official entities have developed actions to control the transit, as discussed in the last meeting of the Agreement, which also dealt with aspects related to the legal norms and procedures accepted within the JUNAC in order to reduce illegal transit in the border zone; elimination of some bureaucratic requirements; and harmonization of control procedures and facilitation of the border technical meetings between professionals of both countries. Unification of the vaccination cycles was also agreed upon.

With the trade opening between the two countries, discussion was continued on the harmonization of standards of production and control of products for veterinary use.

The occurrence and control activities with regard to vesicular stomatitis and Venezuelan equine encephalitis were also discussed.

With respect to point 3 of said Resolution,

"To reiterate to JUNAC and the EEC the need to persist and proceed to seek alternatives intended to render feasible the execution of the Andean Project for Foot-and-Mouth Disease Eradication",

it is reported that:

The European Community Commission (EEC), following the mission sent to the region in October 1993 to evaluate the needs for technical and economic support, demonstrated interest in sending another mission to update and complete the project. The methodology for cooperation proposed by the first mission was divided into two stages: support for the functional organization of official animal-health services and development of lines of research on the Colombian-Venezuelan plains, with a training group. The second stage would define the financial cooperation that would have most impact on the objectives of eradication of foot-and-mouth disease in the region. The EEC solicited support from PANAFTOSA in defining the project as of March 1995.

#### **2.5 Resolution V - Amazon Subregional Project of Foot-and-Mouth Disease Prevention, Control and Eradication**

With respect to point 1 of said Resolution,

"To urge Brazil, Guyana and Venezuela to complete the feasibility studies for the prevention, control and eradication of foot-and-mouth disease in the area composed of the state of Roraima in Brazil, the Cooperative Republic of Guyana and the state of Bolívar, in Venezuela",

it is reported that:

The Center twice sponsored the Animal-Health Border Meeting between the three countries, which did not take place because the representative of one of the

countries was absent. Therefore no follow-up was given to the coordinated activities of control and eradication of foot-and-mouth disease in the region. Three foci were registered in the state of Roraima at the end of the year, and accompanied by the local veterinarians who took control steps to vaccinate susceptible animals with vaccine sent by the PANAFTOSA.

With respect to point 2 of said Resolution,

"To urge the countries to proceed with their efforts to upgrade the infrastructure of the veterinary services in the area",

it is reported that:

The Autonomous Service of Livestock Health and the Government of the state of Bolívar in Venezuela began implementing an agreement meant to develop a foot-and-mouth disease program. The main feature of the project is the co-participation of the livestock-producing state entities and the Federation of Veterinary Doctors.

With respect to point 3 of said Resolution,

"To request, as a mechanism of coordination, and with the objective of securing the commitment from each country to execute the program's activities, that the three countries continue to hold without interruption the meetings sponsored by the existing animal-health border agreements. In this regard, the Secretariat is asked to issue an urgent convocation for meetings in 1994",

it is reported that:

As mentioned before, the regular meetings of the Animal-Health Border Agreements between Brazil, Guyana, Venezuela and the PAHO, and those of the Brazil-Colombia-PAHO Agreement were not held because of the impossibility of coordinating timetables for the participation of one of the countries.

With respect to point 4 of said Resolution,

"To request that PANAFTOSA/PAHO continue cooperating with the three countries for the organization of foot-and-mouth disease prevention and eradication activities, with emphasis on epidemiological surveillance, on personnel training and on the dissemination of information among producers in order to obtain their active participation",

it is reported that:

In the Course on Program Development held in the PANAFTOSA, training was given to one professional from the Ministry of Agriculture of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, located in the Rupununi region bordering on the Brazilian state of Roraima, one from Venezuela and one from Colombia.

PANAFTOSA offered technical support to Brazil's Secretariat of Sanitary Defence of MAARA in the effort against the outbreak in Roraima and collaborated

in sending 1,000 doses of double-emulsion vaccine to be used in swine located in the region of the outbreak.

## 2.6 Resolution VI - Strengthening and improving the continental epidemiological surveillance system

With respect to point 1 of said Resolution,

"To request that PANAFTOSA/PAHO, as quickly as possible, proceed to coordinate jointly with the countries, a review and revision of the system, in order to upgrade it in line with the objectives of the Hemispheric Plan for Foot-and-Mouth Disease Eradication",

it is reported that:

The analysis made in PANAFTOSA found that the system begun in April 1977 continues to be a simple, quick method for communicating data in the present conditions of animal-health services in Latin America. On the other hand, recognition was made of the usefulness of incorporating other indicators to the feedback to allow for more extensive knowledge of the geographical space where vesicular disease is suspected, to meet the need for information on the part of users of the continental system of epidemiological surveillance.

In this way, communication of alert was promoted as a rapid-notice mechanism to announce the appearance of episodes of vesicular disease in territory near the country's border or when it corresponds to a geographical area which has gone through long periods with no register of the disease. Furthermore, it was established that a weekly summary would be sent by fax to the national services, with information on prevention and control measures taken. The use of an international information network is being studied in order to speed up exchange of epidemiological reports.

It can generally be considered that in 1994 the surveillance system enjoyed some progress, as there was an increase of samples of cases occurring in the border gridsquares and sent to PANAFTOSA by the member countries. Ecuador was the country that sent the greatest number of samples.

With respect to point 2 of said Resolution,

"To encourage the countries to assume greater responsibility with respect to the national epidemiological surveillance and information systems, based on the elements of the system's evaluation conducted during this Meeting and especially the quality of the information",

it is reported that:

After the 31st week an epidemiological surveillance and information system was developed and implanted to meet the new objectives of the Plata Basin Project, featuring exchange, analysis and local-level use of information relating to suspected occurrence of vesicular diseases. To this end, a map of unified geographical coordinates is being used, produced with the help of PANAFTOSA.

**2.7 Resolution VII - Reference functions of the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center**

With respect to this Resolution,

"To encourage the countries so that all projects related to the control and eradication of foot-and-mouth disease be conceived, drafted and executed with the technical orientation of PANAFTOSA/PAHO, in order to maintain their uniformity with regard to technical activities and strategies, as established in the Hemispheric Program of Foot-and-Mouth Disease Eradication",

it is reported that:

The Subsecretariat of Livestock of Bolivia, together with the CONEFA, requested the technical support of PANAFTOSA to carry out a pre-investment study for a national foot-and-mouth disease eradication program to be presented to the IDB for financing. A consulting firm was contracted for this purpose.

The mission to reformulate the Animal-Health Project, made up of professionals from the FAO and the Pirbright Laboratory (United Kingdom) requested support from PANAFTOSA to prepare the above-mentioned project.

**2.8 Resolution VIII - Strengthening the veterinary services in border areas**

With respect to point 1 of said Resolution,

"To urge the countries to strengthen their sanitary services at ports, airports and border areas in each country, with regard to the structural, logistical and economic requirements",

it is reported that:

The Agriculture and Livestock Service (SAG) of Chile has implemented a system to prevent foot-and-mouth disease being introduced via the summer-season fields in the mountains, based on transit control and carried out in coordination with the police force. Activities in the mountains are directed to reduce animal density and promote early detection of the disease in the region; population censuses are conducted and assessment is made of the fields' capacity to support animals. During the official assessment visits the censuses are updated and the animals undergo clinical inspection. VIA tests are run before authorization is given to descend the animals.

Concomitantly, the process is complemented by defining the level of risk and epidemiological surveillance in border areas, carried out in coordination with the Argentine authorities within the framework of the Border Agreement, including visits to epidemiologically important zones in the border provinces. SAG is undertaking the same kind of activity on the borders with Peru and Bolivia.

On the other hand the international sanitary barriers are still in force at ports and airports.



In Uruguay, one of the preventive activities of the second stage of the eradication program is the strengthening of control at borders, ports and airports with regard to importing animals and products that might represent the risk of introducing the agent.

With respect to point 2 of said Resolution,

"To urge bordering countries to undertake integrated animal-health coordination efforts, which necessitates their overcoming geographical and political limitations",

it is reported that:

Within the framework of the animal-health border agreements between Brazil and Bolivia, Colombia and Venezuela and Colombia and Ecuador, local committees were formed to coordinate activities to foster an increase in vaccination coverage and joint epidemiological surveillance actions.

With respect to point 3 of said Resolution,

"To encourage the decentralization of the actions involving border areas, in favor of engaging all the actors that participate in animal-health activities",

it is reported that:

Besides the known experiences in coordinated management of the activities to control foot-and-mouth disease, between the private and the public sector, particularly in the basin area, the **Committee to Maintain the Status of Foot-and-Mouth Disease-Free Country** was created in Uruguay for the purpose of coordinating the tasks of the second stage of the program; the Committee is composed of representatives of the General Directorate of Livestock Services and associations of livestock producers.

In Bolivia, the creation of the **National Council for Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (CONEFA)** and its corresponding Departmental and Provincial Committees, which enjoy the active participation of the local livestock producer associations, has improved the administration of control activities and continuity of action.

