



19th Meeting of the Regional Steering Committee of the GF-TADs of the Americas

March 17, 2025 – Virtual format, 10:00 a.m. m. – 12:00 m (ET)

Agenda

Background

Since 2005, the Regional Steering Committee of the Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs) has identified *Cochliomyia hominivorax* myiasis (NWSW) as one of the priority Transboundary Animal Diseases (TADs).

In November 2016, during the 8th RSC Meeting held in Bolivia, one of the conclusions was to consult the members regarding the update of priority diseases.

As part of the recommendations resulting from the 14th RSC Meeting, which was held virtually, NWSW remained one of the prioritized TADs.

The spread of this infestation has been escalating towards the northern countries of the continent, now affecting the entire Central American region with the reappearance of a disease that had been eradicated for nearly 30 years. It has reached recently Mexico, posing a high risk of incursion into North American countries.

Objectives

The objectives of the meeting are:

Establish the Standing Group of Experts on *Cochliomyia hominivorax* Myiasis (SGE-NWSW).

Approve the Terms of Reference for the operation of the SGE-NWSW.

Define priority strategies to address reinfestation in countries where it had been eradicated and prevention measures in countries that remain free of the disease.

Present the regional situation of NWSW.

Approach and Expected Outcomes

- The meeting will focus on formally establishing the Standing Group of Experts on *Cochliomyia hominivorax* Myiasis (SGE-NWSW), approving the Terms of Reference that will define its operation, and setting priority strategies to



address reinfestation in countries where the pest had been eradicated, as well as preventing its introduction into disease-free countries. Additionally, an updated overview of the regional situation will be presented, consolidating epidemiological information and strengthening regional commitment to implementing joint and effective actions for the prevention and control of this disease.

- The meeting will be conducted with a participatory, technical, and strategic approach, aiming to integrate the expertise and knowledge of specialists to consolidate agreements on priorities and strategies related to *Cochliomyia hominivorax*. This will facilitate the establishment of a clear structure for the SGE-NWSW, defining roles, responsibilities, and coordination mechanisms among its members.
- It will also assess the participants' experience of enhancing the group's capacity in designing and executing regional strategies.

Expected Outcomes

- Formalization of the group with a defined organizational structure and an initial work plan.
- Official Terms of Reference (ToR) document approved by consensus, including clear objectives, member responsibilities, and monitoring and evaluation mechanisms.
- Improvement of early detection, updating guidelines for best practices in animal handling and movement.
- Implementation of a fast and interactive mechanism for the timely delivery and exchange of information on the regional situation of *Cochliomyia hominivorax*, including epidemiological data, identified risks, and critical areas. This will support decision-making and optimize intervention strategies.
- Reinforced cooperation and coordination among countries for a sustainable and effective regional approach to prevention and control.



Agenda

Time	Topic	Coordinator
10:00 – 10:10 10 min	Welcome and Opening remarks	Dr. Koren Custer - GF TADs Chairperson Dr. Francisco D'Alessio, Regional Representative for the Americas Secretariat GF-TADs/WOAH Dr. Andrés González - Livestock Development Officer, FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (RLC)
10:10 – 10:20 10 min	Situation of Screwworm Myiasis on reinfested in reinfested countries of the region	Dr. Abelardo De Gracia – OIRSA
10:20 - 10:40 20 min	Proposal of the Terms of Reference of the GPE-GBG for approval	.GF-TADs Secretariat
10:40 – 11:00 20 min	Election of members of the of Standing Group of Experts in New World Screwworm (SGE-NWSW)	GF-TADs Secretariat
11:00 – 11:05 5 min	Break	
11:05 – 11:15 10 min	Main points to consider in the SGE-NWSW	All
11:15 – 11:25 10 min	Questions and comments	All
11:25 – 11:35 10 min	Presentation and approval of the Annual Programming of the Recurrent Meetings of the RSC and SGE of the GF-TADs	GF-TADs Secretariat
11:35 – 11:45 10 min	Meeting Recommendations	Dra. Catya Martínez, Sub Regional Representative for Central America and the Caribbean WOAHO
11:45 – 11:55 10 min	Summary and closing	Dr. Koren Custer - GF TADs Chairperson



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		<p>Dr. Francisco D'Alessio, Regional Representative for the Americas Secretariat GF- TADs/WOAH</p> <p>Dr. Andrés González - Livestock Development Officer, FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (RLC)</p>
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