

## **INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS HIGHLIGHT THE IMPORTANCE OF INTEGRATE ACTIONS FOR EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SURVEILLANCE IN HUMAN AND ANIMAL HEALTH**

**Santiago de Chile, July 25** - In recent years, several important human outbreaks and epidemics have occurred worldwide. Many of these, have originated from animal reservoirs. Zoonotic diseases are a major cause of illness and death from infectious diseases. Surveillance, diagnosis, control of zoonotic diseases, systematic communication and coordination between the programs of human and animal health services is an important and urgent practical necessity.

Today, met at the Inter-institutional Forum "Towards an Integrated Epidemiological Surveillance", experts from the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture (IICA), the International Regional Organization for Animal Health (OIRSA) and the World Bank to discuss the mechanisms of integration, collaboration and partnerships between surveillance programs for human and animal health, to strengthen public health programs in several areas, including influenza, rabies, antimicrobial resistance and food safety.

Experts from the ministries of health and agriculture of the Americas, universities, private sector, Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO), who organized the event, and other international organizations mentioned above, shared experiences and discussed options for the development of integrated systems to monitor infectious diseases.

The Institutional Forum is one of the preparatory activities of the 16th Inter-American Meeting at Ministerial Level on Health and Agriculture (RIMSAs 16). RIMSAs is the most important forum in the Americas for the definition of policies of common interest between the health sector and agriculture.

RIMSAs 16 participants discussed the challenges and opportunities to meet the growing demand for food in an accessible and sustainable, suitable for the environment and health of consumers and those involved in the food chain. Also share the lessons learned in managing the risks related to human health, food production and ecosystem.

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

### **LINKS:**

RIMSAs 16: <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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