With respect to point 4 of said Resolution,

"That, based on the experience acquired in the hemispheric struggle against foot-and-mouth disease, the PANAFTOSA be integrated with the other international entities to ensure that trade exchange be agile and free-flowing within the continental scope and when involving other continents",

it is reported that:

The Center coordinated its efforts with the FAO, OIE, EU, OIRSA and other international technical assistance institutions in developing methodologies to facilitate trade relations between the countries within the context of the Inter-Agency Group for Animal Health Cooperation (GICSA). Some examples have been mentioned previously.

## 2.9 Resolution IX - Analysis of the sanitary implications of livestock transit in border areas

With respect to point 1 of said Resolution,

"To urge the various countries to develop and/or implement control processes that lead to better assessment of the international transit of animals and animal products, and to examine the problem of international traffic and contraband of livestock occurring or that may occur in their respective border areas",

it is reported that:

For the purpose of ensuring the progress made by the countries included in the Plata Basin Project, the discussions of the Technical Committee resulted in Sanitary Control Stations being implanted in the region of the Argentine Mesopotamia.

In Brazil, after a meeting with the participation of technicians from the countries and from PANAFTOSA, the movements of animals and the reasons for these movements were described and a strategy drawn up to instal stations in the southern region of the country and in the border region between São Paulo and Mato Grosso do Sul.

In turn, as a preventive measure in the second stage of its plan, Uruguay activated the system of sanitary barriers along its borders and at its ports and airports.

In its condition as a foot-and-mouth-disease-free country, Chile installed a system to prevent introduction of the disease via the summer-season fields in the mountains, as mentioned before.

In Ecuador, the Association of Livestock Producers of the Sierra and the West sponsored a Workshop on Rustling and Animal Health for its members.

With respect to point 2 of said Resolution,

"To include on the Agenda of the next COSALFA Meeting a joint examination of this problem and its impact on the hemispheric eradication of foot-and-mouth disease",

it is reported that:

Bearing in mind the impact of this problem on the epidemiological situation of foot-and-mouth disease, especially in border areas, Dr. Zeilah Carrasco, President of the National Federation of Livestock Producers of Venezuela was

requested to present a report on the problem of contraband in Venezuela and its consequences on animal health in that country and on the region.

**2.10 Resolution X - Proposal for inclusion of the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center as Member of the OIE's Commission on Foot-and-Mouth Disease and other Zoonoses**

With respect to this Resolution,

"To submit to the consideration of the OIE a proposal to include the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center in the OIE's Commission on Foot-and-Mouth Disease and Other Zoonoses, and also enable the aforesaid Center to coordinate the activities related to the regionalization and recognition of free areas in South America",

it is reported that:

PANAFTOSA was accepted and invited to take part as member of the meeting held in January of this year. However, for reasons of *force majeure* the Secretary was unable to attend the meeting but communicated his position with regard to the ideas of regionalization and certification of free areas, a matter of vital importance for the country.

The OIE agreed that the Center should prepare a manual which, after approval by the member countries, would constitute a guide to facilitate trade relations between the countries concerning products of animal origin. A draft version will be presented during the 63rd General Session of the OIE.

Following the 63rd Regular Meeting of the OIE next March, the Conference on the Analysis of Risk, Animal Health and Trade will be held. PANAFTOSA has been invited to discuss the ideas related to the analysis of risk of products of animal origin vis-à-vis regionalization and zoning, taking into account the aspects of transparenance and equivalence between the sanitary services involved.

**2.11 Resolution XI - International seminar on the animal-health care systems and the changes in the role of the state and of the community**

With respect to point 1 of said Resolution,

"To recommend to the Secretariat, the delegates, producers and representatives of the participating economic and social sectors that they pursue the mechanisms for putting into practice the proposals of a participatory process of coordination of the veterinary-care activities as set forth in the Recommendations",

it is reported that:

The Secretariat supported and announced the idea of shared management in zonal plans in Bolivia and Peru through the technical cooperation offered to the national programs in those countries. In their national programs, Colombia,

Ecuador and Venezuela are developing the system of shared management in the administration of field activities.

In Brazil, foundations have been set up composed of members of the livestock-producing sector, in the states of São Paulo, Goiás and Mato Grosso do Sul, for the purpose of providing resources and stimulating activities towards eradicating foot-and-mouth disease.

With respect to point 3 of said Resolution,

"To request that the PANAFTOSA/PAHO organize, promote and develop, prior to COSALFA XXII, an International Seminar on "Epidemiological Surveillance and Information Systems, from the Viewpoint of Eradication and the New Models of Veterinary Care",

it is reported that:

The Secretariat organized the recommended seminar, which was attended by representatives of the member countries, professional associations of livestock producers and industrialists in the sector, representatives from international agencies for technical and financial cooperation, and representatives from universities. The recommendations will be presented in due time in this plenary for approval and inclusion as a Resolution of the XXII COSALFA (APPENDIX III).

### **3. Present status of the information and surveillance systems in the countries**

During the XXI COSALFA, a discussion was held on the loss of efficacy observed in the last three years with respect to the Continental Vesicular Diseases Information and Surveillance System, in light of the changes in the structure of the national services, which were traditionally responsible for execution of the system. The commitment to use the system as a tool for surveillance was also observed. The countries were urged to introduce the necessary changes to improve the system, as registered in Resolution VI.

Below are described several items relating to the performance of the system during the period:

Generally speaking, there was an observed decrease in the average time for reception of the weekly communications as compared with 1993. Argentina, Ecuador, Peru and Uruguay improved the speed of information. This, however, was due to the constant complaints about delay in correspondence.

Consideration must be given to the fact that difficulties of communication also influence reception at PANAFTOSA, due to problems with telephone lines. With this in mind, and in order to lessen the time of information feedback, in week 37 the Center began to send by fax a weekly summary of vesicular diseases, in addition to the normal summaries, to all the animal-health services in the region. This shortened the interval of information to one day after edition, which means an average of 13 days in the system's feedback, as against 20 days the year before, without counting reception by the user, because of the normal mail services.

This additional report brought the users other qualitative elements on the area of the occurrence, such as the frequency registered during the current year in the notified gridsquares, identification of the affected gridsquares bordering on another country, the first notification of a given gridsquare and the information coverage of the countries.

#### 4. Other matters

Through its Director, PANAFTOSA took part in the discussion and implementation of the new strategies of Uruguay's National Program for Eradication relating to the second stage, which involves suspension of vaccination throughout the national territory.

The Technical Cooperation Agreement was renewed with the IAEA to develop the ELISA test for detection of antibodies. To this end, a work plan was drawn up stating that PANAFTOSA/PAHO would be the coordinating agency for validation of the test, with FAO/IAEA being responsible for economic support for the countries in possession of an investigation contract (Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Paraguay and Venezuela), as well as the Center itself whenever it undertakes activities in the interest of the agreement.

The document relating to the EEC/Plata Basin/PANAFTOSA Project is in the final stage of editing, the objective being to study the correlation of the serological techniques to be used as a substitute for cattle vaccination control tests.

An information and surveillance system for epidemiological diseases, presently covering the municipalities of Avaré, Araçatuba, Andradina and Sorocaba is being developed in cooperation with the Coordination of Integral Technical Assistance (CATI) of the Government of the State of São Paulo and the Foundation for the Development of Livestock Production in São Paulo (FUNDEPEC). This system features a geographical base and software that allow access to several data bases, thereby enabling the user to make a timespace analysis of the occurrences vis-à-vis the area's characteristics of livestock production.

In answer to a request made by the Peruvian Ministry of Health through the PAHO representative, support was given to the creation and development of a geography-based information system for surveillance of cases of bubonic plague in the Chiclayo region.

The Secretariat's participation in international meetings in 1994 is detailed as follows:

- II Meeting of the INPPAZ Council for International Cooperation in Martínez, Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- XII Meeting of the OIE Regional Committee for the Americas. Asunción, Paraguay.
- Visit to the Valdeolmos Center for Animal-Health Investigation to discuss lines of joint research. Madrid, Spain.
- 62nd General Session of the OIE International Committee. Paris, France.

- OIE/FAO Seminar on Harmonization of Diagnostic Techniques. Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- VII Argentine Congress of Veterinary Medicine, presenting the theme: "External View of the Advances made in Argentina towards Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease". Argentina.
- VII International Seminar of Veterinary Specialists in Diagnosis, presenting the theme: "Diagnostic Levels: An Epidemiological Approach". Argentina.
- FAO/IAEA/PAHO Joint Meeting for Validation of the ELISA Test. Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- Visit, together with the Director of the PAHO and the HVC Coordinator, to the General Director of the FAO in Rome, and to the Director of the OIE in Paris to sign animal-health cooperation agreements. Italy and France.
- International Seminar on Alternative Models of Veterinary Care. Acapulco, Mexico.
- International Symposium on Animal-Health Information Systems, at the Pan-American Congress of Veterinary Sciences. Acapulco, Mexico.
- Meetings of the Plata Basin Agreement Committee. Argentina and Brazil.
- XII Intra-Caribbean Veterinary and Public-Health Seminar. Tobago, West Indies.

## 5. Meetings of the Animal-Health Border Agreements

Below is a summary of the agreements and work plans of the border agreements in effect during the period.

