Agricultural Health and Food Safety (AHFS)



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The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) is a specialized agency of the Inter-American system, and its purposes are to encourage and support the efforts of its Member States to achieve agricultural development and well-being for rural populations





IICA is the specialized agency for agriculture and the rural milieu of the Inter-American System, whose purpose is to provide innovative technical cooperation to the Member States, with a view to achieving their sustainable development in aid of the peoples of the Americas





To be the leading agricultural institution in the Americas and the partner of choice by virtue of the quality of the technical cooperation it provides in response to the needs of Member States, and its contributions to sustainable agricultural development, food security and rural prosperity



IICA representatives

In each Member
State, the
Representative is
the direct link
between IICA
and the Minister
of Agriculture

The function of IICA's Representatives in the countries is to represent the Institute and the Director General of the Institute in the Member States, and to participate, on IICA's behalf, in activities with national, provincial and municipal authorities, the diplomatic corps, and representatives of public, private, academic, educational and non-governmental organizations



Technical concentration programs

- Innovation for productivity and competitiveness
- Agricultural health and food safety (AHFS)
- Agribusiness and trade
- Agriculture, territories and rural well-being



AHFS: Lines of action

- Modernization of national animal, plant health and food safety services (for example, National Veterinary Services)
- Sanitary and phytosanitary standards (SPS) related to obligations in international trade and commerce
- Food safety
- Emergencies and emerging issues in animal, plant health and food safety



Core activities

To support the integration of risk analysis tools and techniques into the decision-making and management processes of national agricultural health and food safety services

In order to allow them to better identify, prioritize, and manage risks

- Risk assessment (qualitative and quantitative)
- Risk communication



Activities implemented

- Distance-based training on quantitative risk assessment for chemical and microbiological hazards in foods
 - Risk communication presentations and practical exercises
- Risk communication workshops (Perú, Ecuador, Colombia) with AHFS staff in collaboration with the University of Nebraska

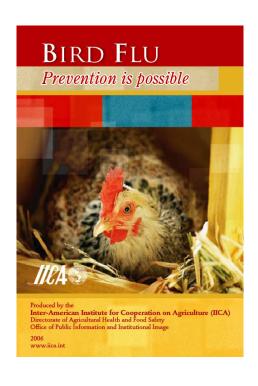


Best practices

- Utilizing video conferencing technology when possible as a resource to train AHFS staff
- Maintaining a regional perspective and supporting regional initiatives when possible
- Hands-on training based on local examples and needs (risk communication workshops)



Best practices



 Preparation, adaptation and dissemination of educational material (leaflets, videos, radio series) for specific animal diseases and primary education on food safety



Suggestions

- Development of a regional training plan on risk communication issues in animal health and food safety – One World: One Health approach
- Interagency training teams or a database of available trainers



IICA Resources

- Human:
 - Social Communication Unit
 - AHFS Program (2)
- Videoconferencing technology available in many IICA Offices
- Hemispheric platform 34 Offices

