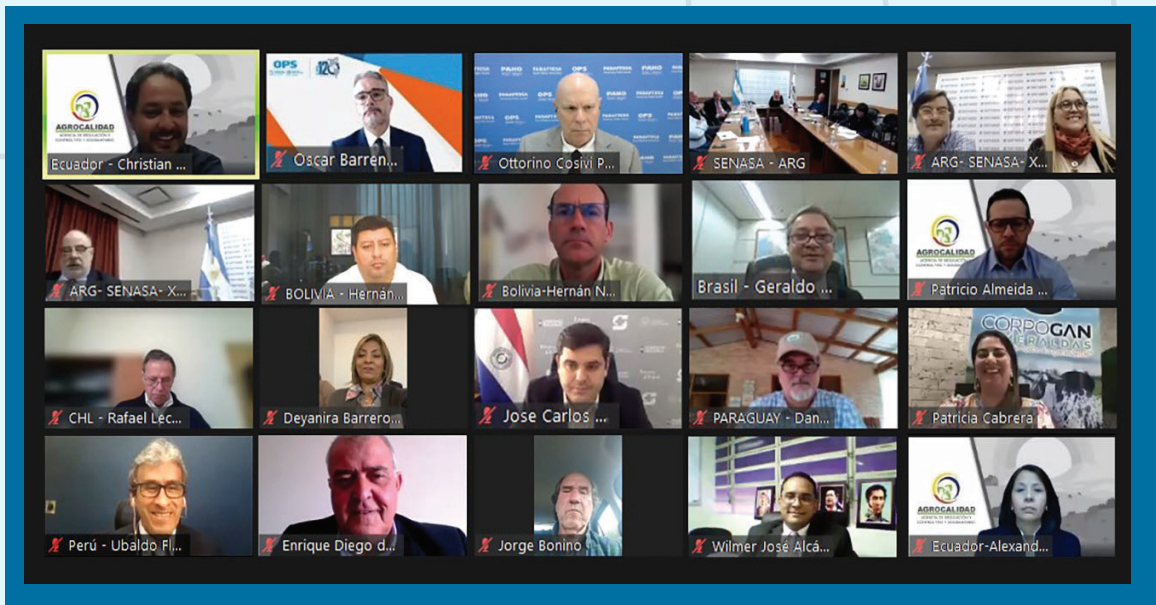


COSALFA 49

Virtual Meeting- Ecuador | 25- 26 August 2022

FINAL REPORT



PANAFTOSA
Pan American Center for Foot-and-Mouth
Disease and Veterinary Public Health



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

49th ORDINARY MEETING

FINAL REPORT

Virtual Meeting - Ecuador | 25 - 26 August 2022



PAHO



WHO

PANAFTOSA

Pan American Center for Foot-and-Mouth
Disease and Veterinary Public Health

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FINAL REPORT

August 25, 2022

1. OPENING CEREMONY

The opening session of the COSALFA 49 was composed by Mr. Wilson Patricio Almeida Granja, Executive Director of the Phytosanitary and Zoosanitary Regulation and Control Agency (Agrocalidad), on behalf of the Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Ecuador, Mr. Bernardo Manzano; the representative of the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization in Ecuador, Mr. Oscar Martin Barreneche; the Director of the Pan American Center for Foot-and-Mouth Disease and Veterinary Public Health of the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization, Mr. Ottorino Cosivi; the president of the *Corporación de Ganaderos de Esmeraldas*, Ecuador, on behalf of the private sector; Mrs. Patricia Cabrera; and the president pro tempore of the 48th COSALFA and president of the National Service of Quality and Animal Health (SENACSA), Paraguay, Mr. José Carlos Martin Camperchioli.

The representative of PAHO/WHO in Ecuador, Dr. Barreneche, was invited to open the meeting. He welcomed all the participants virtually on behalf of PAHO's director, Dr. Carissa Etienne, and warmly greeted the Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Ecuador, Mr. Bernardo Manzano, and expressed his special appreciation for his collaboration and commitment, as representative of the host country, for the organization of the COSALFA 49. He pointed out that this meeting is being held close to the half of the 2021-2025 Action Plan of the Hemispheric Program for the Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (PHEFA), which commits us to reinforce our best efforts to achieve a continent free from this disease and, from the same perspective, contribute to the development and welfare of our peoples. He also extended greetings and expressed his gratitude to all the delegates of the public and private sectors, on behalf of the 13 countries of South America and Panama, the observers and representatives of international bodies and public and private service institutions that lend prestige to this COSALFA. He recalled that since PANAFTOSA/PAHO's creation, more than 70 years ago, the countries of our region, in collaboration with our organization and other international and national bodies, have made significant advances toward the eradication of foot-and-mouth disease in South America. Except for Venezuela, all South American countries have been granted the official status of free of foot-and-mouth disease with or without vaccination by the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH), and all the countries and territories of North America, Central America and the Caribbean have maintained their status of free without vaccination. The region has achieved a very privileged situation, and this commits us to redouble the efforts in the unfinished tasks targeted by the PHEFA Plan of Action 2021-2025. Firstly, eliminating foot-and-mouth disease in Venezuela, which still does not have the free status. Secondly, we should advance in the eradication, with the transition to the free status without vaccination, in free zones and countries which are still vaccinating their bovine populations. Thirdly, we should redouble the prevention and preparation efforts to sustain the progress made. Finally, Dr. Barreneche restated PAHO's commitment to achieve a foot-and-mouth disease-free continent and wished a fruitful meeting for all, remaining available for comments and suggestions regarding initiatives for the public good such as the eradication of foot-and-mouth disease in our continent.

Afterwards, Dr. Camperchioli, in his position of president pro-tempore, greeted the participants and emphasized that it had been an honor for him to be the president of the COSALFA during the period. He remarked that he had worked in a well-organized manner, trying to boost some topics to serve the objective outlined in the last meeting. He considered that the Pre Cosalfa 49 seminar was very interesting for the region and the report of the countries is the consequence of a serious, well-planned work agreed with the different players of the private sector. Finally, he thanked the audience for the opportunity, and wished a successful meeting to all.

On behalf of the delegates of the private sector of the COSALFA 49, Mrs. Patricia Cabrera took the floor to welcome the participants and talked about the advances observed in Ecuador, a joint effort between Agrocalidad and the livestock private sector. She underlined the importance of maintaining the status gained and the determination to pursue the goal of the country to gain the recognition as free without vaccination, mentioning the commitment and the reliable participation of the private sector.

Dr. Patricio Almeida, executive director of AGROCALIDAD, on behalf of the Minister of Agriculture, mentioned the achievements observed and the strong commitment of the country to fight, for the benefit of the region, against the diseases and plagues affecting the productive sector. He thanked the representative of PAHO in Ecuador and Dr. Ottorino Cosivi for PANAFOSA/PAHO constant support, particularly for the organization of the event. He mentioned the role of Mrs. Cabrera in support of the official efforts to establish an effective vaccination program and pursue the new goal in a country which is mainly composed of small farmers. He also greeted Dr. Luis Barcos, representative of the WOA, and other international authorities. He took the opportunity to mention the importance of the seminar to disseminate Ecuador's future plans for the eradication of foot-and-mouth disease and the exchange of experiences. He made it clear that programs like this, conducted in Ecuador, have a major implication, relevance, and impact on the productive sector, which includes 280,000 livestock farmers in a country with nearly 17 million people. The livestock sector is in the hands of small producers, who benefit the most from this support and these programs at regional level, because it should be said that through PANAFOSA/PAHO and the COSALFA we were able to access the necessary tools to get ahead and face foot-and-mouth disease with a program that is highly impacting and of considerable magnitude for Ecuador and, obviously, for the region. Therefore, we are committed to all the efforts the Commission is leading. On the other hand, he said Ecuador is taking on commitments not only from the Ministry of Agriculture, the national government, and the authorities, but also with investment projects that enable to get the necessary resources. Finally, he remarked the importance of the BANVACO and the experiences of the northern hemisphere about vaccine banks, a significant topic and, unquestionably, Ecuador adheres to this proposal and these initiatives since they are considered highly important for the region as they will ensure having the vaccines to timely and promptly respond to and address emergencies, when necessary.

Subsequently, the nomination of each private and public delegate of the 13 countries of the COSALFA was read and participants were invited to initiate the work. Annex 3. List of delegates of COSALFA 49.

Initial works: Election of the president and reading and approval of the Agenda

The working board of this 49th COSALFA is chaired by Dr. Jose Carlos Martin from the SENACSA, Paraguay, as president pro tempore of the 48th COSALFA and Dr. Cosivi as secretary *ex officio*. Dr. Zambrano, from AGROCALIDAD, Ecuador, is elected president of the COSALFA 49 by indication of the public sector of Paraguay and acclamation of the plenary session. Dr. Zambrano thanked the indication and nominated Dr. Alexandra Burbano as delegate of Ecuador for the meeting.