### Brazil-Argentina Agreement

In the context of the Agreement and bearing in mind the international trade criteria established by the MERCOSUR Animal-Health Sub-Committee, technicians from both countries met to discuss the sanitary conditions for the exchange of swine and by-products among other livestock products, and establishing sanitary barriers in the region. The outcome was the suggestion that a mission be appointed composed of technicians from both countries to evaluate the abolition of sanitary requirements for such products; this mission visited the region in June. At this meeting, official participation by representatives of the private sector was accepted for the first time.

### Brazil-Bolivia Agreement

In accordance with the provision of the XXI COSALFA, Brazil and Bolivia held their XII Regular Meeting, where they discussed integration of the activities for foot-and-mouth disease control at the border. Progress was observed in the activities after 10 years of work by the Agreement and the formation, in both countries, of local committees to coordinate activities, as well as an increase in vaccination coverage. PANAFTOSA's support was solicited in the installation and administration of the COPEFAs (Provincial Committees for Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease) in Bolivia and in the reformulation of the epidemiological information and surveillance system; this was later satisfied through a visit by a consultant. Nevertheless, a disturbing situation was

registered as regards the occurrence of vesicular disease in the border area of the state of Rondonia, as well as deficiencies in the surveillance system, which covers only 25% of the territory.

#### **Colombia-Ecuador-PAHO Agreement**

This is one of the oldest border agreements. A Meeting -the 25th- was held to register an increase in the movement of animals in the direction of the Colombian border as a result of the process of economic opening and a difference in prices that encourages such transit, including the illegal sort. Concomitantly, the lack of coordination between the vaccination activities carried out by Ecuador and Colombia in the border area, disregarding defined schedules, led to an increase in the occurrence of foci, mainly on the Colombian side. On the other hand, epidemiological surveillance suffers restrictions due to scarcity of human resources, among other factors. Other topics dealt with during the meeting referred to the situation regarding swine cholera, tuberculosis and brucellosis in the region.

The resolutions adopted included promoting the local committees and implanting coordinated anti-foot-and-mouth disease vaccination campaigns in the border areas.

#### **Colombia-Venezuela Agreement**

The IX Regular Meeting of the Colombia-Venezuela Animal-Health Agreement was held in November. Due to the intense trade of animals and animal products along the Colombia-Venezuela border, the official entities discussed the development of actions to control the transit and dealt with the application of standards and procedures within JUNAC to reduce illegal transit in the border zone, eliminate certain bureaucratic requirements, align control procedures, and facilitate technical border meetings between professionals of both countries. Unification of the vaccination timetable was also agreed upon. Vesicular stomatitis and Venezuelan equine encephalitis were also discussed.

With the opening of trade between the two countries, discussion continued concerning harmonizing standards of production and control of products of veterinary use.

#### **Ecuador-Peru-PAHO Agreement**

Beside vesicular diseases, this agreement includes swine cholera. The eighth meeting confirmed that there was a drop in the number of vesicular diseases registered and stressed the importance of epidemiological surveillance in the Tumbes-Piura region due to the influence exerted by the trade of animals between the two countries. A report was made of the vaccination activities carried out along the border, with PANAF-TOSA vaccine after 1993. Border transit-control stations were reinforced. Finally, recommendation was made that an analysis be made of the production and commercialization systems in the area, with the help of PANAF-TOSA, as well as improving the transit surveillance and control activities, increasing vaccination coverage, forming and activating departmental/local committees for veterinary assistance, and programming training courses for the technical personnel in the region.

### **Argentina-Chile Agreement**

Due to the occurrence of foot-and-mouth disease in San Carlos de Bariloche, in the province of Río Negro in Argentina, an extraordinary meeting of the Argentina-Chile Technical Commission was convoked in September 1994. The agenda included the above-mentioned outbreak and the eradication and surveillance measures adopted by the Argentinian authorities, as well as the preventive actions carried out by the SAG in the Chilean border region. Other topics discussed included the surveillance of the mountain pasture lands. Agreement was made to stimulate the exchange of professionals in the event of foci appearing, and to sponsor technical border meetings to become familiar with zones of epidemiological interest. It was agreed to arrange a simulated foot-and-mouth disease in the province of Mendoza.

### **Bolivia-Chile-Peru-PAHO Agreement**

Starting this year, the agreement adopted the name "The Bolivia-Chile-Peru Border Agreement for Animal Health and Zoonoses", and the first regular meeting was held in La Paz, Bolivia, in December. Chile was unable to send delegates. This agreement has become the forum for discussion of the intercountry proposals for development of infrastructure and activities concerning animal health and the environment. An analysis was also made of the occurrence of human and animal rabies and the prevalence of cysticercosis and distomatosis in the Bolivia-Peru border area. A project was presented for a Regional Plan for the Control and Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease in the South of Peru. The recommendations included development of the Bolivia-Peru-PANAFTOSA-PAHO joint foot-and-mouth disease control and eradication project in the border region, as well as others related to activities for controlling rabies, distomatosis and cysticercosis in the area covered by the Agreement.

## **6. Technical cooperation with countries in the free area**

As the Reference Laboratory for Diagnosis of Vesicular Diseases, the Center processed samples to confirm vesicular diseases sent by Central American countries, due to structural problems being faced by the Central American Laboratory for Diagnosis of Vesicular Diseases (LADIVES).

During the period, PANAFTOSA collaborated, through the Consultant in the Panamanian Representation, in training activities on prevention of foot-and-mouth disease and other exotic diseases in Nicaragua, El Salvador and Guatemala. In the latter it participated in the foot-and-mouth disease simulation, in defining ecosystems applied to activities to control bovine tuberculosis in Honduras and Nicaragua, and in seminars on livestock viral diseases and administration of animal-health programs in Costa Rica. Support was also given to actions to prevent and control rabies in herbivorous species and vesicular diseases on the Panama-Costa Rica border, and prevention of rabies and classic swine fever the Costa Rica-Nicaragua border.

The Consultant participated in representation of PANAFTOSA on the CIRSA Animal-Health Technical Committee in Guatemala.



In coordination with the University of Tuskegee, the Center supported the English-speaking countries of the Caribbean in developing a document on **Analysis of the Risk Associated with Importing Meat and Meat Products from Argentina and Uruguay to CARICOM Countries**, which was submitted to the appreciation of the Caribbean countries during the XII Intra-Caribbean Veterinary and Public Health Seminar, and is now in the final-revision stage.

In answer to a request from the Panamanian Ministry of Agriculture, PANAFTOSA lent its support in preparing an analysis of risk relating to the introduction of foot-and-mouth disease to the Central-American Isthmus due to the opening of a sea route between Cartagena in Colombia and Colón in Panama. After a visit to Colombia by the mission of technicians, the Panamanian Ministry of Agriculture decided to suspend the study, although the movement of vessels continued. Colombia solicited PANAFTOSA's support in developing the study further.

## **7. The role of PANAFTOSA/PAHO in the international and inter-regional trade of animals and animal products**

The year of 1994 was marked by important successes in the trade relations between the countries of the free area and those of the affected area, with regard to progress observed in the sanitary situation of foot-and-mouth disease, particularly in the region of the Plata Basin.

At the same time, both Argentina and Uruguay developed, with PANAFTOSA's cooperation, risk studies associated with exporting meat to the United States. Brazil is seeking international recognition of the favorable sanitary situation that prevails in Santa Catarina and Rio Grande do Sul in order to have access to the free-countries market.

Special importance is attached to the discussion of the concept of regionalization within the OIE, since this would facilitate trade exchange between areas of different sanitary situations. The Secretariat informed the OIE directors of its position on the proposed process to recognize the free areas, which was discussed during the meeting and led to PANAFTOSA being invited to the **Conference on Analysis of Risk, Animal Health and Trade** to be held in Paris in May.

## **8. Training**

During 1994, besides the **International Seminar on the Animal-Health Care Systems and the Changes in the Role of the State and of the Community** held before the XXI COSALFA, PANAFTOSA coordinated and participated in courses in the countries and intramurals. Of special importance were the **Course to Develop Animal-Health Programs and Services** for 28 participants from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela, and the **Seminar on Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease Vaccine** for 11 professionals from the Southern Cone, Colombia and Venezuela.

The Center participated in and coordinated courses on the **System of Field Work for Control of Foot-And-Mouth Disease** in Bolivia, one in Santa Cruz de la Sierra with 33 professionals participating and the other in Tarija with 25 participants. In Maracaibo, Venezuela, a course was held on **Use of Oil Adjuvanted Vaccine in Foot-and-Mouth Disease Control Programs**, with the participation of nine professionals. In addition, the Center sent a consultant to the **Forum on Vesicular Diseases: the Status Quo of Control and Future Prospects**, with 240 people attending.

With financing by Brazil, four courses were given on **Attention to Vesicular Foci**, with 149 field veterinarians. In the laboratory area, 28 professionals from Argentina and 13 from other countries were trained in service.

Between 1952 and 1994, PANAFOTSA trained in its headquarters 6180 professionals from countries of the region and other continents, and an even higher number in seminars, courses and workshops carried out in the countries.

