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THIRTIETH REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Brasilia, Brazil, 14 to 18 April 2008

REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

I. Introduction

1. According to its statutes, the functions of the Commission on Livestock Development for Latin America and the Caribbean (CODEGALAC) are to recommend animal production and health policies to its members; to plan and promote measures for animal production and the control of animal diseases; to determine, in consultation with members, the nature and scope of assistance needed to run their national livestock development programmes; and to provide support to regional programmes.
2. Membership of the Commission is open to all Member Nations and Associate Members of FAO in Latin America and the Caribbean. The Commission is made up of those entitled Member Nations and Associate Member Nations that have notified the Director-General of their desire to be considered as members.
3. At its last session, the Commission gave priority to discussion of three thematic areas: a) animal health and food safety and their impact on the trade of livestock products; b) the development of sustainable livestock systems, with an emphasis on the interactions of livestock, environment and the utilization and conservation of animal genetic resources; and c) the building of institutional capacity to enhance the sustainability and competitiveness of regional livestock production, in the context of the new international trade agreements.
4. The Commission on Livestock Development for Latin America and the Caribbean held its Ninth Session from 15 to 17 October 2007 in Bogotá (South America Chapter) and from 30 to 31 October 2006 in San José (Central America and Caribbean Chapter). Both meetings were attended by a total of 50 participants, including representatives of countries and FAO headquarters and observers from non-governmental organizations.
5. A summary of the main findings and recommendations of the Ninth Session of CODEGALAC, based on the work of the respective subregional groups, is given in paragraphs 6 to 28.

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II. Main Findings and Recommendations

The Commission:

6. *Acknowledged* the need to step up the combined efforts of countries to prevent, control and eradicate transboundary diseases, with an emphasis on strengthening border programmes of control and eradication of foot-and-mouth disease in the Andean Region.
7. *Recommended* that all countries adopt the protection of animal health as State policy to make steady progress towards eradicating the priority endemic diseases that were restricting sustainable economic growth in the Region, and to prevent the entry of exotic diseases.
8. *Indicated* that, despite national efforts to eradicate transboundary diseases, it was necessary to strengthen the capacity of national animal health systems and to dovetail national services with cooperation agencies.
9. *Acknowledged* that FAO and other international agencies should play an active role in monitoring and supporting national and regional eradication programmes and should facilitate interaction between public and private players, this being a key factor in the management of sanitary measures.
10. *Requested* assistance from FAO in the management of international cooperation resources to support the implementation of disease eradication programmes in those countries of the Region that requested it, and to cooperate with other international agencies, under the Global Framework for the Progressive Control and Eradication of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TAD), in the provision of the required technical assistance, with an emphasis on supporting countries with programme implementation and compliance with agreements established in that and other forums.
11. *Acknowledged* the threat to national economies and regional livestock production that was represented by transboundary diseases determined as priorities by the GF-TAD: Foot-and-Mouth Disease, Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy, Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, Classical Swine Fever, New World Screwworm and Bovine Rabies.
12. *Recommended* advancing the review, update and harmonization of national food safety and quality rules with the recommendations issued by the international reference agencies.
13. *Agreed* to recommend to the Secretariat of the Andean Community the formulation of the Andean Meat and Milk Safety and Quality Standard.
14. *Recommended* strengthening interinstitutional and intersectoral coordination to improve the safety and quality control of livestock products in the Region.
15. *Recommended* involving the highest decision-making levels of each country in the search for political and financial support for the implementation of regional and national programmes of safety and quality of livestock products.
16. *Recommended* submitting for the consideration of the Region's ministries of agriculture the need to define new institutional requirements and to strengthen national and regional capacities, on the basis of the requirements of international standards and treaties.
17. *Recommended* that the international technical cooperation agencies identify, develop and dispense training and promotional material on Good Livestock Production Practices and safety and quality of livestock products for stakeholders, including consumers.
18. *Demonstrated* that conventional livestock production was causing environmental harm to soil and water resources, and that this had significant social and economic implications. In spite of its environmental impact, livestock production continued to be central to the livelihoods of a large number rural households in Latin America and the Caribbean.
19. *Acknowledged* that, in response to the environmental problem, national public and private institutions and international agencies had developed Good Livestock Production Practices that were aimed at raising farm productivity, rehabilitating degraded areas and ensuring the provision

of ecosystem services, but that those practices needed to be more broadly disseminated in terms of information, awareness and coverage.

20. *Recommended* that initiatives and policies be adopted that incorporated the environmental component and that provided for the large-scale implementation of sustainable production systems and Good Livestock Production Practices.

21. *Recommended* the formulation of a regional strategy for sustainable and environmentally friendly livestock development that was consistent with and integrated to the livestock development policies of each country.

22. *Recommended* that FAO develop a programme of institution building and of training of national decision-makers and technicians in sustainable livestock production, given the limited national capacity that existed for the development and implementation of sustainable and environmentally friendly livestock production systems.

23. *Recommended* that national governments promote public and private partnerships that considered principles and mechanisms that would facilitate the development of sustainable and environmentally friendly livestock production.

24. *Recommended* that closer attention be paid to countries with stricter institutional limitations, in particular those that were more vulnerable to natural resource degradation and climate change.

25. *Recommended* that FAO promote a regional livestock and environment agenda to harmonize policies relating to livestock development and environmental conservation in pastoral areas.

26. *Acknowledged* that the recent adoption of the Global Plan of Action on Animal Genetic Resources by the FAO member countries and the creation of the Regional Focal Point for Latin America and the Caribbean supported by FAO constituted tools to advance a regional strategy of sustainable utilization and conservation of animal genetic resources, in accordance with national priorities, and contributed to the strengthening of sustainable livestock systems.

27. *Reiterated* the need to develop strategies to improve the participation and integration of public and private players in the formulation of livestock development policies, and the importance of closer management to add value and strengthen territorial development programmes, involving institutions, associations and corporations from other sectors of the economy.

28. *Acknowledged* the importance of CODEGALAC as a mechanism to help countries exchange experiences and to promote cooperation in areas of public policy and livestock development, and thanked FAO through the Technical Secretariat for its support in maintaining the Commission and its successful operation.