The president, Dr. Martin, presented the Agenda of the Meeting for consideration and it was approved without changes. Annex 1. Agenda of the COSALFA 49.

Following, Dr. Christian Zambrano, as president of the COSALFA 49, invited Dr. Manuel Sanchez to present the report of the *ex officio* secretariat of the COSALFA 49 and initiated the work of the agenda.

2. REPORT OF THE EX OFFICIO SECRETARIAT OF THE 49th COSALFA

Manuel Sánchez, Foot-and-Mouth Disease Area, PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO

Firstly, Dr. Sánchez presented the accomplishment of COSALFA 48 resolutions, and a summary of the main cooperation activities performed by PANAFTOSA/PAHO with the countries of the region together with regional and international bodies.

The follow-up of COSALFA 48 resolutions was presented and the degree of accomplishment was evaluated.

Resolution 1 - Venezuela: Dr. Sanchez established the importance of strengthening the foot-and-mouth disease eradication program in Venezuela and asked to continue the technical cooperation of PANAFTOSA/PAHO to the INSAI. He urged the INSAI to continue with the national program and recognize the FUNVESSA as the coordinating entity for the vaccination activity. He also requested the FUNVESSA to make efforts to implement the vaccination program.

PANAFTOSA/PAHO continued providing technical cooperation to the INSAI and the FUNVESSA with virtual meetings about the vaccination strategy. In January 2022, the agreement between the FUNVESSA and the Ministry of Popular Power for Agriculture and Land was signed, establishing the FUNVESSA as the entity in charge of executing the vaccination policy in the country. PANAFTOSA/PAHO sent the information about vaccination cycles to the countries and created a Regional Committee made up of members of the public and the private sectors of Brazil, Chile and Paraguay and the public sector of Peru, to effectively support Venezuela. Nevertheless, this support has not been implemented yet. This resolution is considered partially accomplished

Resolution 2 - BANVACO: the adhesion of Paraguay on July 21, 2021, is recognized as the only full member and, at the same time, PANAFTOSA is required to follow up the discussions about the operative conditions for the adhesion of Brazil, Bolivia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru and Uruguay.

In December 2021, PANAFTOSA/PAHO promoted the first virtual meeting on the operational conditions of the BANVACO, with the participation of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, and Uruguay. A schedule for 2022 was established, to be deployed by the Provisional Steering Committee (PSC) and the Technical Advisory Committee. The PSC met three times in the year and, as a result, it defined the management model and the initial contributions necessary to cover fixed expenses, to be deposited at the time of the countries' adhesion to the bank. Additionally, PANAFTOSA/PAHO developed and posted the webpage of the BANVACO on its website. This resolution is considered accomplished.

Technical Cooperation Activities to the countries

The activities, by country, are presented below:

In Bolivia, cooperation was provided to the SENASAG in the process of recognition of Beni and the northern area of La Paz as free without vaccination, granted by the WOA. Also, support was given to the design of seroepidemiological sampling and the virtual training of the staff regarding surveillance and attention to suspected vesicular diseases. They participated in the virtual meeting on surveillance and attention to suspected diseases, with special emphasis on early alert and early response to introductions.

In Brazil, support was given to the participation of the working groups of the MAPA in events –both at federal level and at the level of states –, the participation in training for strengthening epidemiological surveillance, and the creation and development of a reporting system for emergency response.

In Colombia, support was given to seroepidemiological studies of viral transmission and immunization coverage and the rationale for a differentiated vaccination strategy; support was given to train the staff in geographic information systems applied to sanitary surveillance as well as in risk characterization studies for vesicular stomatitis.

In Ecuador, support was given to the design, execution, and analysis of seroepidemiological sampling results in the border with Colombia. Diagnosis was strengthened by means of delivering training to professionals in the ELISA – FMD gIII technique, and the 7th Amendment of the Agreement between AGROCALIDAD and PAHO/PANAFTOSA was signed, with contributions of additional resources for the technical cooperation to the country.

In Peru, a virtual course on risk-based surveillance was delivered to a significant group of professionals of the SENASA, using practical tools and open access software for its implementation.

In Venezuela, following the ongoing cooperation line, the political articulation for the recognition of the FUNVESSA, a direct technical attention to the scheduling of vaccination cycles and, through the Reference Laboratory of PANAFTOSA/PAHO, the quality control process of the vaccines elaborated in the country were promoted.

The technical cooperation with regional entities and international bodies was focused on the PVC with the project for strengthening the surveillance and emergency preparedness capacity of the countries, through the project being developed by PANAFTOSA/PAHO, a virtual training module for official and private veterinaries of the Americas, with the purpose of strengthening the emergency response capacity.

With the CAN, collaboration was given to the Coordination of Terrestrial and Aquatic Animal Health and Veterinary Products for the preparation and revision of the project for surveillance and early detection of the foot-and-mouth disease virus and the strengthening of early emergency response, which includes the revision and updating of national contingency plans.

With the WOA, virtual collaboration was maintained in the meetings of the Ad-hoc Group, the technical consultations and the 89th General Assembly of the organism. PANAFTOSA/PAHO continues participating in the FAO-WOA Network of diagnostic reference laboratories.

The presentation is available at: https://www.paho.org/sites/default/files/aftosa-cosalfa49-informe-secretaria-msanchez_0.pdf

Report of the Production Laboratory - LPRO

Anna Paula Alvim, PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO

In the June 2021 - June 2022 period, the LPRO of PANAFTOSA/PAHO continued with the production and delivery of reagents to the countries of the region in order to support diagnosis, epidemiological studies and quality control of vaccines to strengthen national foot-and-mouth disease programs within the scope of the Hemispheric Program for the Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (PHEFA). Likewise, it continues providing assistance to the countries in the use and analyses of results of the kits/sets produced, and the quality system in production is being implemented on an ongoing basis. The LPRO participates in the collaborative study with the Reference Laboratory of Pirbright, UK, in order to assess the performance of the FMD gIII multispecies Kit to be used for the in vitro diagnosis of foot-and-mouth disease in swine samples.

The prerecorded presentation is available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zHmVy4dLrLO>

Report of the Reference Laboratory - LREF

Maristela Pituco, PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO

Dr. Pituco informed that no suspected sample of vesicular diseases was received during the period, except for one sample, confirmed, of Senecavirus A coming from Chile. However, the investigation characterized that the sample is related to other samples of American origin but, due to a lack of other sequences, it was not possible to detect the origin of the virus. She remarked that the mission of the Reference Laboratory of PANAFTOSA/PAHO is to provide services for diagnosis, reference, supply of reagents, training to professionals and control of vaccines to member countries, and the objective of the South American network of laboratories is to guarantee the quality of diagnostic results as well as to support an effective surveillance program. Dr. Pituco highlighted the technical cooperation work and the support to the manufacturing Laboratory Cala of Venezuela for the quality control of the vaccine in the interest of increasing the availability of a quality immunogen in the country's program.

In order to follow its reference activity, Dr. Pituco informed that she had sent to the countries analysis and viral neutralization protocols for molecular biology, viral strains, ELISA and vaccine matching, reference materials for the diagnosis of relevant confounding and vesicular diseases that are not commercially available. A round of diagnostic quality control assays was conducted with the participation of 22 laboratories from 14 countries of the network, with satisfactory results. The Reference laboratory, in turn, was subject to national and international external controls, and was designated as WOAHP reference laboratory.

Finally, Dr. Pituco mentioned the training activities as well as the participation in research projects, events and seminars in Brazil and, virtually, with other countries.

The prerecorded presentation is available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=byuT-M3kzSI> and in pdf format: https://www.paho.org/sites/default/files/aftosa-cosalfa49-informe-labreferencia-mpituco-esp_0.pdf

3. REPORT ON THE SITUATION OF THE FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE ERADICATION PROGRAMS IN SOUTH AMERICA AND PANAMA, 2021

Manuel Sánchez Vázquez, Epidemiology Area, PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO

As an executive summary, the general situation was presented regarding foot-and-mouth disease in the member countries, except for Guyana and Surinam, which have not sent reports so far. This summary presentation relies on the main elements characterizing the performance of the programs and the health situation of each country, supported by the charts compiling all the information sent by the countries.

Dr. Sánchez mentioned the changes made to the structure of the report to standardize the document and include new topics. He described the positive health situation of the countries of the region, which have recorded no new outbreaks since 2018, maintaining the free status with or without vaccination recognized by the WOAHP throughout 2021, except for Venezuela, whose status remains without recognition. The countries consolidated their progress, leaving further behind the risk of foot-and-mouth disease. There are in total 306 million bovines in areas recognized as free with vaccination, 57 million in free areas without vaccination, and 15 million in areas without recognition.

