



**REPORT OF THE FIFTEENTH
REGULAR MEETING OF THE INTER-
AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

Montego Bay, Jamaica

29-30 October 2009

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING

**MINUTES OF THE FIFTEENTH REGULAR MEETING OF THE
INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE OF THE
INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR COOPERATION ON AGRICULTURE**

The Fifteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) was held in accordance with the provisions of its Rules of Procedure.

Thirty-four countries of the Americas sit on the IABA: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela.

PREPARATORY SESSION

0.1 *Opening of the Session*

0.1.1 The Preparatory Session of the Fifth Ministerial Meeting “Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas” and the Fifteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) was called to order at 8:30 hours on October 28, 2009, at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Montego Bay, Jamaica.

0.1.2 Mr. Romulo Dimas Gramajo Lima, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Food of Guatemala, and Head of the delegation of that country, which chaired the Fourth Ministerial Meeting in the context of the Summit of the Americas process and the Fourteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA, held in Antigua, Guatemala, from July 25 to 27, 2007, chaired the session.

0.2 Agreements

0.2.1 Election of the Chair and Rapporteur of the Meeting

0.2.1.1 The Representative of Barbados proposed Mr. Christopher Tufton, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries of Jamaica, as Chair of the Fifteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA. The proposal, seconded by the Representative of St. Lucia, was approved unanimously.

0.2.1.2 The Representative of Colombia then proposed Mr. Salvador Jimenez, Secretary of State for Agriculture of the Dominican Republic, as Rapporteur. The proposal, seconded by the Representatives of Chile and Guatemala, was approved unanimously.

0.2.1.3 The officers of the meeting were elected as follows:

Chair:	Christopher Tufton
Rapporteur:	Salvador Jimenez
<i>Ex officio</i> Secretary:	Chelston W. D. Brathwaite

0.2.2 Agenda of the Meeting

0.2.2.1 The agenda for the meeting, contained in document IICA/JIA/Doc.325(09), was approved with the following modification: The presentation of the CARDI plan of action would be moved up to Thursday, and the designation of the person to represent the IABA on the CATIE Governing Council and the donation of land for the construction of a hospital in Turrialba would be taken up on Friday.

0.2.3 Working Committees

0.2.3.1 The Chair explained that in accordance with Article 52 of its Rules of Procedure, the IABA was empowered to set up temporary or special committees to examine matters related to the nature and purposes of the Institute. Inasmuch as no proposals had been received for the establishment of committees, the Chair announced that they could be created during the course of the meeting.

0.2.4 Deadline for Submitting Proposals

0.2.4.1 12:00 hours on Friday, October 30 was set as the deadline for the submission of draft resolutions, excluding draft resolutions presented by any working committees that might be set up.

0.2.5 Duration of the Meeting

0.2.5.1 The plenary agreed to hold the closing session on Friday, October 30, at 16:30 hours.

0.2.6 Order of precedence of Member States

0.2.6.1 In the event of the temporary or permanent absence of the Chair, he/she will be replaced by the Regular Representatives of the Member States, who serve as *ex officio* Vice Chairs of the meeting. In accordance with Article 34 of the Rules of Procedure of the IABA, the order of precedence to be followed in such cases would begin with Jamaica, the country elected to chair the meeting. Thereafter, the alphabetical order in Spanish would be followed.

0.2.7 Status of Honduras and the implications for the meeting

0.2.7.1 The Director General and the Legal Advisor of the Institute reported on the current situation in Honduras, the decisions of the OAS General Assembly on this matter and the implications of both *vis-à-vis* the participation of that country in this meeting and the nomination of Mr. Hector Hernandez Amador as a candidate for the post of Director General of IICA.

0.2.7.2 The Legal Advisor asked the plenary to consider the fact that Honduras had not sent a delegation to the meeting and had withdrawn the candidacy of Mr. Hernandez. In concluding, he recommended following the guidelines issued by the OAS, which, he explained, were not binding upon the Institute.

0.2.7.3 The representatives of the Member States agreed not to accept the credentials presented by Honduras, and to accept the withdrawal of the candidacy of Mr. Hernandez.

