



Presentation

Dear Colleagues and Readers,

You are receiving number 03 of the VPH News. After the success of the last two editions, we are happy to prepare another volume of our communication channel.

Besides providing more transparency to our activities, we hope the bulletin contributes to the carrying out of a true synergetic integration in our Unit and to strengthen the dialogue between its different segments.

The role of Institutional Communication is not limited to its news aspect as it also invests in the construction of a shared organizational memory and in an updated registry of the evolution of its agents and partners.

Therefore, we consider it timely to publish this issue even if due to the transition period of the end of the year, its content is not totally updated or unpublished.

We are counting on your collaboration to start in 2008, a new information cycle that can reflect the richness of our actions and the importance of our mission towards a better world.

VPH News

Events

FIGHT AGAINST FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE (FMD)

Preparation of the 35th Meeting of COSALFA

The 35th Meeting of the South American Commission for the Fight against Foot - and - Mouth Disease (COSALFA) will be held in Porto Alegre, in the southern region of Brazil, during March 10-14, 2008, with the participation of representatives of the agriculture and cattle sectors from eleven South American countries (Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela).

In order to discuss the organization of the event, which has not been held in Brazil during the last eight years, Dr. Albino Belotto and the coordinator of the Agriculture and Cattle Sector of the Legislative Assembly of Rio Grande do Sul, State deputy Jerônimo Goergen (Progressive Party - PP), held a meeting at the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center-PAHO/WHO.

According to Dr. Belotto, the 35th edition of the event will discuss strategic guidelines of the Hemispheric Plan for the Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (PHEFA) to comply with the goal of eradication of the disease in 2009 as well as to analyze the present status of FMD in the continent.

Deputy Jerônimo has stated that "the choice of Rio Grande do Sul as location for the COSALFA Meeting will be considered an important step for the State to obtain the status of FMD-free without vaccination in the next few years. This will favor the current good moment in the meat trade and in sanitary defense actions".



Planning the 35th COSALFA: State Deputy Jerônimo Goergen (PP-RS), together with Director Albino Belotto and Dr. Victor Saraiva.

FOOD SAFETY

Technical Cooperation in Food Safety



The Technical Group in Food Safety (PANALIMENTOS) contacted Mrs. Clénia Maria de Souza Zêba, Education director of the Foundation for Technological and Social Development of Duque de Caxias (FUNDEC), and her advisor Alessandra Zêba da Costa. As a result of these meetings a joint working program was prepared for the promotion of food safety through training programs for food handlers, health officials and a project to adapt and validate the "Five Key-Points for food safety and for the prevention of food-transmitted diseases" of the World Health Organization (WHO) at primary schools. The objective of these activities is to reduce risk and the social and economic impact of diseases transmitted by food (DTFs).

VETERINARY PUBLIC HEALTH

Integration of Various Sectors of the Area

In October 2007, the Brazilian Association of Veterinary Public Health held the II National Congress of Veterinary Public Health in Fortaleza, in the northeast region of Brazil.

The objective of the second edition of the event was the integration of various segments acting in the veterinary public health of the country and the strengthening of the identity of the veterinarian in this area.



The stand of PAHO: contribution to the exchange of experience, integrating the veterinary community.



The Veterinary Public Health Unit of PAHO installed a stand at the location of the meeting to diffuse its activities, thus contributing to the interchange of experience and knowledge between professionals and specialists of the segment.

Dr. Cristina Schneider, Consultant of the Veterinary Public Health Unit of PAHO/WHO, was awarded a prize for services rendered to veterinary public health.

CYSTIC ECHINOCOCCOSIS

Proposals for Intervention

In December 2007, the workshop "Analysis of Situations and Proposals for Intervention on Cystic Echinococcosis" was held in Chile. Its objective was to prepare a protocol for Evaluation of Reference Laboratories for Cystic Equinococcosis Diagnosis.

The inter-sector event was held in the Aysen region, where the largest incidence of surgical treatment is found due to the zoonosis in the country. It assembled participants responsible for Parasitic Diseases and for the Diagnosis of Equinococcosis, from SAG, from the Institute of Public Health of Chile and from the Carlos Malbrán Institute (Argentina).

