

## 12<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE HEMISPHERIC COMMITTEE FOR THE ERADICATION OF FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE (COHEFA 12)

Santiago, Chile, July 24th, 2012

Provisional Agenda Item 1

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### Report by the Technical Secretariat *Executive Summary (June 2008 – July 2012 period)*

#### The Situation of Foot and Mouth Disease in the Americas

The region of the Americas presents a favorable situation with respect to Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) when compared to other regions in the world. Since the period after COHEFA 11, North America, Central America, the Caribbean, Chile, and Guyana, as well as the region of Southern Argentina and the Brazilian State of Santa Catarina, have remained free from the disease. During the last 5 years, only 3 countries in South America have registered outbreaks of FMD: Ecuador, Venezuela, and Paraguay. The latter reported two outbreaks of serotype O, in 2011 and 2012.

South America is now in the final stage of control, its objective being the eradication of the disease throughout the region according to the 2011-2020 Hemispheric Eradication Plan of Foot and Mouth Disease (PHEFA). This favorable situation is the result of, among other things, the adequate implementation of national eradication programs and of a good structure of veterinary services of the majority countries. Another contributing factor is the strengthening of Local Veterinary Units, as well as the important public and private participation in the eradication process.

Nevertheless, there are important challenges to achieve the goal of eradication. In some countries, the infection remains endemically, while in others, the risk of appearance is high. Likewise, the sporadic apparition in territories previously recognized internationally as disease free.



## **SECRETARIAT REPORT ON COSALFA (36, 37, 38, 39 and 4<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary) and COHEFA (11 and 2<sup>nd</sup> Extraordinary)**

The COHEFA and COSALFA meetings that took place during the June 2008 – July 2012 are summarized in chronological order.

### **11<sup>th</sup> COHEFA**

(Rio de Janeiro, Brazil – 9 June, 2008)

The 11th Ordinary meeting took place on the occasion of the 15th RIMSA. During the meeting, a review took place to analyze the level of achievement in carrying out the objectives of the PHEFA, aiming for its conclusions in 2009. Its only resolution highlighted the level of fulfillment of some objectives by some countries, and emphasized situations where the goals had not yet been achieved, which puts at risk the countries/zones in the region that are disease free.

In response to the resolution, PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO, together with the GIEFA, OIE, IICA, FAO, FEDEGAN/Colombia, and the USDA, organized technical missions to Ecuador and Venezuela, using the resources of all organization involved, in order to direct a diagnostic of the situation within the political-strategic and operative scope, proposing a reorganization of the lines of joint work under the vision of PHEFA.

### **36<sup>th</sup> COSALFA**

(Cartagena, Colombia – 20 - 24 April, 2009)

During the meeting, a detailed report on the sanitary situation of FMD in the continent was presented. Among the many topics that were discussed was the readjustment of Technical Cooperation between the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Supply (MAPA) of Brazil and PAHO, and the perspectives for TC of PANAFTOSA on FMD for the next four years, was also presented.

The topics that were addressed, after the discussion, were expressed in different resolutions:

- **Maintain and Strengthen the South American Commission on Biosecurity for the FMD virus**
- **Strengthening of Technical Cooperation regarding FMD**

A working group, with public and private delegates from the countries, was created to present to PAHO a new TC model for PANAFTOSA.

- **National FMD Eradication Programs in Bolivia, Ecuador, and Venezuela**

PANAFTOSA is asked to coordinate inter-agency cooperation to discuss FMD control programs in Ecuador, Venezuela, and Bolivia.

- **Strengthening of surveillance during the last stage of FMD eradication**

PANAFTOSA, together with the countries, is asked to elaborate surveillance schemes that allow keeping track of the final stages of the eradication programs.

- **Demand and production of biological products**

PANAFTOSA is asked to establish a plan to meet the demand of diagnostic kits, both for controlling vaccine quality and for carrying out eradication and prevention plans.

- **Importance of cooperation between APHIS and support organizations as support for the development of National FMD Eradication Programs in Andean countries**

International agencies are asked to continue technical cooperation on areas considered to be of top priority. PANAFTOSA and OIE are asked to follow up and evaluate the fulfillment of the objectives of PHEFA.

### **37th COSALFA**

(Georgetown, Guyana, 11-12 May, 2010)

During these meetings, sanitary emergencies generated by territories previously declared and recognized as free and with vaccination, and the endemic persistence of the disease in the Andean sub-region, are analyzed, making it clear that there is a need to redirect PHEFA.

The strengthening of the PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO program, based on new methods of financing, was presented. A report was made on the progress of the technical cooperation agreement between MAPA/BRAZIL and PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO which, among other activities, trained professionals, strengthened Brazil's laboratory network, supplied diagnostic kits and produced sanitary manuals.

