



Terms of reference  
of the Standing Group of Experts on Myiasis due to *Cochliomyia*  
*hominivorax* (New World Screwworm, NWSW)

March 17, 2025



## Introduction

In an increasingly interconnected world, where trade globalization, the rise in human and animal movements, and climatic and socio-economic changes shape the global dynamics of diseases, it is essential to address emerging threats with effective and coordinated approaches. The spread of pathogens and vectors, such as Myiasis caused by *Cochliomyia hominivorax* (New World Screwworm, NWSW), represents not only a health issue but also an economic and environmental challenge that demands comprehensive and timely responses.

The NWSW, in addition to being a significant zoonosis, causes substantial losses in livestock due to inadequate management and control practices. The disease directly affects farm, companion, and wild animals, compromising biodiversity and even posing risks to human health. Beyond a short-term cost-benefit analysis, it is crucial to consider the long-term consequences in affected regions.

The experience in Central America demonstrated that NWSW eradication is achievable through strategies based on epidemiological surveillance, education, and the use of innovative technologies, such as the release of sterile flies. However, its reemergence in Central America and Mexico, along with the declaration of a Health Emergency in most of these countries, underscores the urgent need to strengthen international cooperation, intersectoral collaboration, and the implementation of effective and sustainable prevention and control strategies.

It is imperative that the fight against NWSW be addressed under a "One Health" approach, promoting coordination among livestock producers, veterinarians, general practitioners, local and national authorities, and animal health programs. The implementation of robust epidemiological surveillance systems will ensure early detection and continuous monitoring of outbreaks, enabling a swift and effective response.



## Acronyms

FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

WOAH: World Organization for Animal Health

WHO: World Health Organization

PAHO/PANAFTOSA: Pan American Health Organization, Regional Office for the Americas

SG-CAN: Secretary General of the Andean Community

NAAHC: North American Animal Health Committee

CVP: Permanent Veterinary Committee of the Southern Cone

OIPORC: Ibero-American Pig Farming Organization

OIRSA: International Regional Organization for Agricultural Health

IICA: Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture

IDB: Inter-American Development Bank

ORE: Specialized Regional Organizations

CDR: Regional Steering Committee

COPEG: The Panama - United States Commission for the Eradication and Prevention of the New World Screwworm

IICA: Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture

IAEA: International Atomic Energy Agency

CAHFSA: Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency

NWSW: New World Screwworm

## Terms of Reference (ToR)

The Standing Group of Experts on New World Screwworm (SGE-NWSW) for the Americas will be established under the framework of the GF-TADs project for the Americas, which will lead the Group.



The Regional Representation of the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) for the Americas will serve as the Technical Secretariat.

Internationally recognized experts with experience working in countries of the region will be members of the group on an ad hoc basis, and additional experts on related technical topics may be invited to support the SGE-NWSW.

The SGE-NWSW will meet regularly based on needs. Meetings will take place on a rotating basis and will be organized by the SGE-NWSW members, with the host presiding over the meeting, subject to prior agreement by the SGE-NWSW.

Invitations will be managed by the GF-TADs Secretariat at the request of the SGE-NWSW.

#### Composition of the SGE-NWSW for the Americas

##### Member Countries:

- 2 Chief Veterinary Officers (CVOs) from North America
- 2 CVOs from Central America
- 2 CVOs from the Caribbean
- 2 CVOs from South America

##### Designated Representatives:

- 1 representative from IICA
- 1 representative from OIRSA
- 1 representative from IAEA
- 1 representative from COPEG
- 1 representative from CAHFSA

##### Additional Participants:

- Experts on specific topics, selected from internationally renowned specialists
- Representatives from WOAH and FAO
- Representatives of GF-TADs partner organizations, subject to prior agreement by the members of the GF-TADs Regional Steering Committee

##### Observers at Meetings:

- Subject to agreement by the host member and the GF-TADs Regional Steering Committee



Secretariat:

- GF-TADs Americas - Regional Representation for the Americas

### Presidency of the SGE-NWSW

- The Chair of the GF-TADs Regional Steering Committee for the Americas will serve as the President of the SGE-NWSW.
- **Financing Mechanism**
- Voluntary financial contributions from Member Countries to WOA and FAO
- Voluntary financial contributions from external donors to WOA and FAO
- **Meeting Mechanism**
- In-person meetings will take place in SGE-NWSW member countries on a rotating basis.
- The SGE-NWSW will meet in person at least once a year, except in particular situations where electronic consultations and virtual meetings may be organized.
- The OIRSA representative will act as the coordinator of SGE-NWSW meetings.
- Languages: English / Spanish with interpretation.
- The host country will provide logistical support, including meeting facilities, identification of a suitable hotel, round-trip transportation to the hotel, and, if possible, a hosted dinner.
- The agenda and invitations will be sent by the SGE-NWSW Secretariat following prior agreement with the host country representative.
- Meeting minutes: The SGE-NWSW Secretariat will prepare summary minutes of the meeting, distribute them via email to participants, and publish them on the Regional Representation for the Americas website.
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### Specific Activities of the SGE-NWSW

- Review of National Plans
- Surveillance Programs
- Promotion of Diagnostic Laboratory Networks
- Promotion of WOA standards on surveillance, diagnosis, and trade facilitation
- Review of progress in the health status of countries and regions
- Promotion of collaborative strategies in livelihood programs for small-scale producer assistance and awareness
- Monitoring of insecticide resistance and residues in meat products
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### **Participation of the Public Health and Environmental Sectors**

The relevant international and regional organizations and agencies should promote the coordination of surveillance, prevention, and control strategies among sectors related to public and environmental health, given the zoonotic implications of myiasis caused by the New World Screwworm. Their participation will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

### **Participation of the Private Sector**

The relevant regional organizations should promote the involvement of the industry, livestock producer associations, private veterinarians, and civil society as a whole. This participation will be assessed on a case-by-case basis and considered part of the overall GF-TADs strategy.