Second Meeting of the Standing Group of Experts on New World Screwworm (SGE–NWS) under the GF-TADs for the Americas. Virtual modality, October 9, 2025

RECOMMENDATIONS

CONSIDERING THAT:

1. The New World Screwworm (NWS), *Cochliomyia hominivorax*, poses a sanitary, economic, and productive threat to countries in the Americas, affecting animal and human health as well as biodiversity.

2. The reinfestation of Central America since October 2023 has highlighted the region's vulnerability to NWS reintroduction and the need to strengthen prevention, control, and eradication mechanisms.

3. The creation of the Standing Group of Experts on NWS (SGE–NWS) within the GF-TADs framework, supported by international, regional, and subregional organizations, represents a strategic step toward technical and political coordination to address this threat.

4. The first meeting of the SGE–NWS, held on April 29, 2025, consolidated the group, validated its working dynamics, and laid the foundation for a regional action plan, identifying technical, logistical, and financial priorities.

5. The second meeting of the SGE–NWS aims to follow up on agreements reached, review progress, and continue the collective development of sustainable strategies under the One Health approach, integrating human, animal, and wildlife health dimensions.

6. The experience of both free and affected countries, along with lessons learned from public-private partnerships, demonstrates the importance of interinstitutional and multisectoral cooperation to achieve sustainable results.

7. That reinfestation in Mesoamerica has generated cases in domestic and wild animals as well as in humans, requiring a multisectoral approach with a One Health focus.

8. The active participation of the public, private, and academic sectors is essential for the development of innovative, sustainable solutions that are adapted to local contexts.

9. The movement of animals, both under official schemes and through unauthorized transfers, including companion animals, represents a determining factor in the spread of GBG. This requires the implementation of integrated control and surveillance strategies at border points and at the national level.

10. Good practices and on-farm biosecurity play a fundamental role in preventing and minimizing the impact of this insect.

The SGE–NWS considers it a high priority to continue sanitary actions against myiasis caused by the New World Screwworm in affected countries and to prevent its spread in free countries, reinforcing regional capacities in line with WOAH standards, and establishes the following **recommendations**:

FOR COUNTRIES IN THE AMERICAS

Strengthening epidemiological surveillance

- Promote the notification of GBG cases to WOAH in domestic species in accordance with the established mechanisms for outbreak, semi-annual, and annual reporting.
- Encourage transparency in the communication of cases to the general public, as is done by some countries such as Costa Rica, Mexico, and Panama.
- Incorporate the monitoring and reporting of cases in wildlife to strengthen regional monitoring and surveillance.
- Implement epidemiological surveillance strategies (active and passive) that adapt to evolving needs as GBG infestation progresses, incorporating early-warning mechanisms that help improve response times.
- Promote the use of technologies (geospatial programs, epidemiological systems using formal and informal sources) to enhance epidemiological monitoring and the management of infestation hotspots.

Improve animal movement control

- Establish strict protocols for the movement and transport of animals, especially in border areas, taking into account the infrastructure required for individual animal-level control.
- Strengthen traceability through the use of official movement documents within the country and for cross-border transfers.
- Train inspectors and veterinary personnel in thorough livestock assessments to improve the detection of infestation signs.
- Assess the incorporation of available technologies (e.g., canine detection units) to improve the performance of control measures.
- Use epidemiological intelligence for risk assessment and proactive control of undeclared animal movements.

- Apply technological advancements at animal-movement checkpoints according to strategic needs, timeliness, and feasibility.

Promote public–private partnerships

- Encourage the participation of the livestock and pharmaceutical sectors in control and eradication campaigns.
- Assess the feasibility of establishing co-financing mechanisms for surveillance and treatment programs.
- Promote the availability of larvicidal and antiparasitic products in countries through authorized emergency imports and compliance with the corresponding official regulatory processes.
- Publish on veterinary services' websites the list of registered and approved products in each country, including details on the species for which they are authorized.
- Include professional associations and councils as strategic partners in awareness-raising and continuous training for professionals working with companion animals, sports animals, livestock, and wildlife.

Include companion animals in control strategies

- Develop awareness campaigns on the role of companion species in the spread of NWS in rural and urban areas.
- Integrate veterinary clinics into the NWS surveillance and reporting network.

Adopt the One Health approach

- Coordinate actions among animal health, human health, and environmental sectors to strengthen NWS surveillance, prevention, and control strategies in humans and all domestic and wild animal species.
- Include evaluation of resistance to veterinary products used in NWS control.
- Reassess national residue programs to include active ingredients of insecticides used for NWS control in matrices such as meat, milk, and eggs, in line with national food safety regulations.

Strengthen national technical capacities and risk communication

- Train technical personnel in GBG diagnosis, treatment, and control.
- Promote technical exchanges between countries to support continuous training.
- Maintain adequate and ongoing communication on the GBG situation in the countries.

- Strengthen the use of conventional and digital awareness-raising tools to promote GBG prevention and response actions (promotion of good animal-husbandry practices and continuous care of wounds and abrasions, larva collection, reporting to the veterinary authority, among others).

FOR REGIONAL AND SUBREGIONAL COOPERATION AGENCIES (WOAH, FAO, IICA, OIRSA, CAHFSA, CARIBVET, and other subregional agencies)

Provide technical and financial support to countries

- Mobilize resources for the implementation of national NWS surveillance, prevention, and control plans.
- Provide technical assistance for designing strategies adapted to each national context.

Coordinate regional cooperation

- Foster coordinated action among countries in alignment with the objectives and prioritized health interventions defined by the expert group, ensuring continuous follow-up on progress.
- Integrate the communication of regional epidemiological information on NWS cases on a regular basis to enable the adjustment of control strategies.
- Provide support for the active and timely reporting of cases to WOAH.
- Facilitate capacity-building opportunities for veterinary services and other relevant stakeholders based on good practices and country experiences.
- Include the private sector and academia in coordination mechanisms.

Regulatory harmonization

- Facilitate the development of regional protocols for movement control that are standardized and harmonized with the recommendations of the WOAH Terrestrial Code.
- Promote the implementation of standardized procedures for NWS surveillance and control.
- Strengthen national residue and contaminant monitoring programs, taking into consideration the products being used for NWS.
- Review the recommendations of Chapter 8.13 of the Terrestrial Code regarding import procedures from countries considered infested by *Cochliomyia hominivorax*.

Promote applied research

- Fund studies on resistance to larvicides and antiparasitic products used in NWS control to update treatment protocols.

- Promote evaluation of new control technologies and veterinary drug residues in meat from treated animals.
- Support the development of technological tools for rapid NWS detection and diagnosis, incorporating AI where feasible.
- Encourage research into biological control mechanisms for NWS.

Promote private sector participation

- Facilitate dialogue between governments, livestock associations, and companies to define roles and responsibilities in joint NWS surveillance, prevention, and control strategies.
- Encourage private investment in innovative NWS control solutions.

Monitor and evaluate regional progress

- Establish common indicators to measure progress in NWS eradication.
- Publish periodic reports on the epidemiological situation and achievements.
- Define guidelines and next steps for designing an integrated regional NWS control strategy.

Adopted on October 9, 2025