

Recommendation 2

**New World screwworm (*Cochliomyia hominivorax*)
and its economic impact on the affected countries**

CONSIDERING THAT:

1. Globalisation of trade, increased movement of people and animals, climate change and other environmental and socio-economic factors, as well as the lack of awareness, contribute to the global spread of pathogens and vectors;
2. Besides being a zoonosis, the New World screwworm (NWS) generates significant economic losses in livestock farming, due to inadequate husbandry practices affecting animals;
3. The disease affects farm, companion animals, and wildlife, being a threat to biodiversity and also affecting the human population;
4. The decision to implement preventive and curative treatments, control, eradication programmes or temporary control measures depends not only on the immediate cost-benefit analysis but also on the evaluation of the long-term consequences in terms of competitiveness and sustainability of livestock farming in the affected regions;
5. The development of socio-economic studies to support the definition of disease control and eradication measures requires epidemiological data as a scientific basis for policy decisions;
6. The NWS, which was successfully eradicated in Central America through a strategy based on epidemiological surveillance, education and the environmental dispersal of sterile flies, managed to cross the barrier established by the Panama - United States Commission for the Eradication and Prevention of Screwworm (COPEG), progressively affecting animals in Panama, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Honduras and Guatemala, and being detected in Mexico;
7. The response of countries and individuals to any threat or danger is related to their perception of the level of actual or potential losses, the risk to which they are exposed and the possibilities they have to reduce, avoid or mitigate it;
8. Prevention, control and eradication of the NWS is possible through close collaboration between public and private sectors;
9. The best prevention and control strategy relies on promoting epidemiological surveillance to ensure early detection and monitoring of outbreaks, the dispersal of sterile flies, education, promoting coordination among farmers, veterinarians, physicians, national and local competent authorities, and national animal health programmes to foster the flow of epidemiological information under a OH approach.

THE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE AMERICAS

RECOMMENDS THAT:

WOAH:

1. Promote notification of disease outbreaks and the prevalence of NWS in endemic areas to provide accurate epidemiological information enabling decision-making for the prevention, control and eradication of the disease;
2. Promote collaborative work among countries in the region, with the participation of the private sector, with the aim of reducing the risk of outbreak spreading as well as reducing the impact of outbreaks when they occur;
3. Support the development of methodologies and tools to estimate the economic impact of NWS infestation in countries where it is present and in those still free;
4. Coordinate the actions of all international, regional and sub-regional organisations under the umbrella of the GF-TADs;
5. Prioritise the revision of the current Chapter on NSW in the Terrestrial Code.

WOAH MEMBERS:

6. Promote coordinated regional efforts to implement prevention and control measures, including surveillance as well as training, awareness-raising and good livestock practices.
7. Maintain a state of alertness and prevention on NWS consistent with the situation in neighbouring countries and the geographical spread in affected areas;
8. Develop community information and education programmes consistent with the epidemiological risk of NWS for animals and the human population;
9. Work in coordination with the Ministries of Health and Environment on the prevention and control of cases in the human population;
10. Increase the production capacity of sterile flies.

AFFECTED MEMBERS:

11. Implement a national control and eradication programme, as appropriate, based on epidemiological surveillance, education, good zootechnical practices, and the use of sterile insect technique (SIT) and its efficacy evaluation, combined with a robust epidemiological surveillance system and biosecurity measures.

THE VETERINARY AUTHORITIES OF MEMBERS:

12. Work on strengthening their capacities to monitor and track fly populations and animals affected by NWS. To that effect, it is important to apply animal health economics concepts to prioritise activities according to their economic and social impact;
13. Implement public-private partnership and financing strategies for monitoring, control or eradication as appropriate, with a design using economic principles to define and share responsibilities between public and private sectors, including financing and compensation mechanisms.