In fact, in the World Assembly of Delegates (WAD) held in May that year, the WOAHP recognized the new free zones without vaccination in Brazil, such as the state of Paraná, the area formed by the states of Acre and Rondônia and municipalities of the states of Amazonas and Mato Grosso, and the state of Rio Grande do Sul. Besides, in Colombia, the protection zone in the border with Venezuela was recognized, considered a high

surveillance area, formed by a strip of approximately 15 kilometers wide including municipalities of the departments of Arauca, Vichada, and Boyacá.

He added that serological samplings have been performed to establish active surveillance in several countries to complement passive surveillance. He also described VD occurrences, concentrated in the Northern region of South America, which are recorded thanks to the information and surveillance system, showing the quality of the system. As an example, he mentioned the identification of Senecavirus A outbreaks in swine in Chile, Brazil and Colombia.

A summary Map was presented of the situations and the actions taken by each country according to their health context, detailing the gaps in the Venezuela's surveillance system; the schedule for vaccine withdrawal in Paraguay and Uruguay and the use of the C virus in the commercially available vaccine in Argentina, despite opposite positions of the COSALFA and the WOA. Argentina continues developing its own vaccine and antigen bank with intra-and extra-regional strains. It was worth mentioning that new areas will suspend vaccination in Brazil and a strengthening of the actions in the borders is being implemented within the scope of the PNEFA.

Lastly, he informed that the document Situation of the Programs, Year 2021, is part of the working documents conforming the portfolio of the COSALFA 49 and is under the scrutiny of the delegates for any necessary change.

The ppt presentation is available at: https://www.paho.org/sites/default/files/aftosa-cosalfa49-informe-situacion-msanchez_0.pdf

The president presented all the reports for discussion and opened the plenary session for comments from the delegates.

Additional information about the countries and approval of the reports

The Brazilian delegate, Mr. Geraldo Moraes, acknowledged and congratulated the whole team of PANAFTOSA/PAHO for the quality of the material, the information, and the continued support of PANAFTOSA/PAHO. He also thanked the countries' veterinary service teams for their constant work and the quality of the information which allows the reports to tell the story of the fight against foot-and-mouth disease in our region.

He mentioned that Brazil has some minor amendments to the report that will be sent to PANAFTOSA/PAHO later. Then, he questioned why Argentina is the only country that replicates the virus for the production of the quadrivalent vaccine and includes (serotype) C virus. What would the risk of escape of this strain be, which has not been circulating in South America for 18 years now, for the other countries? This topic has already been addressed on several occasions, with the COSALFA 44 resolving its removal and the WOA. H recommending the same. And with the potential risk of a strain that has already been eradicated in America, what is the impact of this risk if the laboratory continues manipulating and replicating this agent that involves, at the very least, an unnecessary risk for the region of the Americas?

The official delegate of Argentina, Dr. Ximena Melón, explained that according to internal studies conducted by a scientific commission, it was decided to maintain the strain due to scientific evidence that the presence of C virus might potentiate the immune response of the other strains present in the vaccine. Regarding potential escapes, she assured that the producing labs are biosafe laboratories. However, she promised to review the topic again with the scientific advisory commission of SENASA's official laboratory where the different technical and scientific sectors are represented, to consider whether there is a technical argument to remove the virus C. Nevertheless, she mentioned that the administrative steps and the readjustment of the producing laboratories would require some time to adjust the administrative and production mechanisms.

Dr. Araujo from the ICA, Colombia, wants to know if PANAFTOSA/PAHO has evaluated the biological produced by CALA en Venezuela. The quality control process is on its way, but currently the commercially available vaccines are from Colombia, approved according to the protocol of that country.

Dr. Melón from the SENASA, Argentina, asked if the cooperation actions between the FUNVESSA and the INSAI in Venezuela have produced positive results, mainly regarding vaccine coverage. And Dr. Burbano, from Agrocalidad, asked what the agreement includes and where it is targeting to. Dr. Wilmer, from the INSAI, answered Dr. Burbano's question explaining that the agreement had a major role for the improvement of vaccination and that this information is clearly explained in the report of the first cycle of 2022. Depending on the denominator, coverage ranges between 50 and 60%. When comparing with the coverage in the second cycle of 2021, an increase of 800 thousand animals was observed, a rise of 15%, and 54% in serviced venues. This was the consequence of the agreement that gathers several public and private elements and enabled coverage for small producers. He mentioned that the last documented outbreak was recorded in 2013, and that recent outbreaks in the region, in 2018, had been in fact reported in Colombia.

This statement prompted the response of Dr. Barrero from the ICA, who observed that Colombia's situation is well-known since they have a robust system for field surveillance and animal transport control. On the other hand, she is not sure about the effectivity of surveillance in Venezuela. The outbreaks were reported in the border, but in animals from Venezuela. The Venezuelan delegate said that they have not recorded cases in the last 10 years, but they may have subclinical cases, carrier animals, etc. He recommended that the topic should be better analyzed before making these kinds of assumptions. The *ex officio* secretariat reminded that the official information of the countries is compiled in the annual reports sent to PANAFTOSA/PAHO.

The Situation Report of Foot-and-Mouth Disease Eradication Programs in South America and Panama, 2021, was approved in its preliminary form, and the countries are invited to analyze it in detail and send their observations to the *ex officio* secretariat.

Following, the president gave the floor to Dr. Guilherme Marques, who presented a report with the conclusions of the International PRECOSALFA 49 Seminar, within the context of a free status without vaccination: the goal of the PHEFA 2021-2025.

4. REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRE-COSALFA 49 SEMINAR

Guilherme Marques, Foot-and-Mouth Disease Area, PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO

On August 23 – 24, the International Pre COSALFA 49 Seminar *Within the Context of a Free Status without Vaccination: the goal of the PHEFA 2021-2025*, was held virtually. The seminar was divided into 5 sessions. In the first session, besides knowing more details about the foot-and-mouth disease eradication program of Ecuador, the host country of the COSALFA, and its experience since the last outbreak in 2011, the vision “from the other side” was presented, that is, based on a context of free without vaccination. Then, session 2 addressed the experiences of countries and zones already free without vaccination jointly with an example of a country that is starting that transition. Session 3 presented the laboratory diagnostic tests relevant for this status. The second day was focused on emergency preparedness, with session 4 focused on modelling tools for emergencies, and session 5 devoted to regional antigen banks, particularly the BANVACO. Each session was detailed including its conclusions, with the participation of over 600 professionals from 22 countries.

Finally, a reference was made to the relevance of the institutions that may provide support to obtain the new conditions for the countries. PANAFTOSA/PAHO was requested to continue with the regional initiatives and the

adjustment of the techniques and experiences presented, for the benefit of the region. The ppt presentation is available at: https://www.paho.org/sites/default/files/aftosa-cosalfa49-informeseminario-gmarques_0.pdf

Discussion and approval of the Pre COSALFA 49 Seminar Report

Dr. Jaime Romero from the IICA, mentioned the importance that the pre-COSALFA seminars have gained through the years, always bringing timely topics presented by trained professionals. He considers that the fight against foot-and-mouth disease is a learning experience that enables the discussion of other topics relevant for the veterinary area.

The report was submitted for consultation to the delegates and unanimously approved.

The agenda of the seminar, the presentations and the final report of the seminar are available on COSALFA 49 webpage: <https://www.paho.org/es/panaftosa/cosalfa/cosalfa-49>

5. THEME 1: PHEFA FOLLOW-UP - COMMITMENT OF COUNTRIES TO THE ACTION PLAN 2021-2025

Moderator: *Manuel Sánchez Vázquez*, Foot-and-mouth disease Area of PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO

Dr. Sánchez said that in this session the delegates of the public sector of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Uruguay, and Venezuela will have the opportunity to describe the actions intended in the Plan of Action 2021-2025 of the PHEFA, either the recognition sought, or the recognition already gained.

Argentina's delegate, Dr. Melón, reported the existence of two zones recognized by the WOAHP in the country: one with vaccination and the other without vaccination. Its program is aligned with the PHEFA, particularly regarding surveillance, diagnosis, and vaccine coverage. The SENASA develops a training program for its staff and serological samples are taken. Argentina has its own vaccine bank that is managed by a committee. The frontiers have been strengthened within the scope of the PVC, with distribution of free vaccines to small producers. The simulation models in use, made for countries without vaccination, are being adapted to the local situation. They have a contingency plan for immediate response to outbreaks. Regarding removal of the vaccine, they believe some actions are required before making the decision and no date is set for this action.

