

**GENERAL AGREEMENT
ON TARIFFS AND TRADE**

RESTRICTED
IMC/INV/23/Rev.5
21 January 1994
Special Distribution

(94-0117)

Arrangement Regarding Bovine Meat

Original: Spanish

INTERNATIONAL MEAT COUNCIL

Inventory of Domestic Policies and Trade Measures and Information on
Bilateral, Plurilateral or Multilateral Commitments

Reply to Parts G and H of the Questionnaire

COLOMBIA

Revision

The participants have agreed to provide information concerning their domestic policies and trade measures including bilateral and plurilateral commitments on the basis of Parts G and H of the Questionnaire (Rule 16 of the Rules of Procedure). The documents containing replies to these parts of the Questionnaire are circulated under the symbol IMC/INV; they will be revised as and when changes are notified.

This set of documents constitutes the inventory of all measures affecting trade in bovine meat, including commitments resulting from bilateral, plurilateral and multilateral negotiations, which the Council has instructed the Secretariat to draw up and keep up to date, under the provisions of Article III of the Agreement. (Note to Article III of the Arrangement and Rule 18 of the Rules of Procedure).

PART G

Part G1: Information on Domestic Policies and Trade Measures

PRODUCTION - In Colombia, 89 per cent of cattle farms for meat production are of the extensive type, and 11 per cent of the semi-intensive type for a total of 718,713 farms with an average area of 34.38 hectares, an average cattle herd of 22.7 million head and a farmed area of 17,476,326 hectares. The total value of bovine output for 1992 was 34,535,720,000 pesos (pesos of 1975).

The bovine cattle sector represents 20.6 per cent of total agricultural production and 64.09 per cent of livestock production. Policies are currently being introduced to re-activate production, since cattle farming is in a critical period owing to the violence which reigns particularly in the Colombian countryside.

POLICIES - As concerns its direct and indirect policies, the Government is currently implementing a national system of classification and grading of bovine-meat carcasses and cuts based on yield and general quality standards, the aim of which is to establish differential price scales that will not only stimulate production and improve the production process but also help to modernize marketing and encourage consumption.

Within this framework, the stock farmers' associations, meat-packing plants and Livestock Funds can establish their own structure to divide up the meat market into segments, taking into account the disposable income of consumers. The Ministry of Agriculture is supporting the initiatives that the private sector is taking in this respect.

The modernization of the system should result in better prices for the producer, with payment related to quality and stable prices for the consumer differing according to type and quality. In the medium term, the economic incentives should favour investment and improvements in technology and lead to an increase in productivity.

Alongside the system of classification of carcasses, a national system of price and market information is being developed. The aim of this system is to ensure market transparency by providing producers with the means of obtaining first-hand references and information, thereby permitting users to carry out their commercial transactions on the basis of representative prices which will be posted in the principal agricultural marketing centres of the country.

CREDIT - Law 16 of 1990 created the National Agricultural Credit System, developed by the National Agricultural Credit Commission as a policy instrument for the Ministry of Agriculture, and FINAGRO for the implementation of that policy, with a view to streamlining procedures and ensuring greater flexibility. The overall programme adopted in 1992, excluding pledged bonds (192,000 million) amounted to 434,376 million pesos, 24.1 per cent more than the 350,000 million registered the previous year. Of this total amount, 54.65 per cent was used as working capital, and the remaining 46.35 per cent as investment credit.

As regards bovine cattle activities in 1992, a total of 13,518,600,000 pesos were granted in the form of working capital credits, and 76,309,400,000 pesos in investment credits, bringing the total to 89,828,000,000 pesos or 20.7 per cent of the total amount of credits granted for that year.

ANIMAL HEALTH - The task of controlling and eradicating foot-and-mouth disease continues, with the aim of expanding the disease-free area (URABA) by reinforcing the ICA-USDA Programme. Two disease-free areas have already been designated (Area No. 1, the Chocoano Free Area; Area No. 2, the Antiagueno Free Area), and the work is currently being completed on Areas No. 3, 4 and 5. This programme covers an area of 4.5 million hectares serving as pasture for some 4.5 million head of cattle belonging to 45,000 estates. This programme receives equal financing from the American and Colombian Governments with a budget for the current year of 2,344,000,000 pesos.

As regards programmes covering the entire territory of the country, the authorities are currently working on the eradication of the following diseases: brucellosis, bovine rabies, vesicular diseases and tuberculosis. These programmes are financed and implemented by the ICA (Colombian Agricultural Institute). Colombia is a signatory to the international agreement whereby foreign trade transactions are subject to the presentation of a health certificate issued by the country of origin.

The Ministry of Health and the relevant municipalities are responsible for sanitary inspection both of live animals and of carcasses in the various slaughter houses; prior authorization by the ICA is required for the movement of live animals. The Ministry also has a sanitary inspection unit for export slaughter houses.