0.2.8 Countries' Right to Vote

0.2.8.1 The Director General explained that the cases of those Member States owing more than two annual quotas to the Institute were usually discussed during the Preparatory Session in order to determine whether or not their right to vote should be suspended under Article 24 of the Convention on IICA. He added that it would not be necessary to do so on this occasion because none of the Member States was behind in the fulfillment of their financial obligations to the Institute.

0.2.8.2 The Representative of Saint Lucia asked if a country could cast its vote some way other than in person, such as by proxy.

0.2.8.3 The Legal Advisor explained that agreements were reached on the basis of the votes of those members present.

0.2.9 Election of the Director General

0.2.9.1 The Chair explained that the election of the Director General of the Institute for the 2010-2014 term was the responsibility of the Member States. He added that, in accordance with Article 101 and 106 of the Rules of Procedures of the IABA, the election would take place by secret ballot, and that the Director General must be elected by majority vote of the Member States of the Institute. In addition, he noted that according to the schedule of the meeting, the election was to take place on October 30 from 08:45 to 10:00 hours.

0.3 Close of the Session

0.3.1 The Preparatory Session was adjourned at 09:30 hours.

FIRST PLENARY SESSION

1.1 *Opening of the Session*

1.1.1 The First Plenary Session of the Fifteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) was called to order at 14:20 on Thursday, October 29, 2009, under the chairmanship of the Representative of Jamaica, the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries of that country. He proposed that the Representatives consider the new order of business, which was approved.

1.2 *Director General's report on his administration from 2002-2005 and 2006-2009 (unnumbered)*

1.2.1 The Director General presented a report on his administration from 2002-2005 and 2006-2009. He began by saying that on the day of his election he pledged to reposition IICA to meet the challenges of the 21st century. He noted that the first actions he took in this direction were to define a clear vision, formulate a coherent strategy and identify those actions required for the Institute to reposition itself so as to more effectively support the development of agriculture and rural life in the Americas.

1.2.2 He identified as a highly relevant accomplishment the recognition of the importance of agriculture and rural life in the declaration issued at the Third Summit of the Americas, held in Quebec City in April 2001. Agriculture was recognized as an essential way of life for millions of rural families and as a strategic sector in the generation of prosperity. At the same meeting, IICA was designated an institutional partner of the Summit of the Americas process and tasked with providing the countries with support in implementing the mandates issued as part of that process.

1.2.3 The Director General then underscored the importance of the approval of the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan at the Second Ministerial Meeting, held in Panama in 2003, and of the commitment made by the countries to implement it. The Plan recognized that the development of agriculture and the promotion of rural well-

being were essential if the Millennium Development Goal of cutting poverty in half was to be achieved.

- 1.2.4 He then focused on the support provided by IICA to regional integration and coordination bodies such as the Southern Agricultural Council (CAS), the Alliance for the Sustainable Development of Agriculture and Rural Life in the Wider Caribbean, the Central American Agricultural Council (CAC), the Tri-national Council of the Northern Region and the recently created Andean Alliance for Agriculture and Rural Life.
- 1.2.5 He referred to the five Strategic Areas adopted by IICA in 2002: the promotion of trade and agribusiness competitiveness; the strengthening of rural communities; the promotion of agricultural health and food safety; the promotion of the sustainable management of natural resources; and the promotion of technology and innovation in agriculture.
- 1.2.6 He went on to mention the major accomplishments achieved in the agribusiness and trade, organic agriculture, sustainable management of natural resources, agricultural insurance, agrotourism, bioenergy, biotechnology and biosafety programs. He also pointed to the research done into the true contribution of agriculture to development, thanks to which greater importance was being attached to the sector.
- 1.2.7 He noted that during his administration both the United States and Canada had become more involved in technical cooperation activities throughout the Hemisphere. An example of cooperation between IICA and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) was the development of the capabilities required for the countries to fulfill the commitments assumed by the signatories of the WTO Agreement of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures.
- 1.2.8 He also called attention to the growing interest and participation of the private sector in IICA's activities, which had increased thanks to the launching of the Inter-American Program for Trade, Agribusiness and Food Safety, and to IICA's efforts to promote horizontal cooperation between countries. In addition, he mentioned the cooperation IICA provided for the modernization of the ministries of agriculture, the implementation of a strategy aimed at achieving food security and efforts to strengthen strategic partnerships.

