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SUMMARY PROCEEDINGS
OF
RESANTILLAS III
THE THIRD MEETING OF DIRECTORS OF ANIMAL HEALTH
AND
THE FIRST MEETING OF LABORATORY VETERINARIANS OF THE ANTILLES ZONE

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO
NOVEMBER 21 - 23, 1984



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INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR COOPERATION ON AGRICULTURE

P.O. BOX 10-1089, GEORGETOWN, GUYANA,

PROCEEDINGS

TO

RESANTILLAS III

THE THIRD MEETING OF DIRECTORS OF ANIMAL HEALTH

SUMMARY: PROCEEDINGS

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A G E N D A

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 21:

- 08:00 hrs: Registration - Presentation of Credentials
- 08:50 hrs: Election of Officers
- Chairman
 - Vice-Chairman
 - Rapporteur
- 09:00 hrs: O P E N I N G C E R E M O N Y
- Welcome: IICA Director, Trinidad & Tobago
 - Main Address: Hon. Minister of Agriculture
- 09:30 hrs: C O F F E E B R E A K
- 10:00 hrs: - Adoption of Agenda and Items for Discussion
- IICA Report (1983-1984): Animal Health Specialist
 - Country Reports
 - Barbados
 - Dominica
 - Grenada
 - Guyana
 - Haiti
 - Jamaica
 - St. Lucia
 - Suriname
 - Trinidad & Tobago
- 12:30 hrs: L U N C H E O N
- 14:00 hrs: - COINSA Recommendation III - 15-Year Animal Health Plan
- COINSA Recommendation II - Information Systems
 - COINSA Recommendation V - Animal Disease Preparedness/
Sanitary Defence Systems

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(ii)

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 22:

- 09:00 hrs: - Presentation: *Amblyomma variegatum*/Cowdriosis/
Dermatophilosis - Eastern Caribbean Countries:
M. Burrige, BVM & S, MVPM, Ph.D, MRCVS, Associate Professor
of Epidemiology & Planning Co-ordinator, Tropical
Programmes, College of Preventive Medicine, University
of Florida.
- Discussion
- 10:30 hrs: C O F F E E B R E A K
- 11:00 hrs: Laboratory Status Reports
- 12:30 hrs: L U N C H E O N
- 14:00 hrs: - COINSA Recommendation VII - Laboratory Network:
Director, Animal Health Programme
- Discussion

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 23:

- 09:00 hrs: Reports and Discussion
- 10:30 hrs: C O F F E E B R E A K
- 11:00 hrs: R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S
- 12:30 hrs: L U N C H E O N
- 14:00 hrs: Final Report
- 15:00 hrs: C L O S I N G C E R E M O N Y

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P R O C E E D I N G S

November 21, 1984:

The Meeting started with the election of Officers, viz.:

- Dr. E. Caesar (Trinidad & Tobago) - Chairman
- Dr. V.S. St. John (Barbados) - Rapporteur.

At the Opening Ceremony Dr. C. Brathwaite, the IICA Director for Trinidad & Tobago stressed the neglect of livestock production as one of the most severe defects in the Regional Food Plan. IICA's major goal is to alleviate this by reducing the loss caused by animal disease.

The Regional Animal Health Specialist gave an overview of IICA's Animal Health Programme and achievements in the eradication of African Swine Fever (ASF) in Haiti, the Regional Bluetongue Serological Survey, Project Development and Training.

The Honourable Minister of Agriculture of Trinidad & Tobago in his address was adamant that cost/benefit analysis be instituted in assessing the desirability of a disease control programme for a specific country. He also stressed the value of veterinary services in increasing local animal protein production and thereby reducing imports.

The Minister was very concerned that farmers were not presented with essential veterinary information in a readily comprehensible form.