Dr. Daza, from Bolivia, explained that they have continued monitoring the status of 2 free zones without vaccination, and regarding the zones with vaccination, areas were prioritized for serological sampling. The last outbreak was recorded 17 years ago, and no clinical disease was recorded after 3 years without vaccination. Simulation exercises will be conducted for the training of professionals and continue with the withdrawal process.

On the other hand, Dr. Moraes from Brazil, described the challenge of the country regarding the changes in status due to the size of the herd involved. The 2017 PNEFA changed the basic strategic lines targeted to maintain the areas and tend to release areas by adjusting surveillance, strengthening the service, and consolidating private participation. Attention is given to prevent difficulties for the continuation of the plan, regarding animal transit, with the least economic impact. The goals devised in the plan were delayed due to the impact of the pandemics, and the schedule is aimed at withdrawing vaccination in over 110 million cattle in the near future. The transition demands a plan for the manufacturing of vaccines, which is discussed with the industry. Also, the country is planning the adhesion to the BANVACO, and, at the same time, it is developing its own bank with the O and A viruses. With private participation, a plan is being developed for surveillance activities and compensation in cases of eradication. The private sector should be patient and wait for the results of the recognition.

Dr. Araujo, on behalf of the ICA, Colombia, took the floor to describe the actions to regain the status in the protection zone in the process of recognition. In 2018, the program was reformulated with the support of PANAFTOSA/PAHO's technical cooperation. A special action is taken in the border, which includes intercycle vaccination, strengthening of surveillance in the border, reform of the legal framework of the program, increasing the number of risk-based serological sampling and vaccine coverage, and reformulation of inspection activities in the border, shared with other institutions.

Dr. Burbano, from Ecuador, talked about the process of vaccine withdrawal, but keeping, at the same time, the status of free with vaccination, planning the actions for the change according to WOA's guidelines. A previous risk analysis will be conducted before the withdrawal, supported by a social communication plan and cooperation with producers. The adherence to the BANVACO is scheduled, under the guidance of the PROZEC and PANAFTOSA/PAHO's technical support.

Dr. Martin, from Paraguay, considers that the topic of vaccine withdrawal should be addressed more deeply. The SENACSA has contacted the private sector but, so far, vaccine withdrawal has not been decided. The surveillance system, with the participation of producers, is working. The project for the identification of animals, currently covering 30% of the herd, is looking forward to the discussions with the IDB on a loan to continue with the project.

Dr. Freitas, from Uruguay, mentioned that the country has not implemented the project for the change of status yet but is reviewing the whole process and reinforcing aspects of surveillance and risk analysis for pig-farming. The country is a provisional member of the BANVACO, but it was not decided when the vaccine will be withdrawn.

Dr. Wilmer, from Venezuela, recognized that the progress made in 2021 was not as expected. However, he considers that the creation of the FUNDESSA is positive. Surveillance is ongoing and 32 suspected cases were identified during the year, but all of them were discarded. He believes it is necessary to strengthen diagnostic laboratory and mentioned the difficult access of small producers to the vaccine, which is expected to improve with FUNVESSA's involvement. He seized the opportunity to ask for the support of the member countries regarding vaccine provision. The FUNVESSA will train private veterinarians to support vaccination activities on the field.

Discussion – Delegates of the COSALFA 49

There was no questioning from the delegates. However, the moderator made a summary of the interventions, remarking the degree of progress of each one, as well as the projects and actions scheduled for the period.

6. THEME 2: CONTINGENCY PLANS FOR FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE ERADICATION RESPONSE

Moderator: *Guilherme Marques*, PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO

With the same criteria as in the previous presentation, the moderator invited the official delegates of member countries to present their contingency plans, observing that this topic does not only apply to countries without total or with partial vaccination, but also to those still in the process. It is essential to be prepared to react against an outbreak in free countries without vaccination. The PHEFA Plan of Action 2021-2025 establishes that the capacity to react against an introduction is strategic. Historically, reoccurrences were caused by regional viruses against which there was a certain degree of immunity. In those countries that have already been free without vaccination for some time, the response capacity depends mainly on the degree of training of the official service. Therefore, it is necessary to have contingency plans and a professional staff trained to implement

a protocol of attention compliant with the criteria of the WOA code. Regular field exercises should be a priority, as well as having the specific resources and a vaccine bank available.

What is the view of the official service regarding the risk of introduction in case a country has neighbors with a different status? What measures have been implemented for risk reduction?

The delegate of the MAPA, Brazil, said that this process involves several aspects and that they have invested heavily on training the staff on topics of emergency management, with a total of 29 courses since 2019 for professionals at all national levels and guests from neighboring countries, with different modules for each level. The goal is to change the view of professionals for a risk-based emergency management and to strengthen their surveillance system. The requirements set on the PNEFA for the states, regarding the progression to free without vaccination, include a strong surveillance system in place and control of borders, particularly international borders. He detailed the courses and simulation exercises scheduled for the year. They have a contingency plan in place as well as their own manual for care, developed with PANAFTOSA/PAHO and other collaborators.

In turn, Dr. Araya, from Chile, made a historical overview of the situation of the country which, since 1981, maintains the condition of free without vaccination based on a prevention program rooted in a strong quarantine system and actions in borders, international paths, airports, and ports. An electronic system of analysis is used in collaboration with the private sector as well as the application of modelling in risk situations. Surveillance of summer pasture with the participation of private veterinaries is an example of the system's efficacy. Contingency plans have been reviewed by the SAG and a national system for attention to zoo and phytosanitary emergencies has been created, complemented by field exercises. The efficiency of the national surveillance and diagnosis system responded positively for the diagnosis of Senecavirus A in swine for the first time in Chile. The contingency plan was last revised in 2019.

The delegates from Guyana, Surinam and Panama did not attend.

Dr. Flores, from SENASA, Peru, stated that during the decision-making process for withdrawing vaccination they were concerned about transboundary risk and, therefore, professionals from Ecuador participated in simulation exercises, along the northern border, between 2009 and 2013. Additionally, regional groups were created for emergency attention, according to the productive circuits. They have also conducted simulation exercises for African swine fever with the support of the APHIS, due to the presence of ASF in Central America. Through these courses, 95% of the staff has been trained. Their contingency plan was last updated in 2020.

Dr. Martin, the official delegate of Paraguay, said that their contingency plan has been updated with the consultation support of the IDB. The staff has been trained in topics such as risk analyses using advanced epidemiology and surveillance methodologies. They participated in desk simulation exercises and field operatives with Brazil. They developed simulation exercises for AI and have planned an exercise with the APHIS for ASF for March 2023. The changes made to the law regulating professional veterinary activity, which has delegated a coordination level to the SENACSA, have strengthened the relationship with the private sector accredited for the service. The vaccine industry was contacted to be prepared for the change of status, with the withdrawal of the vaccine, while the service indicated that immunogens for other diseases will be necessary.

The delegate of the SENASA, Argentina, said that she was aware of vaccine bank creation in Brazil, Uruguay and Chile, because she was a member of the PVC. However, she asked Peru about the status of its bank regarding strains. She also asked all the speakers about the availability of compensation funds and the origin of the resources.

Dr. Flores, the delegate of Peru, said that they have agreed 120 thousand doses with a laboratory outside the country, in case of a potential event.

Dr. Araya informed that Chile has been maintaining the compensation fund in case of losses because of foot-and-mouth disease outbreaks for 40 years. He is not informed about the operation mechanisms, but he is sure that the law in force obliges the state to cover these costs.

Dr. Wilmer Alcázar, from the INSAI, Venezuela, mentioned the work done in the border, traditionally conducted with Brazil, in the state of Roraima. In each vaccination cycle, Brazilian technicians, vehicles and vaccines were sent to Venezuela to support the Venezuelan campaign and protect Brazilian livestock in the border. This model could be replicated in other boundaries.

Discussion – delegates of the COSALFA 49

The moderator underlined that the main goal of a simulation exercise is to evaluate, correct and modify the contingency plan of a country. WOAHP's webpage shows the periodicity with which the countries conduct simulation exercises. Except for Brazil and Peru, they conduct them with certain frequency, other countries do not show the expected periodicity in their exercises, with an average frequency of 1.75 simulation exercises every 15 years. Brazil proposes to conduct 2 every year. What would the ideal periodicity be to keep the contingency plan updated? According to the Chilean delegate, it would be two, one in the desk and the other in the field. Peru considers that this is a significant exercise for the training of the staff and, when executed in the border, it gains increased relevance because it includes professionals from the other country. In his experience, it is ideal to conduct 3 simulation exercises each year.

The public delegate from Brazil thinks we will never be completely prepared for emergencies. Simulation exercises are expensive, but they should be included as a priority in the budgets. In our exercises, neighboring countries are always invited as well as the private sector. In our scheduled simulation exercises we have shared experiences with professionals from the Southern Cone in particular, and Bolivia and Paraguay have participated in Western-center simulations. Likewise, we are invited to simulation exercises of other countries.