- 1.2.9 He next addressed the actions taken to promote the modernization of the Institute and improve its financial situation and highlighted the creation of the Center for Leadership in Agriculture, through which the Institute fostered the development of leadership capabilities for promoting agricultural development. He added that the implementation of a new institutional structure freed up resources which were then used for technical cooperation action, and stated that the adoption of new human resources policies had led to improved performance on the part of the personnel and to their identifying more closely with the Institute's objectives and values.
- 1.2.10 He concluded by highlighting the need to rethink the current development model and replace it with a new one in which agriculture was given the importance it deserved, given its true contribution to development, the economy and governance, with an eye to achieving sustainable agricultural development, food security and rural prosperity.
- 1.3 *Progress in the Collection of Member State Quotas; IICA's Financial Statements for 2007-2008 and Report of the Audit Review Committee (ARC)*
- 1.3.1 The Director of Finance made a presentation on the collection of quota arrearages as of December 31, 2008, which totaled US\$17.5 million in 2003 and had fallen to US\$2.3 million by 2008. She added that the total amount of quotas to be collected in 2009 would be US\$29.5 million. As of October 28, 2009, US\$22.8 million had been received, leaving a balance of US\$6.7 million and only one country in "special" status. She noted that the Member States were making their payments at the beginning of each month.
- 1.3.2 She explained that the financial statements had been audited by the Deloitte and Touche accounting firm. She called attention to the fact that for six years in a row said statements contained no suggestions for the administration, and had presented fairly, in all material respects, the Institute's financial situation, in accordance with generally accepted accounting standards. She reported that the balances of the different funds as of December 31, 2008, were: i) Regular Fund - US\$9 million; ii) Miscellaneous Income Fund - US\$10.7 million; iii) Institutional Net Rate Fund - US\$3.4 million; and iv) External Resources Fund - US\$66 million.

- 1.3.3 She added that the report prepared by the Audit Review Committee recognized that the work performed by the external auditors complied with international auditing standards and IICA's rules and regulations. In concluding, she said that, for the first time in many years, the report of the External Auditors contained no emphasis of matter paragraphs related to overdue quotas, thanks to the efforts on the part of the Member States to pay their quotas on time.
- 1.3.4 The Representative of Chile thanked the Director for an informative report. He then stated that, according to a report from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Chile had paid half of its quota for 2009. He then explained that the difference detected in IICA's records was due to the change in the quota scale and to the reserve set aside by his country to pay the adjusted quota, and that this situation had been discussed with the Administration of the Institute.
- 1.3.5 The Director of Finance added that the reports on quotas for 2008 and 2009 had been prepared on the basis of the new quota scale approved by the IABA, which was based on the recently adjusted quota scale of the Organization of American States.
- 1.3.6 The Representative of the United States congratulated the Administration of the Institute and the Member States on the success of their efforts to improve the collection of quotas, and underscored the importance of making payments on time, which enabled IICA to support the efforts of the countries to promote the development of the agricultural sector of the Americas.
- 1.4 *Proposed 2010-2011 Program Budget*
- 1.4.1 The Head of the Budget and Control Division explained that the Director General had presented a proposed 2010-2011 Program Budget to the Executive Committee at its Twenty-ninth Regular Meeting, held on July 14-16, 2009. He explained that the proposed budget took into consideration the recommendations put forth by the Special Advisory Committee for Management Issues (SACMI), and that the Executive Committee, by Resolution 540, had recommended that the IABA approve said proposal.
- 1.4.2 He went on to say that the proposal sent to the Member States and recommended by the Executive Committee proposed that the Regular Fund (quotas and miscellaneous income) for 2010 and 2011 be set at US\$33.4 million per year, broken down as follows:

- a) US\$27.3 million from Member State quotas, the nominal value of which has been frozen since 1995. He explained that the distribution, by Member State, is calculated on the percentages of the quota scale of the OAS in effect for 2009.
- b) US\$6.1 million from miscellaneous income.