#### **DEVELOPMENT OF THE MEETING**

Dr. José Germán Rodríguez Torres next presented "The Situation of Foot-and-Mouth Disease Programs", and Dr. Narey Cotrina presented "The Continental Information and Surveillance System for Vesicular Diseases", both in PANAFOTSA.

With regard to the latter, the Argentinian representative suggested that the weekly communication should include information about the characteristics of the zone where the occurrence of foci is registered. He also pointed out that the participation of livestock producers in the foot-and-mouth disease program has had a favorable repercussion on the timely attention to foci and consequent improvement of the level of sampling and identification of the causal agent.

Dr. Lennox Applewhaite from Guyana read a report on the activities relating to prevention of foot-and-mouth disease during 1994, and emphasized that despite the presence of foot-and-mouth disease in the state of Roraima, the country is still free of the disease. The veterinarian assigned to the region worked together with his Brazilian counterparts in following up the focus and control actions. He informed the meeting that samples of serum collected in the Rupununi region will presently be sent to the Center. He went on to describe the field structure of the Guyana Ministry of Agriculture and requested the Secretariat for more support in formulating and implementing a national program that will bring the country in the near future to ask the OIE to recognize its situation.

With respect to the operation of the system on the border level, he asked if the Brazilian veterinarian from the Bonfim Region in the state of Roraima could send information on the epidemiological situation of foot-and-mouth disease to Lethen (Guyana). Dr. Astudillo said that the opportunity should be used to send this information also to Santa Elena in Venezuela, thereby closing the circuit of information in the area.

The Delegate from Argentina intervened again to express his concern over the future prospects for the Epidemiological Surveillance System. He suggested that this should adjust to the characteristics of the epidemiological ecosystems

that exist in other countries, basing his presentation on the system operating in Argentina.

After a short interval the meeting re-opened with the presentation "Situation of the Regional, Subregional and Border Agreement Projects". First of all Dr. Francisco Muzio presented the situation of the Agreement on International Technical Cooperation for the Control and Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease in the Plata River Basin, from which the following extracts can be quoted:

The Agreement began its activities in 1989 with Uruguay, Argentina and the Brazilian state of Rio Grande do Sul, with Paraguay joining the group in 1992. The application of a strategy coordinated through the project and executed by the veterinary services of the countries with the technical cooperation of PANAFTOSA, based on the epidemiological definition of the ecosystems existing in the region, managed after the first five years to gradually eliminate the viral endemism and achieve clinical absence of the disease in almost all the initial area of the Agreement.

One of the important points of the strategy has been the active participation of livestock producers and to a lesser extent veterinarians from the private sector, universities and agribusiness in the administration of the program.

As a result of these advances, the OIE recognized Uruguay as a country free from foot-and-mouth disease with vaccination, and the continuity of the Agreement in the second stage (1994-1998) was made feasible with the proposal of consolidating the results in the initial area as programmed and extending it towards new epidemiological frontiers.

The Secretary ex officio then informed the meeting of the antecedents of the Andean Subregional Project, which has zonal projects, chiefly in the border areas of the member countries, indicating that these were prepared by a group of technicians from the countries and the Center.

The Representative from JUNAC informed the participants about the negotiations of the Board with the European Union, which resulted in two missions to assess the project, for which financing of US\$ 12 million has been requested for subregional activities. Information was also given concerning the actions of the Board in the process of consolidating integration supported by Decision 328 on the Andean Animal-Health System and Resolution 347 on Andean Standards for Intra-regional Trade of Animal Products and By-products.

The Delegate from Colombia reported on the actions being carried out in the Atlantic Coast Project, which has achieved a free area in the northwestern region reaching as far as the left bank of the Magdalena River, covering a population of approximately 4.5 million cattle.

The Delegate from Venezuela reported on the project being organized in the northwestern region bordering on Colombia which includes the states of Tachira and Zulia, stressing the importance of the regions bordering on Colombia for coordinating border activities.

The Delegate from Ecuador referred to the Ecuador-Colombia Border Project, where the norms for action have been unified and work is being undertaken based on local committees. He also informed the audience about the border project with Peru, where standardization actions have been taken, local committees are active, and a joint seminar was held on epidemiological surveillance. As for the project along the coast, he indicated that the resources for its execution will be obtained through a loan from the IDB and the World Bank, and will be used to set up the Ecuadorian Animal-Health Service.

The Delegate from Peru reported on the activities undertaken on the Bolivia-Chile border within the framework of the tripartite Agreement, and the pilot plans established on the border with Brazil.

The Representative of the Spanish Ministry of Agriculture then made a presentation on the programs carried out in his country towards controlling and eradicating foot-and-mouth disease, equine plague, vesicular swine disease and African swine disease.

To close, the Delegate from Brazil reported on the priority that his Government lends to the project of the territory of Roraima and the actions to be undertaken for foot-and-mouth disease control in the region.

A short break was followed by a communication by Dr. Primo Arámbulo III, Coordinator of the PAHO Veterinary Public-Health Program, referring to the next meetings of the Hemispheric Committee for the Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (COHEFA) and the Inter-American Meeting, at the Ministerial Level, on Animal Health (RIMSA) to be held at the PAHO headquarters on April 24-27. He requested the Delegates to encourage attendance by the Ministers of Agriculture and representatives of the livestock-producing sector at these important events. With regard to RIMSA, he emphasized the three panels that make up the agenda of the meeting: Food and Nutrition, Agriculture and Health, and Plague and Teniasis-Cysticercosis within the framework of the socioeconomic development of the Americas.

He also reported on the international meeting to be coordinated by FAO/OIE/PAHO/WHO to deal with the prospects of eradication of foot-and-mouth disease in the coming millenium and its impact on the availability of food. The scheduled venue is Brazil.

Dr. Raúl Londono, Director of the Pan American Institute for the Protection of Food and Zoonosis (INPPAZ) underscored the components of the institution's technical cooperation, especially the support given to sanitary protection of food through setting up ETA-surveillance systems, Sanitary Inspection of Foodstuffs, Analysis of Critical Points of Control and Laboratory Reference. With regard to the control of zoonosis, he mentioned the collaboration in tuberculosis, brucellosis, rabies and recently Peru's support in the antrax outbreak.

Dr. Benjamín Bowles, President of FEGASACRUZ, requested a change in the COSALFA statutes to allow inclusion of livestock producers on the Commission; accordingly, he will present a document attached to this Minute (APPENDIX IV). However, he requested that as of the next meeting a space be reserved for

discussion of technical matters among the livestock producers. The Secretary ex officio read the document referred to, which was unanimously approved by the Delegates. The Delegate from Ecuador asked that an appropriate resolution be written.

Dr. Robert Reichard of the OIE explained that organization's process of declaring countries free of foot-and-mouth disease and the editing of a list of the countries so considered, after they have met with the basic conditions. The countries on this list should apply for evaluation of their sanitary situation. He went on to state that the idea of creating zones free with vaccination in the countries would be discussed during the next general meeting of the OIE. Dr. Dante Geymonat from Uruguay appealed to the countries to participate more actively in the OIE meetings.

Dr. Pedro Pinate, of the Venezuela Federation of Livestock Producers, presented an analysis of the international transit of animals in the region, and an assessment of the vaccination coverage in the countries, which provoked reactions from the delegates present with regard to how to interpret the information presented.

Dr. Antonio Mendes da Silva from PANAFTOSA next presented a summary of the EEC/Plata River Basin/PANAFTOSA Project, stressing the results of the ELISA test in the evaluation made of the behavior of serological tests vis-à-vis the footpad generalization test on cattle in the potency control of foot-and-mouth disease vaccines. These results pointed to the capacity of the serological elements in ELISA in predicting the response of cattle to foot-and-mouth disease virus.

In this sense, the use of the ELISA test was also observed in evaluating the immunity status of bovine populations. On the other hand, the Delegates from Brazil and Argentina manifested that they had already established and defined the plans for control and rules for decision on using the ELISA test in the control of foot-and-mouth disease vaccine.

Mr. Zeilah Carrasco, President of FEDENAGA, proposed (and was supported by the delegates) to draw up a Resolution urging the Venezuela government authorities to support the National Eradication Plan.

The Representatives of Uruguay, Argentina and Brazil exposed the importance of maintaining a single line of support and technical cooperation, referring in this case to the work carried out by PANAFTOSA, and solicited the preparation of a resolution to ratify Resolution VII of COSALFA XXI, which indicates PANAFTOSA's all-important role in actions relating to control and eradication of foot-and-mouth disease on the Continent. Dr. Primo Arámbulo III also spoke on the same topic, drawing attention to the political and technical importance of COSALFA and maintenance of a unified line of action towards eradication of foot-and-mouth disease. He informed the Plenary that he would have such a resolution prepared and forwarded to the highest levels of the institutions for technical and financial cooperation.

Consideration was given to electing a venue for the XXIII COSALFA, with unanimous acceptance of the Republic of Venezuela, in a city to be defined later on.