The complete video of the first day of the meeting is available at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VvkcgmXQrDU>.

August 26, 2022

The president of the COSALFA 49, Dr. Christian Zambrano, opens the second day of the 49th Ordinary Meeting of the COSALFA, inviting Dr. Cosivi to present the PHEFA Biennial Plan 2022-2023.

Before starting his presentation, Dr. Cosivi honored **Dr. Raúl Casas Olascoaga** with a summary of his professional career: he joined the PAHO in 1973, in the CEPANZO, and then served as PANAFTOSA/PAHO director from 1976 to 1991. Dr. Casas played an important role in this institution regarding the participation of PANAFTOSA/PAHO in technical cooperation to the countries. The veterinary medicine of the continent lost a valuable key player on February 22 this year. In this regard, Dr. Cosivi asked for a one-minute silence in his honor. The official delegate of Uruguay, on behalf of his country, thanked for this tribute to his fellow countryman.

7. PRESENTATION OF THE PHEFA BIENNIAL PLAN 2022-2023

Ottorino Cosivi, Director of PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO

Within the scope of the PHEFA 2021-2025, PANAFTOSA/PAHO's director presented the core technical cooperation guidelines for this two-year period. He remarked that a resolution of the 47th COSALFA established technical cooperation funding mechanisms through international professionals via the sale of diagnostic kits and technical cooperation projects funded by voluntary contributions of the countries that created a trust fund. It is important to highlight that the continuity of technical cooperation depends on these funding mechanisms, that should continue working.

The plan for the 2022-2023 biennial is aimed at a consolidated PHEFA to address the final eradication stage, ensuring the support, efficiency, monitoring, and adoption of the actions projected in the PHEFA.

The plan of action is divided into 6 processes: transition of the health status; strengthening of national programs; strengthened surveillance systems; development of research lines; implementation of the BANVACO, and regional learning and training plan applied. The projected costs for the realization of these activities were detailed and emphasis was made on the need of looking for alternative funding sources for their execution.

The ppt presentation is available at: <https://iris.paho.org/handle/10665.2/56486>

Discussion and approval of the Biennial Plan 2022-2023

There were no interventions, and the report was approved.

8. OTHER TOPICS PRESENTED BY THE DELEGATES

The session was opened to the delegates for general considerations. Dr. Burbano, on behalf of the Ecuadorian delegation, invited the participants to honor Dr. Julio Pompei, at the moment of his retirement. She thanked him for his commitment to the eradication program of Ecuador. She shared some anecdotes of his work in Ecuador. He also cooperated in other national programs. The tribute was supported by Dr. Cosivi; the Brazilian, the Uruguayan and the Bolivian delegates also supported the tribute to Dr. Pompei.

The Brazilian delegate raised the topic of the next 50th Meeting of the COSALFA. He suggested that the host venue could be Rio de Janeiro, the city where it started, on a date to be defined. The motion was supported by all the participant delegates.

9. REPORT ON THE REGIONAL ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT TO THE PHEFA

Moderator: Rodrigo García, Foot-and-mouth disease Area, PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO

Dr. Rodrigo García asked the representatives of international and regional bodies to present their cooperation activities relating to the PHEFA during 2021.

- Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS/USDA)

Cynthia Duerr, Regional Director USDA APHIS IS for Latin America and the Caribbean

Dr. Cynthia Duerr made a brief presentation of the activities developed by the APHIS in the region. During the period, no action was taken regarding vesicular diseases; however, she mentioned the key diseases of

their technical cooperation, namely African swine fever and highly pathogenic avian influenza. ASF was first recorded in the last 40 years in the Dominican Republic and Haiti, due to the cooperative surveillance system. The APHIS, jointly with other regional institutions, has supported the fight against the disease both technically and financially. An agreement was signed with the Dominican Republic, coordinated with the APHIS, and support was given to diagnosis in Haiti and the Dominican Republic. In the USA, due to the highly pathogenic AI outbreak, the APHIS has monitored its dissemination and provided information to commercial partners. The APHIS has also supported the delivery of virtual workshops of the RESUDIA and the regional monitoring initiative of the WOAHA for priority zoonotic diseases.

The prerecorded presentation is available at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2WoQ_cgt2DU

- **Andean Community (CAN)**

Diego Caicedo, Director of the General Secretariat of the CAN

He described the actions taken by the General Secretariat of the CAN and the Andean Technical Committee of Agricultural and Livestock Health – COTASA, in support to the PHEFA, for the eradication of foot-and-mouth disease in the subregion. The countries of the CAN are recognized by the WOAHA as free with or without vaccination. He detailed the activities by country according to each status as well as the projects aimed at the eradication of foot-and-mouth disease. He talked about the community activities focused on the organization of the attention to health emergencies, with PANAFOTSA's support, and the harmonization of intercommunity regulatory frameworks.

The prerecorded presentation is available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QX2TQGRH3KM>

- **Permanent Veterinary Committee of the Southern Cone (PVC)**

Ximena Melón, President pro tempore of the PVC

Dr. Melón, as president pro tempore of the PVC, detailed the actions developed within the framework of the PHEFA. This falls within the line of action 4 of the strategic plan 2021-2025. The PVC-PANAFOTSA project seeks to strengthen passive and active surveillance, attention to emergencies and control of boundaries. The latter has been expanded and prioritized. The schedule includes regional diagnosis of gaps and cooperation opportunities regarding boundary control and training in emergency preparedness for official and private veterinarians as well as producers, with the aim of raising awareness on passive surveillance and early attention. Other lines of work include the positioning of the PVC in the face of WOAHA's changes, determining laboratory capacity, facilitating the delivery of samples between countries and training activities for the attention of emergencies in foot-and-mouth disease and other transboundary diseases. They continued with the scheduling of meetings of the foot-and-mouth disease and animal health group.

The prerecorded presentation is available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fwtzi8an2Zs>

- **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)**

Andrés González, Officer of Livestock Farming and Animal Health

FAO has developed actions in support of the PHEFA. One example is the self-learning distance course on early detection and management of outbreaks, delivered between December 2021 and August 2022, with the participation of 2682 professionals from 33 countries of the region and other continents. It plans to implement, between September 2022 and September 2024, a project for strengthening food safety and

sovereignty policies in Venezuela with the expected result of reinforcing the national program, particularly surveillance and early detection of foot-and-mouth disease, including actions with the private sector.

The prerecorded presentation is available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XkjnywI5J1U>

- **Inter-American Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture (IICA)**

Jaime Romero, specialist in Agricultural Health and Food Safety

Dr. Romero, from the IICA, described the lines of action in support of the PHEFA for the harmonization of standards between countries to facilitate the discussion of the topic of safe goods, addressed in the chapters of the WOA Code. Another line of action is the strengthening of emergency response capacity, coordinated with the USDA, as well as other general aspects for the fight against diseases. He finally mentioned the development of discussion workshops about the decisions of the PVC veterinary services, based on the economy.

The prerecorded presentation is available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NOCnNhtvbSA>

- **World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH)**

Luis Barcos, Regional Representative of the WOA for the Americas

Dr. Barcos remarked the longstanding history of collaboration between PANAFTOSA and the WOA, and that PANAFTOSA is a permanent member of the *Ad hoc* groups of foot-and-mouth disease status to analyze the applications for recognition or modifications to the foot-and-mouth disease chapter of the Code. He talked about chapter 8, which has been in the process of revision for 2 years now. He mentioned topics of great interest for the countries in the process of changing status, such as safe goods, those which can be commercialized regardless of the status of the producing country. This classification is still not included in the foot-and-mouth disease chapter, except for embryos. Another topic for discussion is the regulation for the transit of animals between areas with different status, inside or outside the countries. Foot-and-mouth disease epidemiological surveillance and animal imports from countries without recognized status, but with recognized programs, are also topics under discussion. Also, the definitions of terms regarding the disease, such as the definition of case, infection, containment zone, etc., are still being discussed. He restated the relevance of discussing these topics for the countries of the region.

- **International Regional Organism for Plant and Animal Health (OIRSA)**

Marcela Marchelli, Regional Direction of Animal Health

Prevention actions in Central America. Dr. Marchelli apologized for the absence of Dr. De Gracia and explained the prevention actions in the zone of the OIRSA. She also mentioned the diagnostic activity conducted by the laboratory LADIVES, funded by the OIRSA, and underlined the work performed in 385 suspected samples of vesicular diseases, among 243 analyses made in the countries of the subregion. During the pandemic, few samples were received, but in 2021, the number increased, showing an improvement of surveillance. VD is the most prevailing disease but contagious ecthyma was also diagnosed; but all the samples were negative for foot-and-mouth disease.