1.4.3 He recalled that the current Medium Term Plan covered 2006-2010 and that a new Administration would take office in 2010. Consequently, a distribution of the budget was being proposed only for 2010, and the recommendation was being made that the IABA authorize the Executive Committee, at its Thirtieth Regular Meeting, to be held in 2010, to approve the budget for 2011, taking into consideration the priorities defined in the 2010-2014 MTP.

1.5 Proposal to Institutionalize the Special Advisory Committee for Management Issues (SACMI)

1.5.1 IICA's legal advisor explained that the IABA had created the SACMI in 1999 and that its term, which had been renewed and extended three times, would expire in 2010. He added that the SACMI had been created to serve as a forum for discussing topics of interest and strategic initiatives prior to their being submitted to the Executive Committee and the IABA, thus facilitating decision making by both governing bodies and the Director General. He noted that the SACMI had proposed a modification of its Statute, calling for it to become a permanent committee of the Executive Committee and expanding its role from simply advising on to analyzing strategic matters. This proposal had already been approved by the Executive Committee and was being submitted to the IABA for ratification.

1.5.2 The Chair submitted the proposal on the institutionalization of the SACMI to the countries, which was subsequently approved as read.

1.5.3 The Director General welcomed former Director General of IICA, Dr. Carlos Aquino.

1.6 2010-2013 CARDI Plan of Action

1.6.1 The Executive Director of the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI), Mr. Arlington Chesney, began his presentation by describing the foundation of the relationship between IICA and CARDI,

specifically Resolution 514 of the IICA Executive Committee and the mandate from the IABA calling for CARDI to present a report on its activities and its Plan of Action, which was approved by the Executive Committee at its 29th Regular Meeting, held in July 2009.

- 1.6.2 He explained that the Plan took into account the current context of crisis and its impact on agriculture and rural life in the Caribbean. He added that, internally, the CARDI strategy was built on three pillars: a demand-based approach, joint work and accountability, and transparency. Externally, the strategy comprised six elements: ongoing consultation, strategic alliances, emphasis on certain commodities of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) region, development of human capabilities, and a focus on tangible results and exchanges of information and regional experiences.
- 1.6.3 As regards the Center's work, he indicated that CARDI would promote the development of the value chain of the commodities, as well as research and development all along that chain. In addition, he described the six elements of the strategic framework: strategic axes, focal areas, priority areas, programs, expected results and priority actions.
- 1.6.4 Next he described the accomplishments achieved in 2008-2009 in those strategic areas and the expected results for 2010-2013, broken down by the different products on which the Center works (grains, vegetables, fruits, small ruminants, etc.). He also indicated that CARDI was working in several specific areas: biotechnology, climate change, establishment of agreements with strategic partners, improvement of its image, management and mobilization of resources, and institutional strengthening.
- 1.6.5 Referring to CARDI's budget, he noted a trend towards its being based more on external funds than on funds allocated by the Member States. He highlighted the interest of the Member States in having the IABA assess progress in fulfilling the 2008-2010 Plan of Action and recognize the financial restraints the Center faced as well as the need for additional support to facilitate the achievement of the results called for in the 2010-2013 Plan of Action. In concluding, he asked the IABA to increase the allocation of resources to CARDI to US\$500,000 as evidence of its interest in supporting the diversification and improvement of agriculture in the Caribbean.
- 1.6.6 The Chair of the IABA invited the delegations to offer comments or ask questions on the CARDI Plan of Action.

