



19th Meeting of the Regional Steering Committee of the GF-TADs for the Americas March 17th, 2025 – Virtual meeting

Considering

That despite the successful eradication of *Cochliomyia hominivorax* myiasis, known as New World Screwworm (NWSW) in the United States, Mexico, and Central America during the 1990s, through surveillance and the release of sterile flies, it has reappeared in several of these countries (Panama, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Honduras, Guatemala, Belize, El Salvador, and Mexico), highlighting the need to reinforce prevention and control measures.

That the undeclared mobilization of live animals, socioeconomic factors of livestock producers and the lack of awareness contribute to the global spread of pathogens and vectors, such as the Livestock Screwworm (NWSW), generating significant economic losses and affecting the health of humans and animals, including pets, domestic and wild.

That the NWSW affects both farm and companion animals, wild species, and even humans, compromising the sustainability of livestock farming, ecosystems, and public health, requiring science-based strategies that include short- and long-term cost-benefit analyses.

That the prevention, control and eradication of NWSW depends on collaboration and cooperation between the public and private sectors, supported by epidemiological surveillance, early detection, outbreak containment and continuing education.

That it is essential to coordinate regional efforts that include surveillance, training, awareness, and the adoption of good livestock practices to ensure the effectiveness of the measures implemented.

That the Technical Theme II entitled New World Screwworm (*Cochliomyia hominivorax*) and its Economic Impact on the Affected Countries, presented during the 27th Conference of the Regional Commission for the Americas held from November 25 to 29 in Quito, Ecuador, highlighted the importance of the impacts not only on health but also on the financial consequences for producers, productive sectors related to livestock, official veterinary services, and public health.

That working synergistically among international, regional, and subregional organizations under the umbrella of GF TADs involving the IAEA, recommending the establishment of a Standing Group of Experts within the framework of GF TADs, is one of the recommendations resulting from the Regional Meeting on the Establishment and Implementation of a New World Screwworm (NWSW) Eradication Program organized by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Montevideo, Uruguay, from October 14 to 18, 2024.



That based on the discussions at the 18th RSC Meeting held on October 10, 2024, in a virtual format, it was determined necessary to establish a Standing Group of Experts dedicated to NWSW and to define a schedule of recurrent events for both the RSC and the SGEs to facilitate their preparation based on the diverse coordination needs among the members of GF-TADs of the Americas.

The members of the Regional Steering Committee of the Americas and the GF-TADs members:

Agree:

To establish the Standing Group of Experts on New World Screwworm and approve the respective Terms of Reference for its operation.

To approve the annual meeting schedule of the RSC and the SGEs of GF-TADs for the Americas as per the attached document.

And issue the following:

Recommendations

For the countries*:

Strengthen epidemiological surveillance systems to quickly detect and contain any suspected NWSW case, including the participation of the private sector and civil society.

Promptly report any confirmed case of NWSW, in accordance with WHOA Standards, and especially when it involves border areas between countries.

Define and coordinate national prevention and control strategies for the entry and spread of NWSW, including emergency response and containment plans, risk communication and awareness of the actors involved, including public health agencies and wildlife.

Promote the involvement of the private sector in production chains to improve the reach of surveillance strategies and actions of health programs.

Involve the agencies responsible for assisting small producers to intervene in NWSW awareness and prevention actions.

Facilitate the exchange of information on cases with national human, fauna and animal health agencies for the integrated management of containment measures.



Require from subregional and regional organizations the technical assistance that is considered appropriate, promoting the optimal management of their NWSW health programs, including coordination between countries.

* According to the opportunity and convenience of the decisions that each government can make.

For Organizations:

Continue supporting actions aimed at strengthening the countries' veterinary services in comprehensive epidemiological surveillance actions, including capacity building for risk-based surveillance.

Facilitate high-level spaces for promotion, together with the authorities responsible for decision-making, on the importance of developing policies aimed at the prevention and control of NWSW based on the WHOA standards.

Join the actions implemented by associated organizations, with programs already established in the Region for the prevention, control, and eradication of transboundary animal diseases.

Promote public-private and public-public alliances between all sectors involved in the livestock value chain in consistency with NWSW surveillance, prevention and control programs in the Americas.

Provide technical support and training to countries to develop effective communication strategies, facilitating the dissemination of information on the prevention and control of NWSW in humans and domestic and wild animals.

Advocate for the mobilization of resources with national projects that promote communication actions and training of actors in health systems (public health, animal health and fauna); provision of critical inputs to small producers; the coordination and exchange of information between agencies and neighboring countries, among others.

The GF-TADs Regional Secretariat will continue to coordinate the activities of the Standing Group of Experts on NWSW and the Regional Steering Committee.

Adopted on March 17th, 2025

