

## **SPS NEWSLETTER ISSUE 2: JUNE 2017**

### **SPS News**

Welcome to the second issue of the Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Newsletter for 2017 which will report on SPS issues that were addressed at the National SPS Committee during the second quarter of 2017. During the period of reporting, the committee convened its second meeting for 2017 and held discussions on various issues as reported below.

### **Update on market access issues**

#### EU—Citrus Black Spot (CBS)

Engagements are still continuing on the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) dispute settlement process. The Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries' Director-General wrote a letter to his counterpart at the Food and Agriculture Organisation complaining about the slow process under the IPPC.

The CBS Risk Management system is being implemented.

#### EU new regulation on False Codling Moth (FCM)

The EU developed new regulation on FCM to which South Africa requested clarity on certain aspects.

### **Reporting on SPS engagements**

#### WTO SPS Committee meeting

The South African delegation attended the World Trade Organisation (WTO) SPS Committee meeting in Geneva, Switzerland on the 21-23 March 2017.

During the meeting the delegation shared the concerns expressed by Argentina and the United States regarding the EU's revised proposal for the categorisation of compounds as endocrine disruptors.

#### The 85th OIE General Session

The delegation of South Africa attended the 85th OIE General Session.

### Codex meetings

Several meetings have been attended as follows: Codex Committee on Additives, Codex Committee for Pesticide Residues, Codex Committee for Food Import and Export Certification System, and Codex Committee for Method of Analysis and Sampling.

### Meeting between National Regulator for Compulsory Specifications (NRCS) and the Export Inspection Council of India (EICI):

A meeting was held between NRCS and the EICI from 1-2 June 2017.

The meeting was aimed at resolving the justification of the precautionary measures implemented by the NRCS for the rejection of prawns imported from India.

There was no objection by the EICI delegation on the precautionary measures that were instituted, because it was based on Codex and its guidelines pertaining to the control of pathogenic *Vibrio* species.

### **SPS trade concerns – South Africa**

#### Exports from Brazil

There were problems reported worldwide regarding exports from Brazil.

There were investigations carried out in Brazil by law enforcement agents accusing Brazilian regulatory authorities of being bribed by companies, establishments and abattoirs to certify products that were not safe for human consumption.

In the aftermath of the reports, many countries banned imports from Brazil. South Africa banned imports from the 21 establishments that were implicated in the report.

South Africa implements a rigorous testing regime at the ports of entry for imported consignments and all meat consignments from Brazil are tested using a standardised testing protocol.

#### Application to the OIE for disease-free status

South Africa was recognised by the OIE as a country free from contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia (CBPP) in accordance with the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code (2016) and was awarded the CBPP Certificate of Freedom at the 85<sup>th</sup> Annual General Session of the OIE.

### National Codex Committee

The process/ intent to come up with a National Codex Committee is still ongoing. South Africa's participation at Codex is through coordination in different CODEX committees.

There are about 15 committees wherein South Africa is active.

A workshop for committees coordinators was held to update, capacitate and induct new coordinators. A follow-up workshop will be held in future.

### **Disease and/or pest outbreaks**

#### 1. Bactrocera dorsalis (B. dorsalis)

The status remains the same; the pest is still present in some parts of the country and is still a quarantine pest.

#### 2. Fall Army Worm

The pest is currently detected in eight provinces of South Africa.

It has not been detected in the Western Cape.

#### 3. Tomato Leaf Miner

The pest has been detected in all nine provinces.

#### 4. Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD):

FMD is limited to wildlife in the FMD control area of the Kruger National Park and surrounding game reserves. The rest of South Africa is an OIE declared FMD-free zone. An outbreak of FMD with clinical lesions was reported in the Bushbuckridge Municipality of the Mpumalanga Province where vaccination against FMD is routinely carried out. PCR positive results have been recorded at two locations. Viral isolation is still pending at the OVI. An intensive disease surveillance has been rolled out for the entire Bushbuckridge area, so as to gather more information about the outbreak. The outbreak was reported to the OIE and the disease control strategies as stipulated in the FMD Contingency Plan were employed.

## 5. African Swine Fever (ASF)

African Swine Fever (ASF) in South Africa is limited to the African Swine Fever control zone in the northern part of the country where infected tsetse (soft ticks) transmit the disease to warthogs and bush pigs. However South Africa incurred outbreaks in these ASF free zones since 2016:

### 5.1 North West Province

#### Mamusa outbreak

A North West emerging farmer near Schweizer-Reneke reported a number of deaths in his free-range pigs from the 5<sup>th</sup> of May 2016. The samples collected tested positive for ASF.

The animals were culled and the sites disinfected. Follow up clinical and serological surveillance remained negative. Ten sentinel pigs were placed on site from 27 February 2017 to 05 April 2017 and tested serologically negative. The outbreak was closed on 7 June 2017.

