

National forum of Leptospirosis of Nicaragua



Identification of possible environmental driving factors for leptospirosis outbreaks in Nicaragua

Mtra. Patricia Nájera, GIS Expert/PAHO-Washington

Presented by Dr. Cristina Schneider

During this presentation Dr. Schneider explained the methodology used by Patricia Nájera and the challenges to standardize climate data in order to conduct the study. Mrs. Nájera constructed indicators by municipality, and in addition worked with slopes and floodplains. A more in-depth analysis is still needed in order to include other pertinent variables, for example, the altitude of the terrain, a variable that is still being studied. Databases of storms and floods were used, but it was difficult to carry out a good detailed analysis by municipality. The most relevant finding about soil types was regarding soil pH, since alkalinity allows the bacteria to live longer. She stressed the importance of using agricultural soil as a driving factor for the presence of leptospirosis, because they exhibit higher water absorption and it establishes the difference between the Pacific and the Atlantic in the country.