After the adoption of the Agenda, the IICA Animal Health Specialist (Dr. F. Alexander) gave his report. The Meeting was informed of the likelihood of an epidemiologist being funded to further develop a regional information system for the CARICOM countries. He highly recommended that all participating countries should join OIE. Dr. Alexander was also pleased to report that the project for the eradication of ASF and the development of the swine industry in Haiti had been completed and Haiti has been declared ASF free. He summarised the bluetongue serology studies undertaken by the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, Barbados. The widespread evicence of antibody to this disease indicates that it should pose no limitation to animal movement within the region.

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Country Report

Barbados: The SVO outlined the major areas of veterinary activity in his island with special reference to the bluetongue survey and the proposed national Meat Hygiene Scheme. A request was made that a document be prepared by Barbadian authorities outlining the conduction and success of the stray dog control programme for regional distribution.

Dominica: The CVO, Dominica discussed the work of the local veterinary section and listed livestock diseases as important in his country. He reported on three (3) specific projects:

- a) Dominica livestock development project;
- b) Dominica ruminant haemoparasite and zoonotic disease assessment and control project;
- c) *Amblyomma variegatum* tick control eradication project in Bellevue Chopin.

Grenada: The animal disease situation in Grenada differs little from that of the other regional island states apart from the serious problem of Mongoose-transmitted rabies. The two major animal health projects are:

- a) The rabies control programme with its emphasis on mongoose trapping and vaccination of susceptible animals;
- b) The serological testing of cattle to determine the prevalence of anaplasmosis and brucellosis antibody.

Guyana: There are several interesting features of Guyana's animal health situation that were considered by the CVO. These are:

- a) The presence of *Amblyomma* sp. ticks, the vectors of heartwater and probably dermatophilosis;
- b) The maintenance of an apparent FMD-free status;
- c) The high prevalence of tuberculosis in cattle and in man;
- d) The presence of equine infectious anaemia.

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Several projects were identified for potential IICA involvement, and include:

- a) In-service training of Vets and AHA's;
- b) A herd health programme for all dairy units;
- c) A rabies control programme;
- d) A screwworm surveillance programme;
- e) An animal health and production information system.

Haiti: The CVO discussed with well justified pride the success of the Haitian Veterinary Services in collaboration with international agencies in eradicating the scourge of African Swine Fever. The country is presently being repopulated with improved breeds of pigs, and every effort is being made to ensure good health and high productivity of the newly introduced animals.

In Haiti, mongoose-transmitted rabies is also a major problem. Anthrax, which is exotic to most countries of the region, causes heavy losses among unvaccinated cattle here.

Velogenic newcastle disease is a major disease in this country with losses of over 90% common in unvaccinated flocks.

Government programmes are in effect to control anthrax, newcastle disease and rabies.

A joint USAID/Haiti programme is scheduled to start in December, 1984 to investigate the causes of disease in cattle, pigs and goats.

The delegates paid tribute to the fact that for the first time outside of Haiti, simultaneous translation was provided at regional meetings and wished to congratulate the Government of Trinidad & Tobago and IICA for this facility.

Jamaica: The brucellosis and tuberculosis eradication campaigns should be completed in 1985 with only a single herd vaccinated in recent years.

Several programmes are expected to improve the veterinary services including the building of eleven (11) veterinary clini-complexes and the upgrading of veterinary diagnostic facilities. Two very valuable simulated exotic disease exercises were conducted in the past 2 years.

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A major need to satisfy the projected increase in livestock production will be to fill the vacancies created by resignations of many of the veterinary specialists including the pathologist, microbiologist, poultry pathologist and virologist.

St. Lucia: Attrition of veterinary personnel is a major problem and is associated with poor public appreciation for the free professional services provided.

The major disease control programmes are:

- a) The Amblyomma/Dermatophilosis control programme;
- b) The Liver Fluke/Limnea cubensis control programme;
- c) The cattle artificial insemination programme

A feature common to this and many of the other states in the region is a high leptospirosis reactor rate with very little clinical disease.