She mentioned the ENTRANS program – on transboundary diseases – in which activities for foot-and-mouth disease and other diseases of economic importance are developed. The ENTRANS has a mobile application which includes manuals and videos on emergency operation, as well as the courses delivered on emergency

management. The OIRSA has made interagency agreements with FAO, IICA, COPEG and USDA for the training of the officers regarding emergency response.

The prerecorded presentation is available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dVHWoDobvpU>

Discussion

The moderator opened the session and the delegate from Chile, Dr. Araya, raised the topic of the shipping of samples from the countries to the reference laboratory and referred to the case of the Senecavirus A samples, which were retained 8 days at the airport of Guarulhos, in Sao Paulo. In his opinion, something should be done to improve this process.

Dr. Alcázar, from Venezuela, mentioned the project FAO is developing with this country, whose components are based on the structuring of epidemiological surveillance and the strengthening of the service. All is framed within the guidelines of the PHEFA 2021/2025 under PANAFTOSA/PAHO coordination.

Dr. Burbano, the delegate from Ecuador, thanked the technical coordination bodies that contributed to the participation of Ecuador in the discussions held by the WOA, and she mentioned the IICA and the FAO in particular for the distance training initiatives that have been important for the education of the staff in the interior of the country.

Dr. Flores, from Peru, joined the participation of Ecuador to thank the cooperation of international bodies and mentioned the training in the progressive control of foot-and-mouth disease offered by the FAO. Nevertheless, he mentioned that it is important that PANAFTOSA/PAHO continues coordinating these efforts. He was very pleased that Venezuela participated in those activities

Mr. Silva, from the FUNVESSA, adhered to the words of Dr. Alcázar regarding the work developed by international bodies in Venezuela, particularly PANAFTOSA/PAHO, in favor of the recognition of the country as foot-and-mouth disease-free and that, for that end, they are working together.

Dr. Araujo, from Colombia, acknowledged the support of organisms to Venezuela, and mentioned that in the past his country had a cooperative relationship with Venezuela in the boundary and he asked the INSAI again to resume the ties of cooperation, and that international bodies coordinate their efforts to avoid atomizing resources.

In this regard, Dr. Sánchez remarked that PANAFTOSA/PAHO has a very good relationship with the other organisms and is working in synergy. He took the opportunity to mention the topic addressed by Dr. Barcos, from the WOA, who said that the code is a living document, and the creation or modification of its articles lies with the countries.

Dr. Martin, from Paraguay, mentioned the constitution of the BANVACO, particularly the need to establish a financial rescheduling of the contributions of the signatory countries. To that end, he suggests a resolution in this sense. Paraguay had a legal issue with the funds owned to the bank, and a prompt solution is expected. He noted with satisfaction that Ecuador will be the next country to officially join the bank.

Dr. Sánchez, from PANAFTOSA, recognized Dr. Martin's comment was pertinent and mentioned that the PSC hold several meetings regarding the organization of the BANVACO and the obligation of an initial contribution of USD 25 thousand to cover fixed expenses. The situation of every candidate country with the bank has been investigated and this chart will be updated in the next meeting. Regarding the resources of the IDB project, in which PANAFTOSA participated, the discussion continues how to make them available. However, there have been some administrative problems that should be solved to allow the contribution. On the other hand, this

topic should not exclude the participation of the other countries. So far, PANAFTOSA has funded most of the project and, according to the constitution of the bank, it will continue doing so.

10. PRESENTATION, DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF THE RESOLUTIONS OF COSALFA 49

Dr. Cosivi said that the 49th COSALFA will have 3 technical resolutions that will address topics such as emergency, the support to Venezuela, and the BANVACO. Regarding the topic of the C virus in the Argentine vaccine, we have discussed with the president *pro tempore* that there is no need to elaborate a resolution, and that there is one from 5 years ago still open on the topic, verified by the WOA. In this sense, we accept the commitment of the Argentine delegation on the conduction of a study by their scientific committee to remove the strain. If the delegates agree, we will be able to request the SENASA to send their plans regarding that process.

Dr. Cosivi asked Dr. Sánchez to read the Resolutions, to which the delegates made some comments and suggested changes that were introduced and approved in the plenary session. Annex 2 includes the final version of the Resolutions of the 49th COSALFA, signed by the delegates.

Regarding the venue for the 50th Meeting of the COSALFA, it was agreed by acclamation that it will be held in Rio de Janeiro, on a date to be determined.

The resolutions are available at: <https://iris.paho.org/handle/10665.2/56501>

11. CLOSURE CEREMONY

Dr. Ottorino Cosivi, Director of PANAFTOSA/PAHO, underlined the importance of the work done by the countries and PANAFTOSA/PAHO during 2021 regaining the opportunities lost due to the pandemic. He made clear the relevance of the resolutions of this 49th COSALFA for the continuity of the PHEFA for the realization of the proposed goals. He thanked the AGROCALIDAD team, in the person of the minister, Mr. Bernardo Manzano Díaz; Mr. Patricio Almeida, executive director of the agency, and Dr. Christian Zambrano and his team in particular, for the decisive support in the organization of the meeting. He thanked the staff of PANAFTOSA/PAHO and the headquarter in Washington, for the efforts in the organization of this meeting. In turn, the president *pro tempore* of the 49th COSALFA, Dr. Christian Zambrano, thanked everyone, the delegates, the assistants, and the teams who organized the meeting. He emphasized the commitment to continue working to improve the health situation of Ecuador. Finally, he echoed the invitation for other countries to join the BANVACO for the importance it has in these times of change.

The full video of the 2nd day of the meeting is available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gmtF4lj6PJU>

ANNEXS

ANNEX I. AGENDA OF THE COSALFA 49

THURSDAY, 25 August 2022 10:00 A.M. - 03:30 P.M. (Time Brasilia, Brazil)	
09:30 - 10:00	Practical session for COSALFA 49 delegates and panelists: Sound and video test 07:30 a.m.: COL - ECU - PER - PAN 08:30 a.m.: BOL - CHI - PRY - VEN - GUY 09:30 a.m.: BRA - ARG - URU - SUR
10:00 - 10:30	Opening Session – 49th COSALFA Meeting Representative of the PAHO/WHO in Ecuador, <i>Oscar Martin Barreneche</i> President Pro Tempore of COSALFA 48, Paraguay, <i>José Carlos Martín Camperchioli</i> Representative of the Livestock Producers Corporation of Esmeraldas, <i>Patricia Cabrera</i> Executive Director of Agrocalidad, <i>Wilson Patricio Almeida Granja</i>
10:30 - 10:45	Start of Work: Election of the President and Approval of the Agenda <i>Ottorino Cosivi</i> , Director of PANAFTOSA/PAHO and <i>ex Officio</i> Secretary of COSALFA
10:45 - 11:20	Report of the Secretary ex Officio of COSALFA 49 Introduction: <i>Manuel Sánchez Vázquez</i> , Foot-and-Mouth Disease Area, PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resolutions and Technical Cooperation with countries, <i>Manuel Sánchez Vázquez</i>, PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO • Production Laboratory, <i>Anna Paula Alvim</i>, PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO • Reference Laboratory, <i>Maristela Pituco</i>, PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO
11:20 - 11:40	Status Report on the Programs for the Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease, in South America and Panama, 2021 <i>Manuel Sánchez Vázquez</i> , Epidemiology Area, PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO
11:40 - 12:00	Complementation of the countries and approval of the Report
12:00 - 12:15	Report of the International Seminar Pre-COSALFA 49 <i>Guilherme Marques</i> , Foot-and-Mouth Disease Area, PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO
12:15 - 12:55	Discussion and Approval of the Report
12:55 - 14:00	Official photo - Break
14:00 - 14:30	THEME 1: PHEFA FOLLOW-UP - COMMITMENT OF COUNTRIES TO THE ACTION PLAN 2021-2025 Moderator: <i>Manuel Sánchez Vázquez</i> , Foot-and-Mouth Disease Area, PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO - Interventions by the delegates of public sector: COL, ECU, VEN, BOL, BRA, ARG, URU, PER and PAR
14:30 - 14:45	Plenary Discussion
14:45 - 15:15	THEME 2: CONTINGENCY PLANS FOR FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE ERADICACION RESPONSE Moderator: <i>Guilherme Marques</i> , PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO - Interventions by the delegates of public sector: BRA, CHI, PAR, PER, ARG, VEN and ECU
15:15 - 15:30	Plenary Discussion
15:30	End of the first day of the Meeting