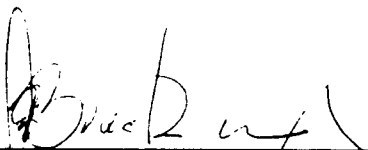
The representatives of the livestock producers' associations present at COSALFA paid tribute to Dr. Vicente Astudillo, presenting him with a plaque in gratitude for his work with the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center.

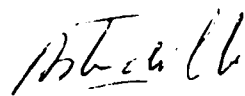
The closing session was presided over by the Subsecretary for Livestock, Dr. Carlos Bruckner; Mr. Eduardo Araújo and the Secretary ex officio also made some statements. The following resolutions were then read and approved:

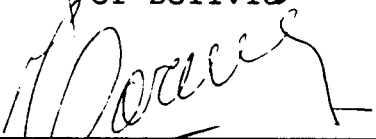
- I. Subregional Project for the Control and Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease in the Plata River Basin.
- II. Andean Subregional Project.
- III. Subregional Amazon Project for Foot-and-Mouth Disease Prevention, Control and Eradication.
- IV. The orienting role of the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center in preparing and executing projects to prevent, control and eradicate the disease.
- V. Request by the livestock-producers sector for incorporation into COSALFA.
- VI. International seminar on epidemiological surveillance and Information systems, from the viewpoint of eradication and the new models of veterinary attention.
- VII. Support of the efforts of the Foot-and-Mouth Disease Control and Eradication Program in Venezuela.
- VIII. Expression of gratitude to the Republic of Bolivia.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, The Chairman of the Meeting, Dr. Carlos Bruckner, Under Secretary of Livestock of Bolivia; the Director of Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center, Secretary ex officio of COSALFA; the Delegates of the member countries, sign the present Final Report in the Spanish and English languages, both texts being equally authentic.

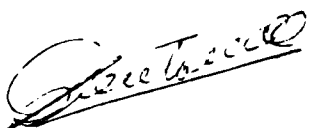
Done in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, on this ten day of March, nineteen and ninety five.

  
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President  
Under Secretary of Livestock  
of Bolivia

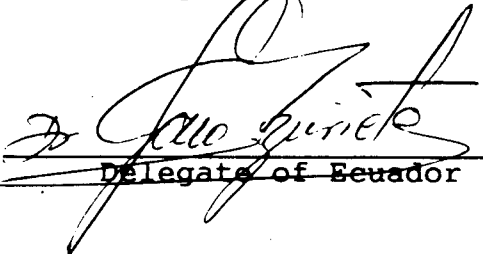
  
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Secretary ex officio  
Director of Pan American  
Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center

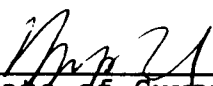
  
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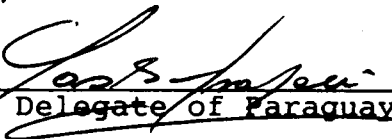
  
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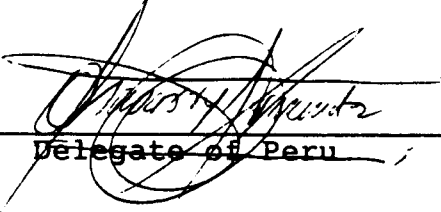
  
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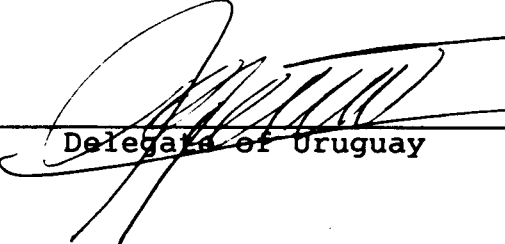
  
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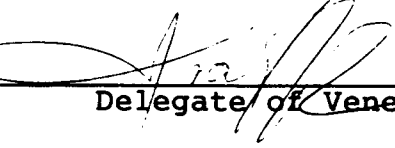
  
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Delegate of Ecuador

  
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R E S O L U T I O N S

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THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO  
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**RESOLUTION I**  
*Subregional Project for the Control and Eradication  
of Foot-and-Mouth Disease in the Plata River Basin*

THE XXII REGULAR MEETING OF COSALFA,

Considering:

The results achieved by the Foot-and-Mouth Disease Control and Eradication Project in the Rio de la Plata Basin, which has begun in 1994 its second stage with a striking advance in the regional sanitary situation, wherein outstanding achievements are the cessation of vaccination in Uruguay in its progress and transition to the condition of a foot-and-mouth disease-free country, the Argentine Mesopotamia now recording more than two years without the presence of foot-and-mouth disease, and the states of Rio Grande do Sul and Santa Catarina in Brazil also registering more than a year in the same situation;

The demand for resources needed to carry out the second stage, whose request for funding was submitted to the Financing Fund for the Development of the Plata Basin (FONPLATA);

The necessity to maintain the Project activities while funding is being negotiated, and

That the recognition on the international level of "zones free with vaccination" will stimulate the veterinary administrations and the livestock-producing community to proceed in their joint efforts to pursue the eradication of the disease,

**RESOLVES:**

1. To congratulate the member countries of the Agreement for their accomplishments and encourage them to continue in their efforts to consolidate the Agreement's goals, by providing the economic support required to maintain the Project's activities until the said funding has been obtained.
2. To reaffirm its satisfaction for the process of integration being developed among the countries, with the cooperation of PANAFTOSA, which has enabled this Project to attain the important advances within the framework of the Hemispheric Program for the Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease and stimulate the execution of similar projects in other areas of the Continent.

3. To express its agreement with the admission of Bolivia as an active member of the Agreement within the methodological framework and the sanitary strategies, which with the technical cooperation provided by PANAFTOSA have been successful in the Plata Basin subregion.

4. To encourage the countries to support, at the next General Assembly of the OIE, the inclusion in the International Zoosanitary Code of the requirements for "foot-and-mouth disease free zones with vaccination."

(Approved in the Plenary Session  
on 10 March 1995)

**RESOLUTION II**  
*Andean Subregional Project*

THE XXII REGULAR MEETING OF COSALFA,

Considering:

That the new epidemiological scenario achieved in South America, as a consequence of the foot-and-mouth disease eradication strategies and policies, has become a benchmark that urgently requires more effective and efficient operations by the Andean Foot-and-Mouth Disease Eradication Project, and

That the favorable experiences resulting from the eradication of foot-and-mouth disease in important areas and countries of South America, such experiences associated with the application of operational strategies based on the organized integration and coparticipation of the private and public sectors, constitute a referential element to push forward the advance and definitive contribution to the eradication of foot-and-mouth disease on the Continent,

RESOLVES:

1. To encourage the Andean Subregion countries to ratify the political commitment to foster as effectively and efficiently as possible the execution of the Andean Foot-and-Mouth Disease Eradication Project, based on the administrative, technical and financial comanagement by the public and private sectors, particularly the livestock producers.
2. To develop the execution of the Andean Foot-and-Mouth Disease Eradication Project based on the implementation of the Zonal Components, conceived as critical nodules that condition the occurrence and spread of the disease in the Sub-region.
3. Through the Cartagena Agreement Board's contacts with the European Union, or through other international financial and technical cooperation entities, to persist in or initiate similar initiatives in the processes of soliciting cooperation for the carrying out of the Andean Project as a whole or its Zonal Components in particular, within the framework of the technical guidelines explicitly defined by the countries with the technical advisement from PANAFTOSA/PAHO.
4. To underscore the importance of the Andean Subregional Project as a mechanism for guaranteeing the continuity, coordinated execution and application of the regional approaches, like the experience of the Plata River Basin Subproject which, in this aspect, has been fundamental for the fulfillment of the control and eradication goals.

(Approved in the Plenary Session  
on 10 March 1995)

**RESOLUTION III**  
*Subregional Amazon Project for Foot-and-Mouth Disease  
Prevention, Control and Eradication*

THE XXII REGULAR MEETING OF COSALFA,

Considering:

That the livestock-producing development existing in this Subregion provides conditions for maintaining the endemism of foot-and-mouth disease;

That the existence of vesicular disease in some areas of the Subregion has been informed, and

That the delegations from Brazil, Guyana and Venezuela have informed about the priorities and actions that have been programmed for the Subregion,

**RESOLVES:**

1. To reiterate Resolution III of COSALFA XX and Resolution V of COSALFA XXI, about the actions that should be developed in the Subproject area.
2. To recommend the execution of the activities of the existing border agreements, as a means to carry out coordinated actions among the countries.
3. To encourage the countries to promote the participation of the livestock producers and other sectors relate to the programs.