Suriname: The provision of adequate veterinary services is severely hindered by staff shortages. Tuberculosis has not been seen for 5 years and brucellosis is recognised only on three (3) farms where a quarantine and slaughter policy is in effect.

All cattle sent for slaughter are registered so that the owner's name and accurate address are available if a disease condition justifying further investigation is found.

Trinidad & Tobago: A short report on the proposed Veterinary School was given. The Meeting was informed of the present state of the tuberculosis outbreak in Trinidad & Tobago and some thoughts on the origin of the outbreak.

A programme for the surveillance of screwworm in cattle and for diseases of poultry is in effect. Technical assistance is being sought to improve the service offered by the hatchery sanitation programme.

The causative agents of the tick-borne fevers, anaplasmosis and babesiosis are being typed with the aim of producing effective vaccines.

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November 22, 1984:

A presentation was made by Dr. M. Burrige of the University of Florida outlining findings of the regional tick survey with special reference to *Amblyomma* sp.

The spread of this tick is of tremendous regional concern as a vector of heartwater disease and also of its close association with outbreaks of dermatophilosis.

Methods of tick control/eradication were discussed and considerable interest generated by a new synthetic pyrethrin, flumethrin. Reports of trials indicate that this is a highly effective acaricide with the advantage of low dose/pour on availability.

Veterinary Laboratory Status Reports

Barbados: The relatively small VDL has had a very significant increase in workload since rapid reporting of hand-written reports has been instigated. The culture of mycoplasma and leptospira are the major areas of specialisation. A project is due to start in early 1985 to determine the prevalence of mycoplasmosis in pigs and poultry with special reference to its effect on productivity. On-going projects include a leptospirosis project (with Medical Record Council, UK) and porcine mastitis/metritis project.

Grenada: A Veterinary Laboratory is planned and a technician is presently being trained in medical technology in Barbados.

Guyana: The Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory began operations in January, 1981. Sections now functional are Microbiology, Serology, Clinical Pathology, Pathology and Parasitology. Staff consists of 3 Veterinarians, a Microbiologist, 7 Technicians and 7 Supporting Staff. In-service training of Technologists in on-going and overseas training of Veterinarians and Technicians is in progress.

Problems: Reliable electricity supply, submission of samples by the farming

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public because of our location. Staff thus go into the field for material. Projects are developed from field problems and the response to disease outbreaks is heartening. One satellite lab is functional.

Haiti: For the past several years emphasis has been placed on African Swine Fever eradication with only limited effort on more routine diagnostic techniques. A new Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory has been constructed and now emphasis is being placed on securing funding for staff and the supply of materials and equipment.

Jamaica: The Linton McDonnough Memorial Veterinary Laboratory has had a steadily increasing workload over the last two years. The limitations have been human and material resources. The unavailability of reagents has been a serious restraint in the expansion of services provided by the Laboratory. Though training and upgrading has been seen as a necessary requisite in retaining specialist staff, material resources need to be identified in order to allow them to undertake activities in the new areas.

St. Lucia: The laboratory diagnostic facilities are limited but would be quite capable of providing basic techniques if permanent and trained technicians were provided.

Suriname: Histopathology, routine Bacteriology especially for the Meat Inspection Division and serological research are the activities mainly conducted.

Advertisements have been placed in Dutch and Belgian Veterinary Medical Journals to overcome staff shortages.

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THE INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE DIRECTORS OF VETERINARY
DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORIES OF THE ANTILLES ZONE

November 22, 1984

This Meeting was convened by Dr. V. Lopez of Jamaica and attended by Drs. M. Millien (Haiti), B. Nutor (Grenada) and S. St. John (Barbados). Several proposals were made whose implementation would considerably increase the values of veterinary diagnostic laboratories to the region:

(1990) - In each State a VDL should be established with basic services in the areas of pathology, bacteriology, sociology and parasitology. These should be manned by adequately trained staff who are so compensated that attrition would be low. The VDL head should be a veterinarian preferably with graduate training in laboratory work. The technical staff should be trained at least to the level of medical technology which is a diploma course as offered by schools in Jamaica, Guyana and Barbados.