OTHER ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT AT PANAF-TOSA-PAHO/WHO



International Seminar of Laboratory Specialists in vesicular diseases.

October 2007

SIVCONT Meeting – Continental System of Epidemiological Surveillance.

November 2007



HUMAN RESOURCES OF QUALITY

Strengthening the image of PALTEX

The professionals responsible for The Expanded Textbook and Instructional Materials Program (PALTEX) promoted last November a third meeting to review operational planning and the identity of the program.

The meeting was held in São Paulo and its objective was to strengthen the image of the program as an activity of international technical cooperation between Brazil and PAHO and to present its current status in the country, through information on strategic planning of PALTEX.



Staff in charge of PALTEX: Improving the administration of the program.

Presentation

GUIDE

Social Communication and Risk communication in Animal Health

In November 2007, the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center-PAHO/WHO (PANAF-TOSA -BID project) issued the "Guide of Social Communication and Risk Communication in Animal Health" with the objective to strengthen action in animal health and in the fight against FMD, through the use of social communication when dealing with the issue and with related risk situations.

It is the purpose of the guide to review communication as an essential process for practical action. It tries to emphasize the role of the public as co-producer of knowledge since its opinion must stand out in social action in animal health and, specifically, in FMD control.



VISIT OF THE SUB-DIRECTOR OF PAHO

Praises to the strategic plan of PANAFTOSA - PAHO/WHO



Staff members of PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO MEET THE SUB-DIRECTOR OF PAHO.

On 27 November 2007, the Sub-Director of PAHO, Dr. Carissa Etienne visited the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center-PAHO/WHO where she met with staff members and associations.

During her talk in the auditorium of the Unit, Dr. Etienne spoke of perspectives for the next biennium and pointed out the importance of zoonosis and of work involving safety of foods for public health. The Sub-director praised the strategic plan of PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO, is increasingly with WHO.

FAO/RLAC

Partnership in the Combat to FMD



Directors Tito Diaz (in the middle), Albino Belotto; epidemiologist José Naranjo and biostatistician Antonio Mendes: plan of joint action against FMD.

In October 2007, the Director of Production and Animal Health of FAO/RLAC (Organization of the United Nations for Agriculture and Food/Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean), Dr. Tito Diaz, participated in a series of talks presented by scientists of the Unit.

The objective of the meeting was to prepare a joint plan of action for technical cooperation to the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, which was suggested at the Hemispheric Plan for the Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (PHEFA). There was also discussion on the possibilities of cooperation in other areas, such as zoonosis and food safety.

CANADA

Vesicular Diseases

Visit to PANAFTOSA/PAHO/WHO from Dr. Dorothy Geale – CFIA/Canada and Dr. Alfonso Clavijo, Chief of Vesicular Diseases Unit of the National Center for Animal Diseases of Canada.



IKM

Information Technologies

Last October, the Director of IKM (Management of Information and Knowledge), Dr. Richard Van West-Charles, and assessor Marcelo D'Agostino (IKM), visited the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center-PAHO/WHO and they presented the work they are developing at PAHO, its objectives and strategies.

Both specialists had meetings with specific groups of various areas of PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO to learn about current systems and specific demands regarding management of data. They also suggested new models for integration between social communication and information technologies.

Production of FMD vaccine



During the last week of October 2007, the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center-PAHO/WHO was visited by Dr. Mario Eduardo Pulga, Vice-President of Vaccine against FMD of SINDAN, and Drs. Leonardo José Richtzenhain and Luiz Guilherme Heneine, consultants of firms which produce this vaccine.

The visitors met the team of PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO to discuss production perspectives and the application of the vaccine in Brazil.

BOLÍVIA

Closer Links with BOLIVIA

The Vice-Minister of Health of Bolivia, Dr. Juan Alberto Nogales, visited the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center-PAHO/WHO in October 2007.