The topics that were addressed, after the discussion, were expressed in different resolutions:

- **Project to strengthen PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO towards the consolidation of PHEFA**

Ask the public and private sectors that they subscribe to the Memorandum of Understanding

Ask PAHO's Board of Directors that they establish a Trust Fund that allows the implementation of the strengthening project.

- **Creation of a new Action Plan of the Hemispheric Eradication Plan of FMD**

Ask PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO, together with the countries, to elaborate a new Action Plan of the PHEFA, to be presented to COHEFA.

- **Review of the South American Commission on Biosecurity for the FMD virus**

The South American Commission on Biosecurity for the FMD virus is considered extinct, and PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO is asked to assist member countries when the need for consultancies arises.

- **Situation of the National FMD Eradication Programs in Bolivia, Ecuador and Venezuela**

Concern is expressed for the risk situation in these countries and the region. PANAFTOSA is asked to assist, together with other cooperation agencies, the previously mentioned countries.

### **2nd Extraordinary COHEFA**

(Rio de Janeiro, Brazil – 14 -15 December, 2010)

This meeting was convened by the Director of the Pan-American Health Organization/World Health Organization with the purpose of proposing, and requesting approval for, the Action Plan for the PHEFA's 2011-2020 period that PANAFTOSA was asked to provide via Resolution II of the 37th Ordinary Meeting of the

South American Commission for the Fight Against Foot and Mouth Disease (COSALFA), which took place in the city of Georgetown, Guyana in May 2010. As already stated, its purpose and goal were:

- The elimination and prevention of Foot and Mouth Disease in all production animal populations in American Countries, thus contributing in a relevant way to the socioeconomic development of all its societies, in particular the rural sector.
- To eradicate Foot and Mouth Disease in susceptible animal populations in South American countries, and to establish prevention mechanisms to curtail the risk of re-entry of the disease into the continent.

PANAFTOSA suggested that COSALFA review and approve the biannual TC projects and that it establishes a permanent follow-up committee for the PHEFA. PANAFTOSA communicated the conformation of the Trust Fund created by PAHO as a mechanism to finance TC actions by PANAFTOSA regarding FMD.

PANAFTOSA also pledged to review the human resource and administrative procedure plan, by the reference laboratory in Pedro Leopoldo, MG.

The topics presented and the discussions that took place led to the creation of the resolutions herein summarized:

- **2011-2020 PHEFA Action Plan**

Approve and incorporate the proposal for the 2011-2020 PHEFA Action Plan.

- **Managing Leadership of the 2011-2020 PHEFA Action Plan**

Reaffirm that PANAFTOSA will hold the managing leadership of the 2011-2020 PHEFA Action Plan.

Ask PANAFTOSA to set up a working group with the countries in order to follow up the 2011-2020 PHEFA Action Plan within the scope of COHEFA.

Ask PAHO/WHO, its member states, international organizations, and public and private institutions that hold an interest in the eradication of FMD for support in maintaining and increasing PANAFTOSA's capabilities with regards to technical management and coordination of the 2011-2020 PHEFA Action Plan.

Ask PANAFTOSA to coordinate technical cooperation efforts with national and international reference and cooperation institutions and agencies for the eradication of FMD.

### **38th COSALFA**

(Recife, Pernambuco, Brazil – 31 March – 1 April, 2011)

The central theme of this meeting was to present the new 2011-2020 PHEFA to the attendees. It was stated that the nomination of a working group would be nominated, in order to monitor the Action Plan.

Brazil's financial support for the Center's maintenance was recognized and thanked.

The Ecuadorian Agency of Agricultural Quality Assurance (AGROCALIDAD) presented the structure, objectives, and components of the national FMD eradication program and the actions to control epidemic FMD outbreaks during the years 2009-2010.

PANAFTOSA presented the data of the reference lab study of the samples sent by AGROCALIDAD/Ecuador, corresponding to the FMD outbreaks that took place during 2010. The results concluded that the FMD strains active in Ecuador belong to sub-type O1 and the Euro-South American topotype.

The results obtained through vaccine matching indicate that vaccines of proven quality formulated with strain O1 protect against viruses circulating throughout Ecuador

The topics that were addressed, after the discussion, were expressed in different resolutions:

