

RESOLUTION No. 502

**WORKING GROUP TO IMPROVE THE CAPABILITIES OF THE COUNTRIES OF
THE AMERICAS FOR SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY RISK ASSESSMENT**

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (IABA), at its Eighteenth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

The proposal for creating a working group with the objective of improving the capabilities of the countries of the Americas for sanitary and phytosanitary risk assessment,

CONSIDERING:

That risk assessment is a modern tool that provides the foundation for sanitary and phytosanitary measures and a technical basis for discussions related to trade facilitation between the countries;

That it will be very useful to boost the human and financial resources of the countries of the region for conducting systematic risk assessments; and,

That improving the capabilities and procedures for sanitary and phytosanitary risk assessment in the countries of the Americas will benefit all the countries of the region,

RESOLVES:

1. To create a working group with the objective of improving the capabilities of the countries of the Americas for sanitary and phytosanitary risk assessment, coordinated by IICA, in collaboration with the relevant regional organizations, such as the Southern Agricultural Council (CAS), the Central American Agricultural Council (CAC), the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the Plant Health Committee of the Southern Cone (COSAVE), the Regional International Organization for Agricultural Health (OIRSA), the North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO), the Standing Veterinary Committee of the Southern Cone (CVP) and others.
2. To carry out the work in accordance with the principles of the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the international standard-setting organizations.

3. To instruct that the progress made by the working group be disseminated among all interested parties who may be involved in the discussion of sanitary and phytosanitary measures.
4. To pledge to disseminate a report from the working group among the countries of the region one year after the group's creation.