FRIDAY, 26 August 2021 10:00 A.M. – 01:30 P.M. (Time Brasilia, Brazil)	
09:30 - 10:00	Practical session for COSALFA 48 delegates and panelists: Sound and video test 07:30 a.m.: COL - ECU - PE - PAN 08:30 a.m.: BOL - CHI - PRY - VEN - GUY 09:30 a.m.: BRA - ARG - URU - SUR
10:00 - 10:10	Presentation of the Biennial Technical Cooperation Plan 2022-2023 of PANAFTOSA <i>Ottorino Cosivi</i> , director of PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO
10:10 - 10:20	Discussion and approval of the Biennial Plan 2022-2023
10:20 - 10:30	Other matters raised by the Delegates
10:30 - 11:45	Report on Regional activities in support of PHEFA Moderator: <i>Rodrigo Garcia</i> , Foot-and-Mouth Disease Area, PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO Representatives of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service/ United States Department of Agriculture (APHIS/USDA), <i>Cynthia Duerr</i>, USDA APHIS IS Regional Director for Latin America and Caribbean • Andean Community (CAN), <i>Diego Caicedo</i>, General Director of the General Secretariat • Permanent Veterinary Committee of the Southern Cone (CVP), <i>Ximena Melón</i>, President Pro Tempore • Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), <i>Andrés González</i>, Director of Livestock Development • Inter-American Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture (IICA), <i>Jaime Romero</i>, Specialist in Agricultural Health and Food Safety • World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH), <i>Luis Barcos</i>, WOAH Regional Representative for the Americas • International Regional Organization for Agricultural Health (OIRSA), <i>Abelardo De Gracia Scanapieco</i>, Regional Director of Animal Health
11:45 - 12:00	Plenary Discussion
12:00 - 12:45	Presentation, discussion and approval of resolutions of COSALFA 49 Moderator: <i>Manuel Sánchez Vázquez</i> , Foot-and-Mouth Disease Area, PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO Delegates of Public and Private sectors of COSALFA
12:45	Closure of the Ceremony <i>Ottorino Cosivi</i> , director of PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO <i>Christian Zambrano</i> , General Coordinator of Animal Health, Agrocalidad, Ecuador

ANNEX II. RESOLUTIONS OF THE COSALFA 49TH

RESOLUTION I

TECHNICAL COOPERATION TO VENEZUELA

The 49th Ordinary Meeting of the COSALFA

Whereas:

- Weaknesses regarding foot-and-mouth disease vaccination cycles in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela have been indicated in the technical reports elaborated by PANAFTOSA/PAHO and shared with COSALFA delegates;
- A Regional Commission to Monitor the National Plan for the Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease in Venezuela has been created in support of the activities of the Official Foot-and-Mouth Disease Program, which is composed of the public and private sectors that expressed their interest in being part of the commission, such as Brazil, Chile and Paraguay (public and private sector), and Peru (public sector);
- The Cooperation Agreement between the National Institute of Integral Agricultural Health (INSAI) [*Instituto Nacional de Salud Agrícola Integral*] and the Venezuelan Foundation of Animal Health Services [*Fundación Venezolana de Servicios de Salud Animal*] (FUNVESSA) has been signed in January 2022, which recognizes the FUNVESSA as the executing arm to act in support of the health policies regarding foot-and-mouth disease vaccination cycles;
- So far, foot-and-mouth disease vaccination cycles could not be fully and efficiently implemented and, also, it was not possible to reach the adequate level of surveillance to demonstrate the absence of foot-and-mouth disease infection and transmission;
- The Brazilian veterinary service has implemented strategies for foot-and-mouth disease prevention and risk mitigation in the border with Venezuela, including joint actions in the Venezuelan territory;
- In order to advance in the Hemispheric Program for the Eradication of Foot and Mouth Disease [*Programa Hemisférico de Erradicación de la Fiebre Aftosa*] (PHEFA) in the Andean region, it is necessary to strengthen risk mitigation actions in the border of Colombia and Venezuela.

It is resolved:

1. To request PANAFTOSA/PAHO to continue providing the necessary technical cooperation to Venezuela.
2. To urge the member countries that are currently part of the Regional Commission to Monitor the National Plan for the Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease to contribute with resources for the

strengthening of the Venezuelan foot-and-mouth disease program and encourage the participation of delegations of other countries to integrate the mentioned Commission.

3. To ask the Colombian and Venezuelan authorities to implement joint border activities to mitigate the risk of foot-and-mouth disease, with the technical cooperation of international organisms, as well as to urge the Brazilian and Venezuelan authorities to strengthen the collaboration provided in the past years for foot-and-mouth disease control in their border.
4. To urge the INSAI to adopt the necessary procedures and identify the resources for the complete execution of the National Program for the Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease.
5. To urge the FUNVESSA to implement the necessary actions to effectively implement the commitment made with the foot-and-mouth disease vaccination program in the entire national territory.

(Approved in the virtual plenary session
of 26 August, 2022)

RESOLUTION II
REGIONAL ANTIGEN/VACCINE BANK FOR FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE - BANVACO

The 49th Ordinary Meeting of the COSALFA

Whereas:

- Significant progress has been made for the operationalization of the BANVACO coordinated by PANAFTOSA/PAHO;
- The effective start of the activities foreseen in BANVACO's Articles of Agreement requires the signing of adherence from at least three countries and, so far, Paraguay is the only country that has formally adhere to the Agreement;
- At this COSALFA, the authorities of Ecuador expressed their intention to formalize their adherence to the BANVACO;
- Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Peru and Uruguay have shown their commitment to adhere to the BANVACO;
- The Provisional Committee of the BANVACO approved the financial proposal including the fixed costs for the first working year of the Bank, in which a value of USD 25,000.00 (twenty-five thousand US dollars) by country has been established, which will be updated and reviewed yearly, according to the work plans of the BANVACO.

It is resolved:

1. To congratulate the Government of Ecuador for the relevant and strategic decision of signing its adherence to the BANVACO jointly with PAHO.
2. To acknowledge the efficient work PANAFTOSA/PAHO is doing to constitute the BANVACO and ask the Center to continue performing this significant regional task.

(Approved in the virtual plenary session
of 26 August, 2022)

RESOLUTION III
FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

The 49th Ordinary Meeting of the COSALFA

Whereas:

- It is important to have a Veterinary Service trained to provide an early and efficient response to foot-and-mouth disease emergencies;
- The preparedness of the involved teams to respond to emergencies is a complex process due to different competences, skills and practices that need to be developed to control a health emergency;
- The incorporation of tools to simulate foot-and-mouth disease outbreaks is strategically important to support foot-and-mouth disease emergency preparedness in the region;
- It is necessary to update and adapt the contingency plans so that they include the necessary components involved in an emergency as well as potential scenarios, including emergency vaccination.

It is resolved:

1. To ask PANAFTOSA/PAHO to provide technical cooperation to the countries in order to train professionals of official veterinary services in case of a foot-and-mouth disease emergency and support the countries in the revision and adaptation of contingency plans.
2. To ask PANAFTOSA/PAHO to provide technical cooperation to incorporate and adapt the tools to simulate foot-and-mouth disease emergencies in the region and contribute to the development of information systems for the management of foot-and-mouth disease emergencies.

(Approved in the virtual plenary session
of 26 August, 2022)

RESOLUTION IV
BIENNIAL PLAN 2022-2023 OF THE PHEFA

The 49th Ordinary Meeting of the COSALFA

Whereas:

- The Biennial Plan 2022-2023 was presented to the Delegates during the 49th Ordinary Meeting of the COSALFA for their information and approval;
- The countries agreed on the Technical Cooperation actions proposed by PANAFTOSA/PAHO and that they are essential for the development of the Hemispheric Program for the Eradication of Foot and Mouth Disease (PHEFA) and to reach its goals;
- The member countries agreed on the full funding of the approved actions of the Biennial Plan 2022-2023.

It is resolved:

1. To approve the Biennial Plan 2022-2023 of PANAFTOSA/PAHO Technical Cooperation to the PHEFA.
2. That the public and private sectors represented at the COSALFA commit to identify and provide the necessary resources proposed in the Biennial Plan budget in order to comply with the technical cooperation and follow-up actions of the PHEFA 2021-2025.
3. That PANAFTOSA/PAHO instruct the countries on the tools and mechanisms (Trust Fund, Technical Cooperation Agreements and Covenants) that will enable PAHO/WHO to receive resources from the countries to comply with the technical cooperation actions within the framework of the PHEFA.