- **Strategic Technical Framework for the Eradication of FMD in the Americas**  
PHEFA is reiterated as the strategic framework, and regional and international cooperation organizations and countries are asked to formulate and implement their FMD cooperation plans, according to the PHEFA 2011-2020 Action Plan.
- **Analysis of the Results from Ecuador's FMD virus samples**  
With respect to the strains isolated in FMD outbreaks in Ecuador, PANAFTOSA is tasked to coordinate complementary field and laboratory studies.
- **ANDEAN AREA: Strengthening of national FMD eradication plans and international frontier actions**  
Venezuela and Ecuador's Services are asked to commit to participate in biannual frontier meetings and to reiterate that PANAFTOSA put these two countries under higher priority.
- **Implementation of the PHEFA's follow-up mechanism**  
PANAFTOSA was asked to establish a working group to follow-up the 2011-2020 Action Plan.
- **Support PANAFTOSA and adherence to the technical cooperation trust fund**  
Urge countries, ranching organizations, and sectors belonging to the chain of cattle production to join the trust fund. Official sectors are asked to include in their budgets a part of the financial resources that would go to the trust fund.
- **Ecuador's Veterinary Service FMD eradication program.**  
Ask PANAFTOSA to continue, prioritize, and coordinate technical cooperation that have been given to the Official Sanitary Service, particularly with anything to do with vaccination campaigns, transit control, or laboratory diagnosis in Ecuador.
- **Strengthening of the National FMD Eradication Plan in Venezuela**  
Ask PANAFTOSA to prioritize technical cooperation for the FMD Eradication Program in Venezuela.
- **Strengthening of the National FMD Eradication Plan in Bolivia.**  
Ask PANAFTOSA to prioritize technical cooperation for the FMD Eradication Program in Bolivia.

#### **4th EXTRAORDINARY COSALFA**

(Rio de Janeiro, Brazil – 29 - 30 November, 2011)

This meeting was convened due to the sanitary emergency caused by an outbreak of FMD in Paraguay's San Pedro department, within a zone considered free with vaccination. Among the other themes that were discussed, of particular note is the report issued by PANAFTOSA about technical cooperation in Ecuador and a description of the sanitary situation of FMD in the country.

The topics that were addressed, after the discussion, were expressed in different resolutions:

### **FMD Outbreak in Paraguay**

Urge Paraguay's sanitary authorities to carry out all necessary efforts to identify the origin and factors that gave rise to the outbreak.

- **PANAFTOSA's mandates**

Reiterate the agreements of the 3rd Extraordinary meeting, of the 25th COSALFA Ordinary meeting and the 12th RIMSA, in the sense that PANAFTOSA should be granted the mandate and responsibility to audit, when it deems it necessary, with technical and scientific independence, and together with the countries of the area; to visit areas that are considered critical; to supervise sero-epidemiological research and any other course of action that is deemed necessary, including for this purpose specialists from member countries.

- **Information and Communication**

That PANAFTOSA, in its role as an entity for international cooperation with regards to FMD, and in its role as ex-officio secretariat for COSALFA, formally request, every time it deems it convenient, all information considered pertinent from official veterinary service of the countries.

- **Trust fund and other contributions**

Reiterate the invitation for countries, ranching organizations, and other actors in the chain of production to incorporate itself to the trust fund mechanism, and that official sectors include, in their budgets, a portion of financial resources for the trust fund.

### **39th COSALFA**

(Asuncion, Paraguay – 10 -11 May, 2012)

This meeting continued its analysis of the FMD situation in Paraguay, first addressed during the 4th Extraordinary COSALFA. The authorities of SENACSA Paraguay presented a detailed report on the second FMD outbreak, which took place in the Department of San Pedro. It was pointed out that the outbreak had been controlled, that the state of emergency has been lifted, and that missions from the CVP, PANAFTOSA, and sanitary services from countries in the southern cone had been received.

Another topic addressed was the institutional development of PANAFTOSA. The restructuring report was given in two units: One regarding the FMD and vesicular stomatitis diagnostic reference, and another one regarding production. It was reported that the moving of the diagnostic laboratory to the city of Pedro Leopoldo, Minas Gerais, Brazil, was completed.

The topics that were addressed, after the discussion, were expressed in different resolutions:

- **Venezuela's Participation in COSALFA**

Venezuela is urged to express its position with regards to fulfilling the commitments agreed upon during COSALFA with respects to the Hemispheric Plan of Foot and Mouth Disease Eradication (PHEFA).

- **Global Initiative by OIE/FAO on Controlling FMD**

Manifest the decision that in the region, the application framework of the global initiative is based on PHEFA, be it its governance (COHEFA-COSALFA) as its technical implementation and follow-up framework.

- **PHEFA Management and Follow-up Group**

The PHEFA Management and Follow-up Group are mentioned, urging countries to continue their support to the group.

- **PANAFTOSA's 2012-2013 Biennial Operative Plan**

That the countries' public and private sectors commit to manage the necessary resources, provided for in the budget presented during the Biennial Operative Plan, in order to fulfill technical cooperation actions by PANAFTOSA and following up on PHEFA.

PANAFTOSA will inform the countries with regards to the mechanisms that will allow PAHO/WHO to receive resources from the countries.

- **Sanitary Emergency Situation in Paraguay**

It is recommended by the national sanitary authority, SENACSA, that the actions suggested by PANAFTOSA and the CVP be continued, as they are necessary for the recovery of its sanitary condition.

- **Modification of Bylaws**

The sixth resolution refers to the modification of COSALFA's bylaw.

- **Admittance of the Republic of Panama as a member of COSALFA**

The eight refers to the acceptance of the Republic of Panama as a new member of COSALFA.