(1995) - In addition there should be regional reference laboratories providing complete services in one or more of these disciplines and/or the more highly technical fields of virology and toxicology. In each case the laboratory must be equipped with the necessary equipment, materials and reagents.

Staff for the reference laboratories should be trained professional specialists supported by technicians trained to the HNC or degree level. Monetary and other incentives must be offered to ensure retention of such personnel and a system should be devised through Governments and International Agencies to provide these to specialist and reference diagnostic laboratory veterinarians that would reduce the attrition of the public sector.

The building and development of laboratory animal facilities should only be considered for specific reference laboratories.

(1990) - It is highly desirable that IICA should co-ordinate and fund biennial meetings of the Directors of Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratories of

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the region and consider their recommendations in the areas of training and other needs.

(1990) - A quality control system should be implemented with 'blind coded' samples distributed to all participating labs (esp. bacteriology, parasitology, biochemistry and serology).

(1990) - The Committee should establish uniform modes for packaging of samples for inter-regional movement of reference countries. It is recognised that veterinary import regulations for movement of biological material must be complied with in each case.

(1990) - IICA should aggressively seek funding for implementation of projects recommended by the VDL Directors from time to time.

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November 23, 1984:

GROUP DISCUSSION ON DOCUMENT ANIMAL HEALTH PLAN
FOR THE AMERICAS BY THE YEAR 2000

Dr. T. King - Chairman
Dr. K. Scotland
Dr. Tjang-a-Fa
Dr. M. Burridge

1. Administration of the Animal Health Services

Goals para. 2 - Location of the office of the Director of Animal Health Services.

In most Caribbean territories the livestock industry is not a major priority area economically and therefore elevation of the Head of Veterinary Services to the third decision-making level would mean reporting directly to the Permanent Secretary, Agriculture. With non-animal health personnel being the present supervisors, the goal of 1990 may not be a realistic one.

Goals para. 3 - Structuring of Animal Health Services.

This is obviously more applicable to the large countries of the hemisphere.

2. Epizootiological Information

Goals paras. 1 to 4.

This will be difficult in countries with limited veterinary, paraveterinary and other professionals, e.g. economist, manpower.

Goals para. 4.

Requires a good economist working with an epidemiologist.

Generally, the major problems are appreciated even now, so work should begin immediately.

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3. Laboratory Diagnostic Services in Animal Health

This is being dealt with by the Laboratory Working Group.

4. Control of Internal Mobilisation of Animals and their Products

Manpower in Caribbean as a limiting factor in our small territories.

5. International Animal Health Quarantine

Goal para. 2 - This may not be feasible for the Caribbean territories as individuals. A co-operational venture for quarantine stations would be more feasible.

6. Emergency Systems for Prevention, Control & Eradication of Exotic Diseases

The group was in full agreement with the goals as indicated.

7. Production of Biological Products for Diagnosis and Prevention in Animal Health

Goal para. 1 - of limited applicability in the Caribbean.

8. Control of Biological, Pharmaceutical and Food Products for Use in Animals

Applicable only to Caribbean territories who at present are involved in manufacture.

9. Meat Inspection

The group fully supports the goals outlined.

10. Research on Animal Health

Goal para. 3 - Exchange of Information.

IICA would be a clearing-house for disseminating information so collected.

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11. Legislation on Animal Health

Goals para. 4 - Implementation and updating of Border Agreements...

CARICOM could play an important role here with the support of IICA.

12. Participation of the Sector of Livestock Producers and Related Industries
in the Animal Health Programme

Goals paras. (1) and (2). These may be difficult goals for the Caribbean.

Goals paras. (3) and (4). Fully supported.

13. Veterinary Execution

Goals outlined are fully supported.

14 to 16. Supported

17. Prevention, Control & Eradication of Diseases - List B

Goal para. 6 - Heartwater.