#### Tswaing outbreak

Another outbreak was reported in Delareyville, Tswaing Local Municipality in the North West Province. The farmer reported a series of deaths in his pigs to the State Veterinarian on 24 October 2016. By the time a positive diagnosis was made about 41 pigs had died. The last remaining pigs (about 6) were culled by 11 November 2016. Awareness and surveillance exercises ensued in a 10km radius with no further suspicions reported on clinical and serological surveillance. The Tswaing outbreak was closed on 11 February 2017.

### 5.2 Free State Province

Numerous ASF outbreaks occurred in the Free State Province, starting with a farm near Koffiefontein, wherein pigs started dying on the 9<sup>th</sup> of May 2016 and the mortalities were reported to the Animal Health Technician on 24 May 2016.

In total about 875 pigs died and about 571 pigs were culled at various locations within the Free State Province. Culling of pigs for ASF in the province was completed by 19 December 2016 and all the ASF outbreaks in the Free State Province were closed on 19 March 2017.

### 5.3 Northern Cape Province

There have been three outbreaks in the Northern Cape Province, starting with an outbreak in the Priel Communal Estate in the Frances Baard District of Kimberley in the Northern Cape Province. Mortalities in pigs had been reported from 22 February 2017.

This was followed by two more outbreaks close to Barkly West since June 2017. The investigation to determine the source of infection is ongoing, with backward and forward tracing also being conducted. Intensive surveillance will be carried out on all nearby premises.

Increased clinical surveillance is being promoted via the South African Pork Producers Organisation and the Pig Veterinary Society of South Africa.

### 6. Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) - H5N8

An outbreak of H5N8 HPAI was laboratory confirmed on 22 June 2017. The affected commercial broiler breeder farm is located within the Mpumalanga Province on the border shared with the Free State Province. High bird mortalities started occurring on 20 June 2017. The affected farm has approximately 285 000 birds of which approximately 24 000 birds are located on the affected site. Forward and backward tracing has started and a 30km control zone has been established. This control zone involves Mpumalanga and Free State Provinces. The two provinces have started surveying the 30km control zone for other potentially affected properties. All other provinces have been put on high alert.

A second farm in the same Dipaleseng Local Municipality was also confirmed to be infected with H5N8 virus. The follow up OIE report indicated it to be a commercial layer farm with a susceptible population of approximately 243 000 birds (HPAI\_H5N8\_2017\_002). Depopulation of this farm has already commenced. The HPAI\_H5N8 from the first outbreak has been characterised further by nucleotide sequencing. There is a high degree of sequence similarity with that of the Zimbabwean H5N8 virus (June, 2017) and with sequence in Genbank from an Egyptian H5N8 isolate (2016). Trade partners are being updated on a continuous basis.

### **Regional coordination of SPS matters**

#### Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA)

- Second meeting of the Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) Technical Working Group (TWG) on SPS measures was attended in Kenya on 01-05 May 2017.
- Sixth meeting of the Continental Free Trade Area Negotiating Forum (CFTA-NF) was held in Niger on 05-06 June 2017.

## WTO SPS notifications

- In March 2017 notification was received from the Russian Federation regarding the common list of plant quarantine objects of the Eurasian Economic Union. The notified measure will enter into force on 01 July 2017.
  - ✓ The notified measure has an effect on South Africa's exports since the notified list contains *Ceratitis capitata* (Mediterranean fruit fly) as one of the quarantine hazardous organisms.
  - ✓ Request for mitigation measure has been submitted to the Eurasian Economic Community (EEC).
- In March 2017 SA submitted the SPS notification of emergency measures with regard to the temporary ban on the importation of live poultry, pigeons, other birds, eggs (excluding SPF eggs), fresh and frozen poultry meat from Spain, Israel, the Netherlands, Germany, Poland, Hungary, France and the United Kingdom.
- In March 2017 SA submitted the SPS notification of emergency measures with regard to the temporary ban on the import of day old chicks and poultry meat from the state of Tennessee in the United States of America.
- In June 2017 SA submitted the SPS notification of emergency measures with regard to the temporary ban on the importation of live poultry, pigeons and other birds, eggs (excluding SPF eggs) and fresh (including frozen) poultry meat from Zimbabwe.
- In April 2017 SA submitted the SPS notification to the WTO regarding the regulations governing the *Maximum Limits for Pesticide Residues That May Be Present in Foodstuffs: Draft Amendment*.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Thematic session on regionalisation will be held in Geneva, Switzerland on the 11 July 2017.
- The WTO SPS Committee meetings will be in Geneva, Switzerland on the 12-14 July 2017 and the due date for submitting agenda items is Thursday, 29 March 2017.
- Third Meeting of the CFTA TWGs will be in South Africa on 21 August to 02 September 2017.

## For further information, please contact:

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