PART H

Pursuant to the Government's philosophy of opening up the economy to international markets, the agricultural sector has been strongly involved in the integration process with other countries and markets such as the G3, with Mexico and Venezuela, and the Andean Group. To that end it has incorporated participatory mechanisms, for instance with the private sector. Likewise, it has been involved in the process of formation of economic groupings, such as MERCOSUR, and the harmonization efforts for a common agricultural policy and the adoption of a common external tariff and common positions in international forums for negotiations on economic and sectoral policies, such as international commodity agreements, and particularly on the Enterprise for the Americas Initiative, in which for the first time in the United States Government has offered room for multilateral negotiations on trade, investment and debt.

With regard to Colombia's present tariff policy, as shown in the table in the Annex, it should be mentioned that over the last three years there have been successive changes. These have resulted from the internationalization of the country's economy and from bilateral negotiations conducted with its neighbouring countries, such as Venezuela, with which the Harmonized Common Tariff has been in operation since February 1992. A number of bilateral tariff agreements with Ecuador have been in force since October 1992. Moreover, very solid foundations have also been laid for extending negotiations along these lines to countries such as Mexico and Chile. Apart from this, Colombia has certain preferential tariffs with the United States.

Another factor affecting the level of exports is agricultural research and technology transfer, to drive the change needed by national agriculture. The programme in this field will seek to generate technologies at lower production costs, improve productivity and make the sector more competitive. Highly important is the implementation of the National Technology Transfers System (SINTAP) through the municipalities, aimed at a closer relationship between users and the municipal technical assistance units, which have been developed to make efficient use of the financial and technical resources available at the local level. As regards recently created institutions for export promotion, mention may be made

of BANCOLDEX (Foreign Trade Bank), whose purpose is to finance projects for the export of new products and expand external markets through credit. The Ministry of Agriculture recently established the National Livestock Commission as an advisory body to facilitate co-operation among all operators engaged in this activity and to carry out marketing modernization programmes through specific projects in such areas as information and markets, meat cuts and classification, integrated marketing companies, network of industrial meat-packing plants and training of staff needed for the implementation of the Modernization Programme.

Ministry of Agriculture of Colombia
Department of Marketing
Meat Products Division

CERT AND NANDINA CUSTOMS TARIFF HEADINGS (COLOMBIA)
LIVE ANIMALS, MEAT AND MEAT OFFAL

		Tariff	Cert
0102100000	Pure-bred bovine animals for breeding	5.0	0.0
0102909090	Live bovine animals	10.0	0.0
0103100000	Pure-bred swine for breeding	5.0	0.0
0103920090	Live swine	10.0	0.0
0105110600	Fowls weighing less than 185 g.	5.0	5.0
0105190000	Other	5.0	5.0
0105910000	Fowls of the species Gallus Domesticus	10.0	0.0
0105990000	Other	10.0	0.0
0201100000	Meat of bovine animals, carcasses and half-carcasses, fresh or chilled	20.0	0.0
0201200000	Meat of bovine animals, cuts with bone in, fresh or chilled	20.0	0.0
0201300000	Meat of bovine animals, boneless, fresh or chilled	20.0	0.0
0202100000	Meat of bovine animals, carcasses and half-carcasses, frozen	20.0	0.0
0202200000	Meat of bovine animals, cuts with bone in, frozen	20.0	0.0
0202300000	Meat of bovine animals, boneless, frozen	20.0	0.0
0203110000	Meat of swine, carcasses and half-carcasses, fresh or frozen	20.0	0.0
0203120000	Hams, shoulders and cuts thereof, with bone in, fresh or frozen	20.0	0.0
0203190000	Other	20.0	0.0
0203210000	Meat of swine, carcasses and half-carcasses, frozen	20.0	0.0
0203220000	Hams, shoulders and cuts thereof, with bone in, frozen	20.0	0.0
0206100000	Edible offal of bovine animals, chilled or frozen	20.0	0.0
0206210000	Bovine tongues	20.0	0.0
0208220000	Bovine livers	20.0	0.0
0206300000	Pork offal, fresh, chilled or frozen	20.0	0.0
0207100000	Poultry, not cut in pieces, fresh, chilled or frozen	20.0	0.0
0207210000	Fowls of the species Gallus Domesticus	20.0	0.0
0207220000	Turkeys for consumption	20.0	0.0
0302000000	Fish, fresh or chilled	20.0	8.5
0303000000	Fish, frozen	20.0	8.5
0304100000	Fish fillets, chilled	20.0	8.5
0304200000	Fish fillets, frozen	20.0	8.5
0304900000	Other	20.0	8.5
0407001000	Eggs for incubation	5.0	5.0
0407002000	Eggs for the production of vaccines	5.0	5.0
0407009000	Other eggs for consumption	20.0	5.0