- 1.6.7 The Representative of Barbados congratulated CARDI on the working it has been carrying out in support of the countries, specifically its support of farmer organizations for the last 22 years. He asked how the Plan would become operational. Referring to the Plan that had been presented, he suggested that it was not necessary to invest much in restoring the image of CARDI; the concrete actions taken by the Center and the results it achieved would speak for themselves. He was certain that the work done by CARDI would reflect the efforts made by the Center on behalf of the countries. He hoped that the countries present at this meeting, including the United States of America, could provide financial resources to those countries behind in the payment of their quotas to CARDI, which would enable the Center to more successfully pursue its mission. He also suggested that the USDA provide support for CARDI's actions, which would be beneficial to the countries of the Caribbean.
- 1.6.8 The Chair of the IABA explained that the discussions of the last few days and the signing of the Hemispheric Ministerial Agreement Jamaica - 2009 point to the countries with greater capabilities and successful experiences sharing them with those that have not achieved similar results. In his opinion, CARDI could play a fundamental role in ensuring that those successful programs benefit all the countries, to which CARDI could contribute by promoting the exchange of knowledge and information. For example, a scholarship program could be set up for young people from the Caribbean to attend EARTH University in Costa Rica, the Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (EMBRAPA) or Chile. This could help the CARICOM region to meet future challenges.
- 1.6.9 The Representative of Saint Lucia felt that this was the appropriate forum to discuss matters related to CARDI, and thanked IICA and its Director General for their support of the Center. He urged the IABA to encourage the new Director General to continue supporting CARDI. Lastly, he acknowledged the work done by Mr. Chesney and called on CARDI to continue supporting the countries of the Caribbean in the area of agricultural research and development.
- 1.6.10 The Executive Director of CARDI thanked everyone for their comments and added that Center had taken steps to establish relations with EMBRAPA, which had already sent a mission to CARDI to work with the private sector. He added that the opening of an EMBRAPA office in Panama would make it possible to strengthen this relationship. Also, he felt it was important that IICA strengthen relations with FAO, adding that institutions such as EMBRAPA and the University of Florida could be important allies in strengthening capabilities of human resources in key areas such as entomology, plant pathology and others.

Next, he announced the re-incorporation of Guyana into CARDI, which would enable the Center to operate on a larger scale. Lastly, he mentioned that the Center had experience working with the USDA-APHIS and other centers of excellence.

1.7 *Draft resolutions*

1.7.1 The Chair announced that the next step would be to review and approve draft resolutions and asked the Rapporteur to read them aloud.

1.7.2 The Representative of Colombia requested sufficient time to read the draft resolutions before voting on their approval.

1.7.3 After assessing the advisability of moving forward with the presentation and discussion of draft resolutions, the decision was made to allow more time for the delegates to analyze them, and a proposal was put forward to address them in the plenary.

1.8 *Close of the session*

1.8.1 The First Plenary Session was adjourned at 17:50 hours.

SECOND PLENARY SESSION

2.1 Opening of the session

- 2.1.1 The Second Plenary Session of the Fifteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) was called to order at 08:50 on Friday, October 30, 2009, under the chairmanship of Christopher Tufton, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries of Jamaica.
- 2.1.2 The Second Plenary Session began with a Special Session held to elect the Director General for 2010-2014.

SPECIAL SESSION

2.2 Election of the Director General for 2010-2014

- 2.2.1 The Legal Advisor explained the procedure to be followed in electing the Director General of IICA. He noted that two countries had nominated candidates in accordance with the provisions of Article 102 of the Rules of Procedure of the IABA, Mexico and Peru.
- 2.2.2 Next, the Legal Advisor explained and oversaw the process of randomly selecting three members of the plenary to conduct the election, one as Chair and the other two as observers. The three selected were the Representatives of El Salvador, as Chair, and the Representative of Nicaragua and Venezuela as observers.
- 2.2.3 The Chair asked that the ballots for the first round of voting be distributed to the Heads of Delegation. He explained that, once the ballots were marked they were to be deposited in the ballot box, which all delegations did.
- 2.2.4 All votes were counted following the established procedure. The final tally was:

- Mr. Victor M. Villalobos Arambula 32 votes
- Mr. Mariano Olazabal Balcazar 02 votes

2.2.5 Based on these results, Mr. Victor M. Villalobos Arambula, the candidate proposed by Mexico, was elected Director General of the Institute for 2010-2014.