For the Caribbean, this goal should be 1990 and not the year 2000.

Goal para. 13 - Boophilus Tick.

1990 should be the implementation time for the Caribbean.

It was suggested that consideration be given to epidemiological studies to
T. vivax in Latin America and the Caribbean.

18. Supported.

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REPORT ON COINSA I - RECOMMENDATION V

Drs. L.A. Bryan, R.N.D. Raja & D. Anderson

Sanitary Defence - Systems

It is recognised that all the countries in the region should have laws and regulations governing the quarantine and inspection of animals and their products and by-products. A draft regulation was prepared under CARICOM agreement and submitted to Member Countries for their comments. This was done in an effort to standardise regulations in the countries concerned. The issues covered definitions, general observations on the importation of cattle horses, pigs, sheep, goats, from foot-and-mouth disease-free countries, inspection and quarantine services and authorised ports of entry.

The international movement of animals, products of animal origin and veterinary biological products involves a risk for the importing country. Therefore measures must be adopted to protect the health of the human and animal population. Animal quarantine or sanitary defence systems must include a range of measures to include the study of the animal health situations in the exporting countries, the issuing of health permits, and the compliance with the requirements of the importing country.

The regulation must extend also to the feeds for animal consumption and the facilities for transporting them.

Quarantine control must have close relations to epidemiological surveillance within countries and entails measures that may restrict trade among countries.

Animal quarantine is a professional speciality for which personnel should be adequately trained about exotic diseases, the clinical signs of these diseases, diagnostic procedures for prompt diagnosis, the epidemiology of the diseases and the rapid measures of confinement and eradication.

Internal quarantine consists of measures to prevent the spread of disease within the country or area while external quarantine refers to the rules and regulations which are applied to prevent the entry of exotic diseases by animals and their products.

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Equipment for the efficient destruction of diseased material and well trained personnel to work efficiently within the legal framework.

Quarantine Facilities should be established in order to hold imported animals for a period in order to observe for general infections. With restrictions that are placed on the countries for such importation to be made, there would not be need for high security facilities.

Epidemic Survey System - Internal development of an epidemiological capability is necessary. A number of training courses for veterinary personnel was undertaken in some countries, animal health surveys and the analysis of such data must be undertaken with emphasis on the estimation of economic losses caused by animal diseases.

National Emergency Preparedness - It is strongly recommended that all countries should establish a National Committee which would make decisions regarding emergency disease control and eradication measures. A manual of guidelines in the diagnosis, appraisal, depopulation and carcass disposal, cleansing and disinfection of premises and the control of movement of livestock and products in infected areas.

Budgetary provision should be made for the implementation of contingency plans and indemnity payment for animals slaughtered. This of course may need international funding.

Animal Health education and information dissemination should receive special consideration in the development of these emergency regulations.

Regular simulated exercises to test the national capability should be undertaken.

Establishment of disease-free zones within countries where diseases exist and the regular surveillance of the special high-risk areas.

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RECOMMENDATIONS OF RESANTILLAS III

RECOMMENDATION I - SANITARY DEFENCE SYSTEMS

CONSIDERING the Recommendations made at the COINSA I Meeting of the Inter-American Commission for Animal Health;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT IICA assist Member Countries to:

- 1) Enforce the legal framework for the institutions and implementation of sanitary regulations to govern the movement of animals and animal products in the Caribbean Region as outlined in the draft document prepared by the CARICOM Agreement.
- 2) Consider the upgrading of epidemiological surveillance systems where these exist and establish systems for rapid recognition and control of exotic diseases as a matter of urgency in countries without such systems.
- 3) Consider animal quarantine systems as a speciality area that must be manned by well trained staff for rapid diagnosis of important exotic diseases.
- 4) Encourage the establishment of National Emergency Disease Preparedness Plans with the necessary components to implement emergency operations.

