

## **FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE EXPERTS MEET IN CHILE TO STRENGTHEN EFFORTS IN DISEASE ERADICATION**

**Santiago de Chile, July 24** - Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) experts meet at the 12th Meeting of the Hemispheric Committee for the Eradication of Foot and Mouth Disease (COHEFA 12) to discuss action strategies aimed at strengthening the efforts for eradication of the diseases in South America, particularly in priority countries and areas affected by the FMD. In the meeting in Santiago, the experts discussed the regional situation of FMD and strategies to strengthen the implementation of the Action Plan 2011-2020 of the Program for the Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (PHEFA) in the sub-regions and countries of the continent.

The PHEFA has considerably advanced in South America and currently 85% of herds have the status of FMD-free. The hemispheric plan has been characterized by intersectoral collaboration, as a joint effort of public and private sectors, where national and regional FMD programs work together with the goal of eradicating the disease in the continent, highlighting the need to monitor, maintain and develop countries and regions free of FMD, using efficient epidemiological surveillance systems for early detection and rapid response.

The recommendations of this meeting will be presented to the Ministers of Agriculture and Health attending the 16th Inter-American Meeting at Ministerial Level on Health and Agriculture (RIMSA 16), which also takes place in Santiago on July 26 and 27.

The COHEFA was established in 1987 by the countries of the Americas to define strategies, lines of action, and manage resources to achieve the objectives set out in the Hemispheric Program. The COHEFA includes representatives of public and private sectors in the region of the Americas.

Since its creation in 1951, the Pan American Foot and Mouth Disease Center (PANAFTOSA) of the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) have played an important role in the control and eradication of FMD, including the organization of the COHEFA meetings.

PAHO was established in 1902 and works with all countries of the Americas to improve health and quality of life of the peoples in the Americas. It also serves as the Regional Office for the Americas of the World Health Organization (WHO).

### **LINKS:**

RIMSA16: <http://ww2.panaftosa.org.br/rimsa16/>

COHEFA 1: <http://ww2.panaftosa.org.br/cohefa12/>

COPAIA 6: <http://ww2.panaftosa.org.br/copaia6/>

INTERAGENCY FORUM: <http://bit.ly/NO6OY2>

PANAFTOSA: <http://new.paho.org/panaftosa/>

PAHO: <http://new.paho.org>

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