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POLICY

Voluntary Public

Date: 6/16/2017

GAIN Report Number:

Colombia

Post: Bogota

Colombia Removes *Tilletia Horrida* from Quarantine Pest List

Report Categories:

Trade Policy Monitoring

Export Accomplishments - Market Access

Grain and Feed

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Report Highlights:

On June 1, 2017 the Colombian Agricultural Institute (ICA) published “Official Resolution # 6630 of 2017” which removed the plant pest *Tilletia horrida* from Colombia’s official phytosanitary quarantine pest list. The deregulation of this pest is an important step in eliminating the restrictions on U.S. paddy rice.

General Information:

On June 1, 2017 the Colombian Agricultural Institute (ICA) published “Official Resolution # 6630 of 2017” which removed the plant pest *Tilletia horrida* from Colombia’s official phytosanitary quarantine pest list. ICA did this after conducting a study that determined that *Tilletia horrida* is already present in various locations in Colombia.

U.S. exports of paddy rice to Colombia had been subject to strict phytosanitary protocols and limited to the port of Barranquilla due to the classification of *Tilletia horrida* as a quarantine pest. On June 6, 2017 ICA also published “Official Resolution # 6705 of 2017” which removed geographic restrictions on U.S. paddy rice exports. The removal of previous restrictions accomplished by these two resolutions will mean greater flexibility for U.S. paddy rice exporters when choosing a Colombian port of destination.

Below you will find an UNOFFICIAL translation of Colombian Official Resolution #6630 of 2017.

RESOLUTION No. 00006630
(06/01/2017)

“By means of which the Annex to Resolution 3593 of October 9, 2015 is modified”.

THE GENERAL MANAGER OF THE COLOMBIAN AGRICULTURAL INSTITUTE (ICA)

In use of the legal powers conferred by numeral 1 of article 2.13.1.5.1 of the Decree 1071 of 2015 and article 4 of Decree 4761 of 2009, and

CONSIDERING:

It is up to the Colombian Agricultural Institute (ICA) to ensure the agricultural health of the country by adopting the necessary actions for the prevention, control, and management of pests or any other harmful organism that affects the plants.

That ICA exercises technical control over agricultural imports and exports, in order to prevent the introduction of pests into the country.

It is the function of ICA to establish, in accordance with international reference standards, pests of economic, social, and quarantine importance for the country.

That according to Article 29 of Decree 4765 of 2008, the Sub-Management of Plant Protection is responsible for establishing pests of economic, social, and quarantine importance of official control and mandatory notification and registration.

That according to Article 33 of the Decree, the Technical Directorate of Epidemiology and Phytosanitary Surveillance has under its responsibility the certification of the country's phytosanitary status, based on epidemiological studies.

That ICA is a member of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and, in accordance with

International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures No. 19 (ISPM No. 19), must establish, maintain, and update the lists of regulated pests with the aim of preventing the introduction and / or dispersal of pests, in addition to transparently facilitating international trade of fresh produce.

That ICA, through Resolution 3593 of 2013, established in the latter as part of the same, the Annex of "List of Regulated Pests" divided into three numerals: 1) quarantine pests absent; 2) quarantine pests present; and, 3) non-quarantine regulated pests. As such, in the aforementioned resolution, *Tilletia horrida Takah* is enlisted in numeral 2) Quarantine Pests Present, Fungi.

That based on field work, ICA reports for the first time in Colombia the presence of *Tilletia horrida Takah* in rice production systems in the year 2013.

That, in a period from 2013 to 2016, ICA carried out an evaluation of the distribution and prevalence of *Tilletia horrida* in Colombia, which has concluded that the aforementioned pest is present and distributed in several localities of Colombia.

That taking into account the above, and based on the international phytosanitary standards, it was defined that *Tilletia horrida Takah* is not considered a regulated pest. For this reason, ICA proceeds to de-regulate the pest by eliminating it from the Annex "List of Pests Regulated" of Resolution 3593 of October 9, 2015.

Under the above,

RESOLVES:

ARTICLE 1. Delete from the paragraph 2) Quarantine Pests Present, Fungi, the pest *Tilletia horrida Takah* of the Annex "List of Regulated Pests of Resolution 3593 of October 9, 2015.

ARTICLE 2. EFFECTIVENESS. This Resolution shall apply from the date of its publication in the Official Gazette and amend the Annex "List of Regulated Plagues" of Resolution 3593 of October 9, 2015.

PUBLISH AND COMPLY

Given in Bogota on 06/01/2017

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