2.2.6 The Chair of the meeting thanked the Representatives who conducted the election and invited Mr. Villalobos to address the plenary.

2.3 Address by the Director General-elect

2.3.1 Dr. Villalobos said that it was an honor to have been elected and thanked the Member States for their support, as expressed in their votes. He then set out the general guidelines for his administration from 2010-2014. He also pledged to form, with the rest of IICA's personnel, a team that combined the best technical qualities with a great humanist vocation, a team capable of developing an agricultural sector that would be more sustainable, clean, competitive, progressive and equitable. He then asked the Member States to help him implement all the proposals he had set out in his address, aimed at supporting primarily farmers. (The full speech is available in the speeches section of this report).

2.4 General Power of Attorney of the Director General-elect

2.4.1 The Rapporteur read aloud the draft resolution "General Power of Attorney of the Director General-elect," which was approved as read.

2.5 Title of Director Emeritus for Dr. Chelston W.D. Brathwaite

2.5.1 The Rapporteur read aloud the draft resolution "Title of Director Emeritus for Dr. Chelston W.D. Brathwaite," which was approved unanimously and as read.

2.6 Amendments to the Rules for the Election of the Director General of IICA

2.6.1 The Rapporteur read out the draft resolution "Amendments to the Rules for the Election of the Director General of IICA," which was approved as read.

2.7 Conclusion of the Special Session

2.7.1 The Special Session concluded at 09:30 hours.

2.8 Introduction of the Delegation of Spain

2.8.1 The Second Plenary Session continued with the introduction of the Delegation of Spain, who were welcomed cordially by the Chairman and informed that there would be time in the afternoon for them to address the plenary.

2.9 Draft Resolutions

2.9.1 Draft Resolutions “Management Report 2002-2009,” “Statute of the Inter-American Commission for Organic Agriculture,” “2007 and 2008 Financial Statements of the Institute and Report of the External Auditors,” “Fourteenth and Fifteenth Reports of the Audit Review Committee (ARC),” and “Progress in the collection of quotas owed to IICA.”

2.9.1.1 The Rapporteur read aloud the draft resolutions “Management Report 2002-2009,” “Statute of the Inter-American Commission for Organic Agriculture,” “2007 and 2008 Financial Statements of the Institute and Report of the External Auditors,” “Fourteenth and Fifteenth Reports of the Audit Review Committee (ARC),” and “Progress in the collection of quotas owed to IICA,” which were approved as read.

2.9.2 Draft resolution “Tribute to Mrs. Sharon Ottley for her contributions as a member of the Audit Review Committee (ARC)”

2.9.2.1 The Director General thanked the Government of Trinidad and Tobago for the support provided by Mrs. Sharon Ottley during the six years she served as a member of the ARC, the body responsible for ensuring transparency, efficiency, accountability and adherence to Institute rules. In addition, he announced that Mrs. Pamela Muroc, of Jamaica, would be the new member of the ARC, and thanked the Government of Jamaica for this valuable contribution.

2.9.2.2 The draft resolution “Tribute to Mrs. Sharon Ottley for her contributions as member of the Audit Review Committee” was approved as read.