With the objective of setting closer links with PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO and to collect more information on veterinary services offered by the Unit, Dr. Nogales attended presentations on veterinary public health programs they have developed, such as quality control of food, vesicular diseases and zoonosis, among others.

Support to FMD eradication plan



North American specialists meet Drs. Albino Belotto and Victor Saraiva.

The Director of the Veterinary Medicine Faculty of the University of Kansas (USA), Dr. Ralph Richardson, visited PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO in October 2007.

The objective of the visit was to intensify the visibility and support of the FMD Eradication Plan among academic, public and private sectors through actions of the Inter-American Group for Foot-and-Mouth Disease Eradication (GIEFA).

During the meeting, the director pointed out the importance of interchange of research and veterinary services between the University of Kansas and the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center-PAHO/WHO as a way to increase joint participation in programs and campaigns in the Americas.

Accompanied by specialists Dr. Lisa Freeman – KSU, Dr. Dorothy Geale – CFIA/Canada and Dr. David Ashford – USDA/APHIS, who detailed organizational structures and action guidelines of GIEFA, Dr. Richardson met with the Director of PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO, Dr. Albino Belotto, and participated in debates with coordinators Dr. Victor Saraiva (Vesicular Diseases), Dr. Ingrid Bermann (Laboratory Services), Dr. Genaro García (Food Safety) and Dr. Fernando García (Zoonosis).

NEWS

POISONOUS ANIMALS

Prevention Strategies

Each year nearly 5 million accidents caused by poisonous animals are recorded in the world. Of these, 60% require treatment as there is risk of death, amputations and permanent sequels.

To confront this public health problem, PAHO/WHO, the Ministry of Health of Brazil and the Secretariat of Health of the state of São Paulo, met in November 2007 at the Butantan Institute in São Paulo, in order to establish strategies for the prevention of accidents with poisonous animals.

At the meeting, there was discussion on the establishment of technical cooperation networks to reduce the number of accidents caused by animals such as snakes, scorpions and arachnids, which occur mainly in tropical countries.

The specialists stated it is necessary to organize epidemiological surveillance systems as well as production of poison antidotes in adequate quantity and types. These are essential conditions for the success of an effective program.

Production

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MAPA-PANAFTOSA - PAHO/WHO AGREEMENT

Training in animal Health and Zoonosis

In 2007, the carrying out of the first Working Plan of the agreement established between the Ministry of Agriculture, Cattle and Supply (MAPA) and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO/WHO), through the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center-PAHO/WHO, was concluded.

The Plan, which will be valid for 5 years, aims at the development of actions to strengthen Animal Health Official Programs of Brazil through training of manual work in the country.

Last year PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO held 16 courses, totaling 590 participants, through training of professionals of MAPA, Ministry of Health and Brazilian state organs. The courses covered subjects such as equine health, wild rabies control and, management of animal health programs, among others.

The professionals who participated in the courses mentioned that the experience encouraged the search of knowledge, with daily practical utilization, as well as integration and exchange of experiences between professionals in the federal and state ambit.

ECUADOR

Joint Action Against FMD

In November 2007, representatives of APHIS, IICA, FAO, PANAFATOSA-PAHO/WHO and FEDEGAN, international organs involved in veterinary public health, held a seminar-workshop in Quito, Ecuador. The objective of the event was to evaluate the "National Plan of Foot-and-Mouth Disease Eradication in Ecuador" and to suggest more effective action outlines towards the success of the program.

In view of the concern over the mistrust of the cattle sector of the country regarding actions and interventions of CONEFA and SESA, Equadorian health authorities, participants of the seminar suggested the drawing up of a proposal to formalize mechanisms for public-private coordination, incorporating the required juridical instruments for effective implementation of FMD activities.

As a first step to improve the operational efficiency of the FMD Eradication Program, the participants agreed that a technical evaluation mission, coordinated by PANAFTOSA-PAHO/WHO, should visit field offices of SESA and the headquarters of committees for cattle production. The group also suggested that the proposal should be directed to the Ministry of Agriculture of Ecuador.