(Approved in the virtual plenary session
of 26 August, 2022)

RESOLUTION V

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO VETERINARY DOCTOR JULIO CÉSAR AUGUSTO POMPEI

The 49th Ordinary Meeting of the COSALFA

Whereas:

- The presentation of the Equatorian Delegation is acknowledged regarding the background and professional commitment to the country of Veterinary Doctor Julio César Augusto Pompei in relation to the technical cooperation for animal health programs, as well as his work with the private sector for the joint creation of initiatives for the eradication of foot-and-mouth disease and to obtain OMSA certification as free from foot-and-mouth disease for Ecuador in 2015;
- His leadership in the countries of the region has been relevant from the beginning of his work, in 2005, in the Inter-American Group for the Eradication of Foot-and Mouth Disease [*Grupo Interamericano para Erradicación de la Fiebre Aftosa*] (GIEFA)], and later in the coordination of technical cooperation and the area of zoonosis at PANAFTOSA/PAHO;
- The valuable technical collaboration and personal commitment and dedication of Dr. Pompei for the training of human resources providing technical cooperation in pursuit of veterinary public health and the eradication of foot-and-mouth disease in the region;
- Due to his retirement, Dr. Pompei has left the Pan American Center for Foot-and-Mouth Disease in January 2022.

It is resolved:

1. To acknowledge and thank Veterinary Doctor Julio César Augusto Pompei for his perseverance and prolific contribution to the creation, development and strengthening of animal health programs in the countries of the region and the eradication of foot-and-mouth disease at national, regional and continental level within the framework of the Hemispheric Program for the Eradication of Foot and Mouth Disease (PHEFA).
2. His example will be a model for new generations, inspired by his talent and ways of addressing technical cooperation.
3. To wish him all the success in this new stage and that health and well-being have a special place in his life.

(Approved in the virtual plenary session
of 26 August, 2022)

RESOLUTION VI
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The 49th Ordinary Meeting of the COSALFA

Whereas:

- The public health restrictions resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic prevented the celebration of the 49th COSALFA in Ecuador in its traditional format;
- The Director of the Pan-American Center for Foot-and-Mouth Disease of the Pan-American Health Organization (PANAFTOSA/PAHO), Dr. Ottorino Cosivi, and engineer Mr. Patricio Almeida, Executive Director of the Phytosanitary and Zoosanitary Regulation and Control Agency (AGROCALIDAD) of Ecuador, as host country for the meeting, made the decision to convene the 49th Ordinary Meeting of the COSALFA and the Pre-COSALFA International Meeting in a virtual format;
- The official authorities and the private sector of Ecuador have provided support for the realization of the 49th Ordinary Meeting of the COSALFA and the Pre-COSALFA International Meeting.

It is resolved:

1. To thank the Government of the Republic of Ecuador, in the person of the Minister of Agriculture and Livestock, Mr. Bernardo Manzano Díaz, for the political support and commitment to the COSALFA 49, particularly for the attention and dedication of the staff of AGROCALIDAD of Ecuador, in the person of its Executive Director, engineer Mr. Patricio Almeida.
2. To expressly thank the General Coordinator of Animal Health of AGROCALIDAD and President of the COSALFA 49, engineer Mr. Christian Antonio Zambrano Pesantez, for his support and excellent conduction of the meeting.
3. To thank the Private Sector of Ecuador, in the person of the president of the *Corporación de Granaderos de Esmeraldas*, Dr. Patricia Cabrera, and the entire private sector of Ecuador for the support to the realization of the events in a virtual format.

(Approved in the virtual plenary session
of 26 August, 2022)

RESOLUTION VII
DESIGNATION OF THE HOST COUNTRY FOR COSALFA 50

The 49th Ordinary Meeting of the COSALFA

Whereas:

- The next Ordinary Meeting of the COSALFA will celebrate its 50th anniversary, a historical framework for all the member countries of the Commission and PAHO, as the referent organism for guiding the policies for vesicular diseases in South America;
- PANAFTOSA-PAHO is located in the city of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, since 1951 and its Director serves as *ex officio* Secretary for the Commission;
- The Brazilian delegation submitted for consideration the offer to be the host country of the 50th Ordinary Meeting of the COSALFA;
- The favorable expression of support of the delegations to the offer of Brazil.

It is resolved:

1. To thank the offer and nominate Brazil as the host country for the 50th Ordinary Meeting of the COSALFA in the city of Rio de Janeiro in 2023, in a date to be defined.

(Approved in the virtual plenary session
of 26 August, 2022)

Español:


EN FE DE LO CUAL, el Presidente de la Reunión, Ing. Christian Antonio Zambrano Pesantez, Coordinador General de Sanidad Animal de la Agencia de Regulación y Control Fito y Zoonosanitario (AGROCALIDAD), el Director del Centro Panamericano de Fiebre Aftosa – PANAFTOSA-OPS/OMS, Secretario ex officio de la COSALFA, Dr. Ottorino Cosivi y los delegados del sector público y del sector privado de los países miembros de la COSALFA firman la lista de presencia a la 49ª. Reunión Ordinaria de la COSALFA, realizada de manera virtual a través de Plataforma Zoom, los días 25 y 26 de agosto del año dos mil y veinte dos.

Português:

EM FE DO QUAL, o Presidente da Reunião, Eng. Christian Antonio Zambrano Pesantez, Coordenador Geral de Saúde Animal da Agência de Controle e Regulamentação Fitossanitária e Zoonositária (AGROCALIDAD), o Diretor do Centro Pan-Americano de Febre Aftosa – PANAFTOSA-OPAS/OMS, Secretário ex officio da COSALFA, Dr. Ottorino Cosivi e os delegados do setor público e do setor privado dos países membros da COSALFA assinam a lista de presença da 49ª Reunião Ordinária da COSALFA, realizada de forma virtual através da Plataforma Zoom, nos dias 25 e 26 de agosto do ano de dois mil e vinte e dois.

English:

IN WITNESS WHERE OF, the Chairman of the Meeting, Eng. Christian Antonio Zambrano Pesantez, General Coordinator of Animal Health of the Executive Director of the Phytosanitary and Zoonosanitary Regulation and Control Agency (AGROCALIDAD), the Director of the Pan-American Center for Foot-and-Mouth Disease - PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO, Secretary ex officio of COSALFA, Dr. Ottorino Cosivi and the Delegates of the public and private sectors of the member countries, have signed the present list of participants at the 49th COSALFA Ordinary Meeting, held in a virtual format through Zoom Platform, on 25 and 26 August 2022.

DocuSigned by:

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Christian Antonio Zambrano Pesantez
Presidente de la COSALFA 49
Agencia de Regulación y Control Fito y Zoonosanitario
(AGROCALIDAD)

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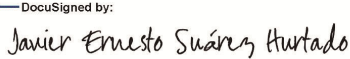
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Ottorino Cosivi
Secretario ex officio
Director del Centro Panamericano de
Fiebre Aftosa – PANAFTOSA-OPS/OMS

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Ximena Melón
Delegado del Sector Público de Argentina

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Ricardo Burgos
Delegado del Sector Privado de Argentina

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Javier Ernesto Suárez Hurtado
Delegado del Sector Público de Bolivia

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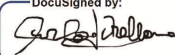
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Hernán Julio Nogales
Delegado del Sector Privado de Bolivia

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Geraldo Marcos de Moraes
Delegado del Sector Público de Brasil

DocuSigned by:

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Francisco Olavo Pugliese de Castro
Delegado del Sector Privado de Brasil

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Carlos Orellana Vaquero
Delegado del Sector Público de Chile

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Deyanira Barrero León
Delegado del Sector Público de Colombia

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Lidia Alexandra Burbano Enríquez
Delegado del Sector Público de Ecuador

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Dwight Walrond
Delegado del Sector Público de Guyana

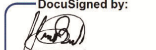
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Cecilia De Escobar
Delegado del Sector Público de Panamá

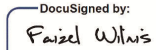
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José Carlos Martín Camperchioli
Delegado del Sector Público de Paraguay

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Ubaldo Flores Barrueta
Delegado del Sector Público de Perú


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Faizel Wilnis
Delegado del Sector Público de Surinam

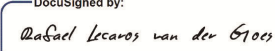
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Enrique Diego de Freitas Netto
Delegado del Sector Público de Uruguay

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Wilmer José Alcázar Guerra
Delegado del Sector Público de Venezuela

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Rafael Lecaros van der Goes
Delegado del Sector Privado de Chile


Delegado del Sector Privado de Colombia

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Patricia Cabrera
Delegado del Sector Privado de Ecuador

Delegado del Sector Privado de Guyana

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José Concepción Sánchez
Delegado del Sector Privado de Panamá

DocuSigned by:

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Daniel Prieto Davey
Delegado del Sector Privado de Paraguay

Delegado del Sector Privado de Perú

DocuSigned by:


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Rene Gosen
Delegado del Sector Privado de Surinam

DocuSigned by:

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Jorge Bonino Morlan
Delegado del Sector Privado de Uruguay

DocuSigned by:

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Luis Prado Hurtado
Delegado del Sector Privado de Venezuela

ANNEX III. DELEGATES OF THE COSALFA 49TH

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