2.9.3 Draft resolution “2010-2011 Program Budget”

- 2.9.3.1 The Representative of Uruguay expressed satisfaction with the fact that the topics of rural communities, family agriculture and food security were being addressed at this meeting. Nonetheless, referring to the structure of the budget, he objected to the fact that the topic of “Development of rural communities” was in fourth place in terms of the amounts allocated in the budget, behind trade and agribusiness, technology and innovation and agricultural health and food safety.
- 2.9.3.2 The Representatives of Ecuador and Saint Lucia endorsed the position of the Representative of Uruguay.
- 2.9.3.3 The Representative of Saint Lucia asked for an explanation of the allocation of US\$25,000 for miscellaneous expenditures for the General Directorate.
- 2.9.3.4 The Representative of El Salvador endorsed the position of Uruguay and noted that the inconsistency detected between priorities and budgetary allocations had been detected over the years, which could be imply inflexibility in the management of the budget.
- 2.9.3.5 The Director General explained the process of preparing the Program Budget, and the involvement of the SACMI and the Executive Committee in reviewing and approving same prior to its submission to the IABA. He noted that the budget being presented was the consolidation of the budgets of the Offices in the 34 Member States, developed using a bottom-up approach, meaning that the allocation of resources was a reflection of the priorities established with the Member States during the process of drawing up the National Technical Cooperation Agendas. In other words, the Member States, not the General Directorate, determined the distribution of the budget. He explained that the concept “miscellaneous” referred to by the Representative of Saint Lucia was one source of the funds in the budget, but not an item of expenditure, adding that such resources are generated from the sale of publications or from interest earned by the funds, which were placed in short-term investments.
- 2.3.9.6 The Director General explained that the approval of the 2006-2010 Medium Term Plan by the Member State implied the approval of the strategic priorities for said period and the corresponding budgetary allocation. He added that all matters related to the budget are aired at the meeting of the Executive Committee and noted that the Director General was empowered to make

changes in the allocation of funds between chapters of the budget within a margin of ten per cent.

- 2.9.3.7 The Representative of Chile shared the concern expressed by his colleagues in the sense that the budget should reflect the priorities of the countries. In the interest of improving the process, he suggested that the Executive Committee grant the Director General greater leeway to make changes and reallocate resources beyond the current ten per cent limit.
- 2.9.3.8 The Representative of Colombia said that the topics of small- and medium-scale farmers and the follow-up and support they should receive had been discussed in this meeting. He felt that the amounts allocated to them did not reflect what was being said, citing as an example the priorities established in the revised version of the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan of Action that had been approved. He stated that the draft resolution dealing with the Program Budget was very important and demanded careful study. In addition, he called attention to numeral one of the draft resolution and referred to the structure of the miscellaneous income item (US\$6.1 million), comprising US\$4.1 million earned each year from interest and US\$2 million in miscellaneous income. Lastly, he asked what IICA spent on personnel costs.
- 2.9.3.9 The Director General reminded the members of the IABA that the 2010-2011 budget was approved previously by the Executive Committee and that the Member States had had 45 days to study the detailed 27-page budget. He repeated that the budget had been discussed at length and approved at the Executive Committee meeting, and asked the Representatives to be trusting enough to approve the draft resolution. He explained that personnel, administrative and infrastructure costs were detailed in the full budget.
- 2.9.3.10 The Director General urged the members of the IABA to consider the demands they placed on the Institute without, in many cases, allocating the necessary funding and leaving it up to the Administration to find a way to meet them responsibly. He offered as an example the request by the IABA for the Institute to begin working in emerging areas such as agroenergy, biotechnology and agricultural insurance, areas for which the Institute received no additional budgetary resources.
- 2.9.3.11 Lastly, he said it might appear that the resources earmarked for technology and innovation, agricultural health and food safety, competitiveness, trade and

agribusiness compete with resources for rural development actions. However, all these areas carry out actions linked to the development of rural communities.

2.9.3.12 The Chair stated that the actions of these strategic areas, which receive the bulk of the budget, were, in the final analysis, aimed at supporting small- and medium-scale farmers. He cited as an example the actions in trade and agribusiness, and in technology and innovation being carried out by IICA.

2.9.3.13 Draft resolution “2010-2011 Program Budget” was approved as read.

2.10 IICA strategic framework for 2010-2020

2.10.1 The Representative of Brazil presented the proposed IICA strategic framework for 2010, adding that he was making the presentation on behalf of the Steering Committee for the Improvement of Technical Capacity at IICA, which was charged by the Executive Committee with overseeing the preparation of the proposed framework. He began by providing background on the process leading up to the preparation of the framework, and explained that the current proposal complied with the request made by the Executive Committee in Resolution 499, of July 2009, and included the opinions of the consultant hired to prepare it, those of experts from outside IICA and those of the members of the Steering Committee and IICA staff.

