



# **GIEFA: Inter-American Group for the Eradication of Foot-and-Mouth Disease**

**Report to the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual COSALFA Meeting  
Panama City, Panama  
April 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>**

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*GRUPO INTERAMERICANO PARA LA ERRADICACIÓN DE LA FIEBRE AFTOSA  
INTER-AMERICAN GROUP FOR ERADICATION OF FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE*

- Congratulations! 14 months without a reported outbreak of FMD in the Americas
- My first involvement was in 1989 at an Animal Health Meeting in Buenos Aires

# FMD EVOLUTION IN THE SOUTH AMERICA (1976-2006)

| year | outbreaks |
|------|-----------|
| 1976 | 16087     |
| 1980 | 11460     |
| 1985 | 4917      |
| 1995 | 1846      |
| 2001 | 4367      |
| 2004 | 96        |
| 2005 | 86        |
| 2006 | 21        |

- There were around 5,000 outbreaks reported that year.
- In 2001 the Americas and world-wide saw major outbreaks bringing the number of outbreaks in South America back up to close to 5,000 outbreaks.

# GIEFA Formation

- After this major increase in reported outbreaks, country leadership, international groups, and regional groups decided we needed a way for the private sector to get more involved.
- In 2004, the Ministers of Agriculture held a conference in Houston, Texas.
- Out of that meeting, GIEFA was founded.
- GIEFA was established with one public and one private sector representative from each of the PAHO regions. PANAFTOSA was designated as Secretary and other regional and international groups as consultants and observers.

# GIEFA Activities

- The GIEFA group organized and made several visits to countries and had meetings with both public and private sector representatives.
- These visits and meetings gave both private and public sectors an opportunity to voice their concerns and ideas on how to improve their eradication efforts.
- GIEFA also coordinated a group of North American private sector representatives to visit several countries to hear and see the progress

being made.

# GIEFA Activities

- GIEFA's first step was to dispatch teams to the various areas with high foci of infestation. Teams were asked to evaluate the immediate needs and requirements (or gaps) for success. The teams employed the methodologies of the Pan American FMD Center to evaluate the highest risk for continued transmission of the virus following the guidance outlined by the Hemispheric Plan for Eradication of FMD. (PHEFA)
- This analysis helped countries, regions and international groups see where extra effort was needed to be put in place to complete the eradication.

# GIEFA Future

- GIEFA's plan of activities for the future was discussed at a brainstorming session Wednesday. GIEFA members will be involved in regional and country programs to ensure continued support as the eradication is completed.
- **THIS IS THE TIME TO INCREASE OUR SUPPORT FOR THE ELIMINATION OF AFTOSA VIRUS IN THE AMERICAS.**
- Programs and activities must continue for many years after the last reported outbreak.

# In Conclusion

- I have seen knowledgeable people leave other eradication efforts and funding reduce as eradication nears completion. This loss of support delayed the completion costing both the public and private sectors many dollars.
- Thanks for letting me have a very small part in this successful program.