RECOMMENDATION II - ERADICATION OF AMBLYOMMA VARIEGATUM FROM THE REGION

CONSIDERING the devastating effects of the presence of the Tick, Amblyomma variegatum, and its role in the transmission of Heartwater and Dermatophilosis;

AND CONSIDERING that this is recognised as the greatest threat to ruminant production in the Caribbean at the present time;

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AND CONSIDERING that there is evidence that during the last 3 years there has been a marked spread of *Amblyomma variegatum* throughout the Caribbean - a trend which can be expected to continue;

AND CONSIDERING that there are new technological developments that could have great impact on the control and eradication of this parasite;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Directors of Veterinary Services of their respective countries recommend that their Ministers:

- i) support the most cost-effective strategy for eradication of this dangerous tick vector from the Caribbean Region;

AND

- ii) give their full and united support to the development of a Regional Eradication Project.

RECOMMENDATION III - BLUETONGUE

CONSIDERING that at the First Meeting of the Inter-American Commission for Animal Health, COINSA I, Recommendation IV on Bluetongue was approved and in view of the successful work already done and published;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- 1) Further efforts be made by IICA to implement RECOMMENDATION IV.
- 2) IICA seek additional funds to support virus isolation studies and identification of the vectors.
- 3) Supplies of antigen be made available to the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, the Pine, Barbados, in order to support serological diagnostic capability for the Region.

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RECOMMENDATION IV - INFORMATION SYSTEMS

1. CONSIDERING the need for the development of adequate information systems on a national, regional and hemispheric level; and considering the recognition of this need by COINSA;

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this meeting gives full support to IICA in the development of this information system to be utilised on a national, regional and hemispheric basis.

2. CONSIDERING that IICA has already initiated the exchange of information in the Antilles Zone;

BE IT RESOLVED:

That IICA continue to collect, collate and redistribute this information on a quarterly basis, and that IICA recommends to Member Countries that:

- a) Together with those diseases classified under A of the OIE including Anthrax, Avian Influenza, Hog Cholera, Newcastle Disease, the following diseases/conditions be classified as notifiable for the Antilles Zone necessitating immediate notification by Member States to the IICA Regional Animal Health Office:

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------|
| - Heartwater | - Acute outbreak of Dermatophilosis |
| - Chlamydiosis | - Amblyomma infestation |
| - Pseudo rabies | - Trypanosoma vivax infection |

or any other disease of recent or unusual occurrence.

- b) There is regular monthly reporting of:
 - i) diseases of economic or epidemiological significance;
 - ii) information from private and other non-governmental agencies;
 - iii) information on export and import activities.

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- c) To make submission of interesting cases and activities for inclusion in the Quarterly Report.

RECOMMENDATION V - AFRICAN SWINE FEVER - HAITI

CONSIDERING that:

- i) The Government of Haiti undertook the enormous task of swine depopulation throughout the entire country in order to eradicate African Swine Fever (ASF); and
- ii) This project has been successfully concluded with the support of Mexico, USA, Canada, FAO and IICA;
- iii) Because of their efforts in October, 1984, Haiti was able to declare the country free from ASF;

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Animal Health Authorities of each of the Member Countries of IICA recommend to their respective governments to express their congratulations and gratitude to the Government of Haiti and, in particular, to those Haitian Veterinarians who successfully managed the project.

RECOMMENDATION VI - GRATITUDE TO THE GOVERNMENT OF TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

CONSIDERING that the Government of Trinidad & Tobago kindly hosted the RESANTILLAS III Meeting of the Directors of Animal Health and the First Meeting of the Regional Committee of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnostic Services of the Antilles Zone;

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Member Countries express their sincere appreciation and gratitude to the Government of Trinidad & Tobago in general, and the Ministry of Agriculture's Veterinary Services in particular, for the hosting of this Meeting and their generous hospitality in a most cordial atmosphere.

IICA
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Bogotá-Colombia



INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR COOPERATION ON AGRICULTURE

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