(Approved in the Plenary Session  
on 10 March 1995)

## RESOLUTION IV

*The orienting role of the  
Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center  
in preparing and executing projects to prevent,  
control and eradicate the disease*

THE XXII REGULAR MEETING OF COSALFA,

Considering:

That, in compliance with a mandate from the American countries, the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth-Disease Center (PANAFTOSA/PAHO) acts as a foot-and-mouth disease reference center for the Americas and, by designation of the International Office of Epizootics, exercises the same function;

That PANAFTOSA/PAHO has been carrying out a technical cooperation program to support the countries in the organization, planning and execution of control, eradication and prevention programs which have become national programs in all the countries and subregional projects. The most important advances are the eradication of foot-and-mouth disease in Chile and Uruguay, the significant reduction of outbreaks in Argentina and the southern states of Brazil, the creation of the free area in the northwestern region of Colombia and the maintenance of the free areas in Argentina, Guyana, French Guiana and Suriname;

That through a joint action of PANAFTOSA and the countries, and under the COSALFA Resolutions, a foot-and-mouth disease control methodology has been developed that takes into account the socioeconomic, cultural and commercial interrelationships of the countries themselves, and a group of professionals has been trained to constitute the qualified scientific base entrusted with the responsibility of managing the prevention, control and eradication actions;

That PANAFTOSA's technical cooperation provided to the countries has led to the establishment of an epidemiological surveillance and information system that generates the information necessary for the management of the programs and the definition of regional control ecosystems, the standardization of the foot-and-mouth disease vaccine quality-control and diagnostic methods, and the development of the oil-adjuvanted foot-and-mouth diseases vaccines, and

The desirability for the countries to coordinate and channelize the available bilateral and international financial and technical cooperation, in order to make maximum use of those resources,

## RESOLVES:

1. To reiterate Resolutions V and VII of COSALFA XIX and COSALFA XXI, respectively, so that all the countries elaborate and execute all the projects related to the prevention, control and eradication of foot-and-mouth disease with the participation and orientation, in all phases, of the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center, in order to maintain uniformity in the technical activities and strategies, in accordance with the Hemispheric Plan for Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease.
2. To request that the bilateral and international financial and technical cooperation agencies utilize the existing coordination mechanisms to prevent duplications that might affect the suitable organization and execution of the programs, the efficient use of the available resources and the commitment of those resources.

(Approved in the Plenary Session  
on 10 March 1995)



**RESOLUTION V**

*Request by the livestock-producers' sector  
for incorporation into COSALFA*

THE XXII REGULAR MEETING OF COSALFA,

Considering:

The statement by the livestock-producers' sector, meeting in Santa Cruz de la Sierra on March 9, 1995, at the time of the COSALFA XXII meeting, pursuant to the Meeting Notes enclosed herewith, and

The unanimous acceptance by all the delegations in favor of the inclusion of the livestock producers' sector into the South American Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (COSALFA),

RESOLVES:

1. To approve the livestock-producers sector's inclusion into COSALFA.
2. To request that the Secretariat undertake the procedures required for admission.

(Approved in the Plenary Session  
on 10 March 1995)

## RESOLUTION VI

*International seminar on epidemiological surveillance  
and information systems, from the viewpoint of  
eradication and the new models of veterinary attention*

THE XXII REGULAR MEETING OF COSALFA,

Considering:

That Resolution XI of COSALFA XXI requested that PANAFTOSA/PAHO undertake to organize, promote and develop this international seminar, given the progress observed in the foot-and-mouth disease epidemiological situation in certain regions of the Continent and the growing importance of the epidemiological surveillance and information systems and of the development of veterinary attention systems based on shared management by the official sector and the community;

That PANAFTOSA/PAHO, in response to said request, has conducted the above-mentioned seminar with broad participation of official representatives, cattle producers, representatives from the biological products and meat, milk and by-products processing industries, trade and political entities' leaders, university representatives and representatives of international technical and financial organizations, and

That in their recommendations, the seminar's delegates discussed the topic from the viewpoint of promoting, in the countries that are in an advanced process of control and eradication, the reorientation of their surveillance and information systems toward the prevention of the reintroduction and spreading of the agent, utilizing the prevention approach of including risk determination, implementation of differential diagnostic techniques and the execution of quarantine and field activities in coordination with the community,

## RESOLVES:

1. To adopt the recommendations of the International Seminar on Epidemiological Surveillance and Information Systems, from the viewpoint of Eradication and the New Models of Veterinary Attention.
2. To recommend that the Secretariat, the delegates, the producers and representatives of the participating social and economic sectors all support the development and implementation of such systems in the countries or regions of the Continent.

3. To request that the PANAFTOSA/PAHO organize, promote and develop prior to COSALFA XXIII, an International Seminar on "Risk Analysis in Relation to the International Commerce of Animals and Animal-Origin Products", taking into account the globalization of the economy and regionalization in accordance with the countries' epidemiological situation.

(Approved in the Plenary Session  
on 10 March 1995)

**RESOLUTION VII***Support of the Efforts of the Foot-and-Mouth Disease Control  
and Eradication Program in Venezuela*

THE XXII REGULAR MEETING OF COSALFA,

Considering the interest demonstrated by the Delegation from Venezuela (private and public sectors) to strengthen the advance of the foot-and-mouth disease eradication subprojects in that country,

**RESOLVES:**

To exhort the authorities of the Government of the Republic of Venezuela to seek ways to accelerate the implementation of the programs required to achieve the eradication of foot-and-mouth disease in Venezuela and to adopt the terms of the statement submitted to this COSALFA meeting.

(Approved in the Plenary Session  
on 10 March 1995)

**RESOLUTION VIII***Expression of gratitude to the Republic of Bolivia*

THE XXII REGULAR MEETING OF COSALFA,

Considering:

The extraordinary support provided by the Government of the Republic of Bolivia, through the National Secretariat of Agriculture and Livestock, by the Municipal Government of Santa Cruz, the Federation of Livestock Raisers of Santa Cruz, the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation, and the private companies, all of which have contributed to the holding of the XXII Ordinary Meeting of COSALFA, and

The excellent conditions for holding the International Seminar on "Epidemiological Surveillance and Information Systems, from the viewpoint of Eradication and the New Models of Veterinary Attention" which enjoyed the active participation of the official and private sectors, both national and international,

**RESOLVES:**

1. To express its gratitude to the Republic of Bolivia, represented by the National Secretariat of Agriculture and Livestock, for its excellent contribution to the holding of the XXII Ordinary Meeting of COSALFA.
2. To thank the Municipal Government of Santa Cruz, the Federation of Livestock Raisers of Santa Cruz, the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation through the International Center for Training for Development, the National Commission of Foot-and-Mouth Disease Eradication and other official and private entities, for the support and facilities placed at the disposal of the XXII Regular Meeting and of the Seminar held prior to the COSALFA.
3. To thank the livestock producers in the department of Santa Cruz for the hospitality offered to the delegates participating in these events.

(Approved in the Plenary Session  
on 10 March 1995)

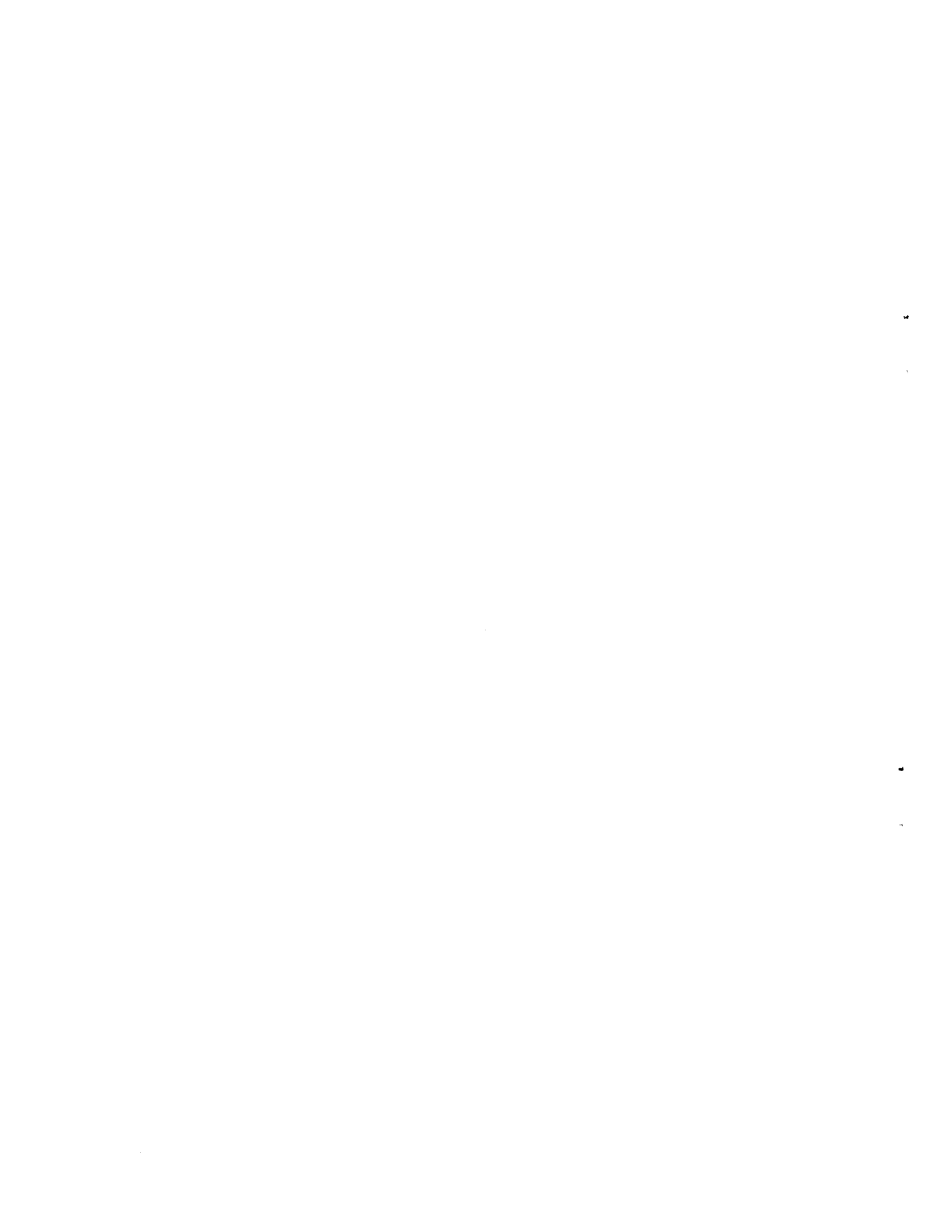


A P P E N D I X I

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LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE

XXII REGULAR MEETING

Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, 6-7 March, 1995

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A P P E N D I X   I I

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P R O G R A M

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

XXII REGULAR MEETING

Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, 9 y 10 de marzo de 1995

P R O G R A M

**Thursday, March 9, 1995**

- 09:00        Opening Session.
- 09:30        Report of the Secretariat.
- 10:00        Discussion of the Report.
- 10:45        Epidemiological Situation of Foot-and-Mouth Disease Programs in  
South America.
- 11:30        Evaluation of the Information and Surveillance System on Vesicular  
Diseases.
- 12:30        Break.
- 14:00        Situation of Regional and Subregional Projects and Border  
Agreements.
- 16:30        Foot-and-Mouth Disease Programs and the progress of the Subregional  
Agreements of Animal Health Integration.

**Friday, March 10, 1995**

- 09:00        Recommendation for the Seminar on "Epidemiological Surveillance and  
Information Systems, from the Viewpoint of Eradication and the New  
Models of Veterinary Care".
- 10:45        Other matters.
- 12:00        Break.
- 14:00        Resolutions.
- 16:00        Final Report.
- 17:00        Closing Session.



A P P E N D I X   I I I

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RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON  
EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SURVEILLANCE AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS,  
FROM THE VIEWPOINT OF ERADICATION AND  
THE NEW MODELS OF VETERINARY CARE

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INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON  
EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SURVEILLANCE AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS,  
FROM THE VIEWPOINT OF ERADICATION AND  
THE NEW MODELS OF VETERINARY CARE

Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, 6-8 March, 1995

RECOMMENDATION I

Technical and methodological changes required by modifications  
in the foot-and-mouth disease epidemiological situation

THE INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SURVEILLANCE AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS, FROM THE VIEWPOINT OF ERADICATION AND THE NEW MODELS OF VETERINARY CARE,

Considering:

The significant advances noticed in the epidemiological situation of foot-and-mouth disease in South America, principally in the region of the Southern Cone, where the disease in its clinical form has not been registered for the past four years in Uruguay, which is free with vaccination, for two years in the Argentine Mesopotamia and for more than a year in the states of Rio Grande do Sul and Santa Catarina, and free status of Chile and the Argentine Patagonia, all of which now require the adoption of a new strategy that stresses prevention activities, and

The importance of epidemiological surveillance, based on the full awareness and knowledge of the forms of livestock production, for the expansion and maintenance of the region's free areas, and conducted in a coordinated fashion by laboratory and field and applied to the interpretation of the level of vulnerability and receptivity to the foot-and-mouth disease agent in the free areas or in those in the process of eradication,

RECOMMENDS:

1. That the national eradication programs in those countries and/or regions where this process has reached an advanced stage, henceforth take into account the need to adapt the surveillance and information systems to the demands of a process for prevention of agent reintroduction. This should be based on an active surveillance structure and on the capacity to characterize the virus antigenically and immunogenically, plus on the eventual existence of carriers, utilizing the traditional laboratory diagnosis tools and the new virus genome characterization tools.

2. That those traditionally free countries or regions continue conducting the already established preventive surveillance activities and develop a prevention program that includes the characterization of the risks of virus introduction and the mechanisms of quarantine and emergency response to the possible reintroduction of the agent.
3. That this process be supported by a widespread program of training in the diagnostic techniques appropriate for each field epidemiological situation and at the current moment in the process of eradication of the disease, as well as in the structuring of the preventive surveillance and measures to control outbreaks, which allow a perfect laboratory-field interaction in maintaining or improving the sanitary condition acquired by the country.
4. That once the disease-free status has been achieved, the countries should restrict the handling of virus to laboratories of high security or to laboratories that utilize the Regional Reference Center.

**RECOMMENDATION II**  
**Strengthening of the surveillance systems for**  
**foot-and-mouth disease prevention**

THE INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SURVEILLANCE AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS, FROM THE VIEWPOINT OF ERADICATION AND THE NEW MODELS OF VETERINARY CARE,

Considering:

That the world economic order has been changing both qualitatively and quantitatively at a fast pace, with the formation and revision of bilateral agreements and of economic and commercial blocks that require a rationalization and flexibilization of the sanitary requirements and restrictions to promote and facilitate trade and economic integration;

That this same fact, combined with the growth of tourism among regions of varying sanitary levels can increase the risk of disease appearance in the countries where it has been inexistent;

That the characterization and regionalization of the countries' production and commercialization systems have led to notable progress in the foot-and-mouth disease prevention, control and eradication programs in the region;

That the risk evaluation methodologies have increasingly favored trade interchange, and

The need for the countries to maintain transparency and harmony in their activities, in order to attain greater credibility,

## RECOMMENDS :

That the countries, as quickly as possible, implement surveillance systems for the prevention of foot-and-mouth disease and other exotic diseases based on an up-to-date characterization and regionalization of the production and commercialization systems, in order to permit the assessment of risks of disease introduction due to tourism and/or international commerce, with the support and cooperation of PANAFTOSA/PAHO and other international cooperation agencies.

## RECOMMENDATION III

Participation of social and other sectors in  
local surveillance systems

THE INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SURVEILLANCE AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS, FROM THE VIEWPOINT OF ERADICATION AND THE NEW MODELS OF VETERINARY CARE,

Considering:

The process of restructuration underway among States and Countries, which has been noticed in different countries of South America, has rendered in some cases a reduction in the veterinary attention structures and consequent decentralization and privatization of some technical and administrative activities inherent to veterinary attention;

That the aforesaid process has fostered the integration and participation of the different social sectors in the processes of surveillance of the behavior of animal health and production, to sustain decision-making at the local level;

That in areas where the small-farm livestock-production system is predominant it is necessary to incorporate nonconventional participation mechanisms into the surveillance systems;

The successful experiences of management shared among the official sector, the productive sectors and other social segments, of the national or regional programs, and

The experience of the universities in supporting the foot-and-mouth disease eradication programs, applying epidemiological surveillance instruments at the local level and determining risk levels, based on the methodology of production systems characterization,

## RECOMMENDS :

1. That the countries review and adjust their epidemiological surveillance systems to emphasize the utilization of the information at the local level,

having as its functional mainspring the social participation and interinstitutional and intersectoral integration. To this end, it is necessary to establish a program to train new agents involved in installing and expanding the surveillance systems, with the technical support supplied by PANAFTOSA/PAHO and other international technical cooperation agencies.

2. That the active participation of the universities, of other professional training agencies and related sectors of the society be encouraged to carry out programs for the prevention, control and eradication of foot-and-mouth disease and other economically important diseases, as well as in the development of studies that support the strategic approaches utilized in the programs.

**RECOMMENDATION IV**  
**Computerized support to the surveillance**  
**systems at the local level**

THE INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SURVEILLANCE AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS, FROM THE VIEWPOINT OF ERADICATION AND THE NEW MODELS OF VETERINARY CARE,

Considering:

That the foot-and-mouth disease control and eradication programs in South America have had the support of an Epidemiological Surveillance and Information System developed with the technical support of PANAFTOSA/PAHO, utilized in the managing of their activities;

That PANAFTOSA/PAHO is developing a computer program to register, process and utilize the data gathered by the system, at the local level;

That the modular characteristics of the concept of epidemiological analysis of information for this program, collected for decisionmaking, allows a broad spectrum of applications in surveillance at the local level, as well as the intercommunication with other managerial levels of the program, and

That this technology and the computer equipment can be acquired at reasonable cost,

**RECOMMENDS:**

That PANAFTOSA/PAHO proceed with the development of this methodology and its implementation in the demonstration area and, as soon as possible, transfer it to the countries for the automation and enhancement of the programs' local epidemiological surveillance and information systems, and that the countries should assign the funds needed for compatibilization, implementation and future development of the methodology.

