



**1st Meeting of the Standing Group of Experts on Screwworm (NWS) of GF-TADs for the Americas
April 29, 2025 – Virtual Format, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM (Panama Time)**

Agenda

Background

The New World Screwworm (NWS) is a zoonotic disease of significance in the Americas, which has regained importance following the reinfestation of all Central America since October 2023.

During the 18th Meeting of the Regional Steering Committee for the Americas (RSC), held in October 2024, the establishment of a Standing Group of Experts (SGE) dedicated to the Screwworm (NWS) was agreed upon. This decision was reaffirmed in the regional meeting on the Establishment and Implementation of a New Screwworm Eradication Program, where international, regional, and subregional organizations committed to working synergistically under the GF-TADs framework.

At the 27th Conference of the Regional Commission for the Americas, held from November 25 to 29, 2024, in Quito, Ecuador, the importance of the New World Screwworm (*Cochliomyia hominivorax*) was highlighted due to its economic impact on affected countries, emphasizing not only the sanitary consequences but also the financial burden on producers, public health, and official veterinary services.

As a result, the 19th Meeting of the Regional Steering Committee for the Americas (RSC), held on March 17, 2025, approved the Terms of Reference for the Standing Group Experts on New World Screwworm (SGE-NWS) and formalized its establishment.

This first meeting marks the beginning of the activities of this Expert Group, focusing on prospective actions and interagency support to be provided in the coming years.

Objectives

- Validate the operational dynamics and coordination of the expert group.
- Analyze intervention measures to prioritize those that need further strengthening in addition to ongoing actions carried out by regional and national agencies.
- Promote the establishment of a coordinated action plan with short, medium, and long-term goals for both the reinfested Central American region and the historically endemic zone.
- Agree on upcoming actions and specific support to be provided by participating institutions.

Approach

The meeting will adopt a participatory, technical, and strategic approach, integrating the expertise of institutions and experts to consolidate agreements on priorities and strategies related to *Cochliomyia hominivorax*.

Expected Outcomes

1. Agreement on the operational framework of the Expert Group.
2. Consensus on prioritized intervention measures to be strengthened, complementing ongoing actions by agencies.
3. Outlining the foundations of a coordination plan, with goals to be further refined in a subsequent virtual meeting.
4. Agreement on the next meeting date (preferably virtual), and definitions regarding funding, host country, and leadership for coordination.

Agenda

Hora	Tema	Coordinador / Disertante
10:00 – 10:05 5 min	Welcome and Opening Remarks Official Launch of the Standing Group of Experts on New World Screwworm (SGE-NWS)	Dr. Conrad Estrada - Chairperson GF TADs Dr. Francisco D'Alessio, Regional Representative for the Americas, GF-TADs/WOAH Secretariat Dr. Andrés González - Livestock Development Officer, FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (RLC)
MODULE 1: Establishment of the Expert Group		
10:05 -10:15 10 min	Working Mechanism and Meeting Frequency	WOAH/FAO
MODULE 2: Sanitary Strategy and Prioritization of Measures		
10:15 -10:35 20 min	Current Status of Screwworm Infestation in Central America and Mexico: Lessons Learned and Strategic Outlook for the Next Decade	OIRSA
10:35 -10:45 10 min	Discussion Round and Prioritization of Actions to be Implemented in the Countries	WOAH/FAO
10:45 - 10:50 5 min	Summary and Agreements.	WOAH/FAO
MODULE 3: Strengthening Capacities for NWS Control in the Americas		
10:50 – 11:00 10 min	Vision on Actions that Need to be Complemented in the Countries	Alejandra Díaz, IICA

11:00 -11:10 10 min	Vision on Actions that Need to be Complemented in the Countries	Eva Bravo, FAO
11:10 – 11:20 10 min	Current NWS Situation in the Caribbean and Actions to be Complemented in the Countries	Nneka Hull James, CAHFSA
11:20 – 11:30 10 min	Challenges and Limitations in the Provision of Sterile insects for the Region	Carlos Moreno, COPEG
11:30 – 11:40 10 min	Regional Project Design Component - Atoms4Food: Surveillance, Control, and Eradication of NWS in Latin America and the Caribbean (2026-2029)	Nicola Schloegl, AIEA
MODULE 4: Next Meeting		
11:40 – 11:50 10 min	Tentative Date, Location, and Leadership	WOAH/FAO
11:50 – 12:00 10 min	Summary and closing	<p>Dr. Conrad Estrada -Chair GF TADs</p> <p>Dr. Francisco D'Alessio, Regional Representative for the Americas, GF-TADs/WOAH Secretariat</p> <p>Dr. Andrés González - Livestock Development Officer, FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (RLC)</p>