**RECOMMENDATION V****Utilization of the risk approach**

THE INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SURVEILLANCE AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS, FROM THE VIEWPOINT OF ERADICATION AND THE NEW MODELS OF VETERINARY CARE,

Considering:

That the application of the policy of foot-and-mouth disease eradication in the countries of South America has resulted in the configuration of a new epidemiological panorama, within which appear important zones with absence of viral activity, and

That this epidemiological situation may be altered by the reintroduction and spread of virus resulting from the production and commercial interrelationships with other epidemiological ecosystems existing in each country or region,

**RECOMMENDS:**

That the countries, within their disease-prevention strategies, develop risk estimates for the protection of free zones in relation with the dynamics and tendencies of the commercial interrelationships, in order to complement epidemiological surveillance and the use of information at the local level.



**INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON  
EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SURVEILLANCE AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS,  
FROM THE VIEWPOINT OF ERADICATION AND  
THE NEW MODELS OF VETERINARY CARE**

Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, 6-8 March, 1995

**P R O G R A M**

**Monday, March 6**

08:00 a.m. Registration

08:30 a.m. Opening Session

**Part 1: Epidemiological Surveillance and Information Systems**

Chairman: Dr. Dante Geymonat, Director General de los  
Servicios Ganaderos, Uruguay

Rapporteurs: Dr. Francisco Muzio, PANAFTOSA  
Dr. Mairo Urbina, ICA-Colombia

09:00 a.m. Coffee break

09:30 a.m. Epidemiological Surveillance and Information Systems facing  
the changes due to the eradication process  
. Dr. Vicente Astudillo, PANAFTOSA

10:30 a.m. Serological and Molecular Biology Tools in Epidemiological  
Surveillance  
. Dr. Victor Saraiva, PANAFTOSA

11:00 a.m. Epidemiological Surveillance and Information Systems for the  
Prevention of Exotic Diseases  
. Dr. J. Fernando Dora, PANAFTOSA  
. Dr. Mairo Urbina, ICA-Colombia

11:30 a.m. Plenary Session: discussion and drafting of recommendations

01:00 p.m. Lunch

**Part 2: Epidemiological Surveillance at Local Level**

Chairman: Dr. Carlos Bruckner, Undersecretary for Livestock  
of Bolivia

Rapporteur: Dr. Hugo Tamayo, PANAFTOSA

**Monday, March 6 (cont.)**

- 02:30 p.m. Computerized Data Processing and its Application to Epidemiological Surveillance: experience of São Paulo, Brazil  
 . Mr. Antonio Mendes, PANAFTOSA
- 03:00 p.m. Tools for Risk Analysis at the Local Level: the experience of Uruguay  
 . Dr. Luis Eduardo Dias, MGAP-Uruguay
- 03:30 p.m. Models of Epidemiological Surveillance Systems at Local Level: the role of the University  
 . Dr. Daniel Schettino, University of Tadil, Argentina
- 04:30 p.m. Coffee break

**Tuesday, March 7**

**Part 3: Participation of the Community in Epidemiological Surveillance Systems**  
 Chairman: Dr. Bernardo Casé, President of SENASA-Argentina  
 Rapporteurs: Dr. V. Saraiva, PANAFTOSA  
 Dr. J.F. Dora, PANAFTOSA

08:30 a.m. Non-Conventional Methods for Strengthening Local Epidemiological Surveillance Systems Based on Social Participation  
 . Dr. Narey Cotrina, PANAFTOSA

09:15 a.m. Surveillance and Information Systems in Public Health: a social approach  
 Dr. Ariel Depetris, PAHO-Perú

10:00 a.m. Epidemiological Surveillance Systems with Community Participation in Food-and-Mouth Disease Local Plan  
 . Dr. Ricardo Maresca, SENASA-Argentina

11:50 a.m. Plenary session: discussion and recommendations

01:00 p.m. Lunch

04:00 p.m. Reading of the recommendations

06:00 p.m. Closing session

**Wednesday, March 8**

Visit of field



A P P E N D I X I V

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STATEMENT OF THE LIVESTOCK-PRODUCERS' SECTOR  
Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia. March 9, 1995  
(Resolution V of COSALFA XXII)

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1. The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions and activities. It emphasizes that this is crucial for ensuring transparency and accountability in the organization's operations.

2. The second part of the document outlines the various methods and tools used to collect and analyze data. It highlights the need for consistent data collection procedures and the use of advanced analytical techniques to derive meaningful insights from the data.

3. The third part of the document focuses on the implementation of data-driven decision-making processes. It provides a detailed overview of the steps involved in identifying key performance indicators (KPIs) and using data to inform strategic decisions.

4. The fourth part of the document discusses the challenges and risks associated with data management and analysis. It offers practical advice on how to mitigate these risks and ensure the integrity and security of the data.

5. The fifth part of the document concludes with a summary of the key findings and recommendations. It stresses the importance of ongoing monitoring and evaluation to ensure that the data-driven approach remains effective and relevant over time.

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**STATEMENT BY THE LIVESTOCK-PRODUCERS' SECTOR**

Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia. March 9, 1995

The associations of organized livestock producers of South America, meeting on March 9, 1995, in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, on the occasion of the XXII Regular Meeting of the South American Commission for the Control of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (COSALFA),

Considering:

The economic repercussion of foot-and-mouth disease on the development of livestock production in South America, and on the production of meat, milk and by-products required for exportation and local consumption;

That the COSALFA member States have agreed to conduct the Hemispheric Foot-and-Mouth Disease Eradication Plan which, in reality, has been carried out with striking differences among the countries with respect to the level of vaccination coverage and other concrete actions, thereby jeopardizing their effectiveness, and

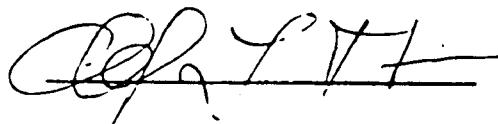
That the regional Livestock Producers Sector has contributed to the carrying out of the different projects under the aforesaid Plan, amounting to 76% of the total expenditures (US\$226 million) in 1994, which is an important percentage by the private sector,

HEREBY AGREE:

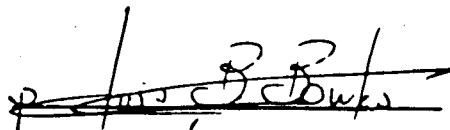
1. Through the XXII Regular Meeting of COSALFA, to exhort the governments of the Member States that are behind in their eradication of foot-and-mouth disease to assume fully their commitment to support the execution of the plan and of the different projects and subprojects.
2. To request that the XXII Regular Meeting of COSALFA undertake action to secure cooperation from the South American countries free of foot-and-mouth disease in sharing their experiences and spreading the application of the eradication measures, particularly among the private and public sectors of the countries still affected.
3. To call for an annual meeting of the livestock producers' organizations and associations in South America, jointly with the annual regular meeting of COSALFA, in order to assess from the viewpoint of the producers, the advances and problems confronted in the eradication of the disease during the year immediately preceding.

Given in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, on nine March 1995.

Manuel Aviani, Representative  
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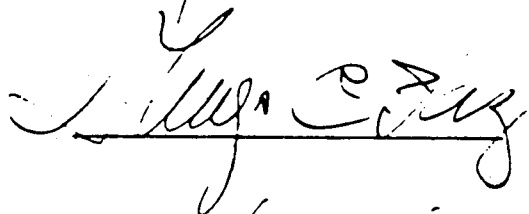
Fernando Sattori, President  
LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS CONFEDERATION  
OF BOLIVIA



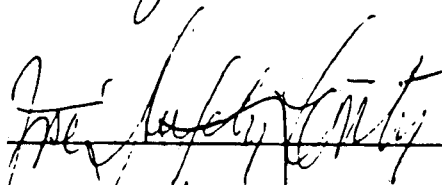
Luis Benjamín Bowles, President  
LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS FEDERATION  
OF SANTA CRUZ, BOLIVIA, FEGASACRUZ



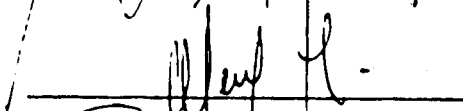
Hugo Giudice Paz, President  
FEDERATION OF FARMERS OF THE STATE  
OF RIO GRANDE DO SUL, BRAZIL, FARSUL



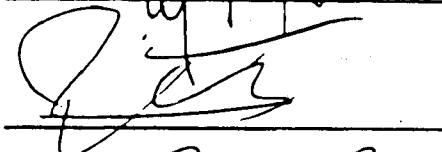
José de Angelis Cortes, Representative  
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF BEEF CATTLE  
OF SÃO PAULO, BRAZIL, ABIEC/CNPC



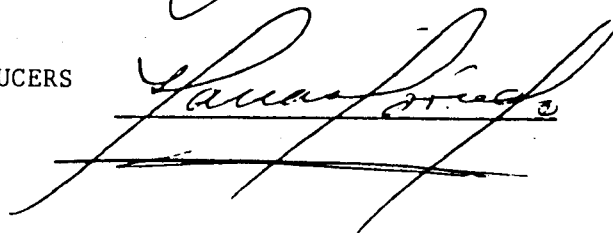
Manuel Rodríguez Escobar, Representative  
RURAL ASSOCIATION OF PARAGUAY



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RURAL FEDERATION OF URUGUAY



Zeilah Carrasco, President  
NATIONAL FEDERATION OF LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS  
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