2.10.2 He explained that the proposal contained three chapters: an introduction presenting the concepts on which the proposal was based; an explanation of the changes and challenges faced by agriculture; and a proposal on the role IICA should play during the period and on the general direction for the Institute’s actions, adopting an approach focused on meeting demands for cooperation received from the Member States.

2.10.3 Next he described the most important short- and long-term trends that characterized the dynamic and changing global economy, which determined to a great extent the challenges faced by agriculture and rural life in the Americas. He stated that the main challenge facing agriculture was to increase productivity considerably and become more competitive in an environmentally and socially sustainable manner. In this regard, IICA’s role would be to become a hemispheric leader, to be innovative and a catalyst and facilitator in strategic areas, and to keep up to date with and be prepared to face the challenges emerging in the dynamic context of the globalized economy and society.

- 2.10.4 He proposed that IICA's approach focus even more on the needs and demands of the countries, and rethinking the way regional activities are organized at present, with a view to considering differences between countries. He concluded by presenting possible areas for action, noting that they were opportunities or potential areas in which IICA could add value, but that not all should necessarily be addressed by the Institute. These areas for action were forecasting, monitoring and analyzing the global context; the agrifood system; the rural system; and cross-cutting actions.
- 2.10.5 The Chair thanked the Representative of Brazil and the Steering Committee for the proposal and considered it an important step forward in defining the priority topics and determining the course to be followed by the Institute in the future.
- 2.10.6 The Director General also felt that it was an important, innovative proposal that had come from the countries and would be of great use for the new administration. He indicated that one of the challenges IICA would face in the future was to effectively address, by applying a multidimensional and multidisciplinary approach, priority topics such as climate change, food security, poverty reduction, development of agroenergy, agrotourism, etc. He added that the institutional frameworks and the organizations of some countries were not in a position to address those priorities, and that the lack of coordination and articulation at the national level made it difficult for IICA to respond effectively to the mandates and the requests from the countries.
- 2.10.7 The Chair agreed with the Director General and referred to the difficulties faced by his own government in coordinating and articulating the work of different ministries. By way of example, he mentioned problems related to the implementation of the WTO Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures and others related to rural development. He proposed that IICA draw up a proposal on how to focus and articulate the efforts of different ministries and institutions that needed to undertake multidisciplinary and multifunctional action.
- 2.10.8 The Representative of Ecuador explained that, in order to improve inter-ministerial coordination in his country, what were known as "coordinating ministries" had been created in which the ministry with primary responsibility for the issue involved took the lead.
- 2.10.9 The Observer Representative of Spain agreed that it was important to have a strategic framework and felt that the fundamental challenge was to leave behind

the limited vision of the agricultural system, because, while agriculture was a necessary component, it alone was not enough to achieve the development of the rural milieu. He stated that it was imperative to adopt a comprehensive approach to territories and referred to Spain's experience, in which the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food now dealt with environmental, rural and marine issues. He encouraged IICA to work together with other organization, especially FAO.

- 2.10.10 The Representative of Chile was of the opinion that the proposed strategic framework presented an orderly set of problems, but lacked a core idea and a general interpretation on the basis of which to organize IICA's actions. He felt it was important to explain how agriculture and the rural milieu could contribute to solving the principal problems and challenges of the countries, and proposed that IICA secure the intellectual capacity required to propose innovative approaches to achieving the objectives of agricultural and rural development in the countries.
- 2.10.11 The Chair and the Representative of Panama stated their agreement with the comments from the Representative of Chile.
- 2.10.12 The Representative of Brazil explained that the proposal presented was the beginning of a process the next phase which was planning. He felt that the concerns expressed by the Chair and the Representatives of Chile and Panama could be taken into consideration when preparing the IICA Strategic Plan.
- 2.10.13 The Chair invited the new administration of IICA to consider the concerns expressed by the Representatives of Chile and Panama, to make the necessary adjustments in the proposal and to inform the countries of same.
- 2.11 Close of the session
- 2.11.1 The Second Plenary Session was adjourned at 12:25 hours.

THIRD PLENARY SESSION

3.1 *Opening of the session*

3.1.1 The Third Plenary Session of the Fifteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) was called to order at 14:14 hours under the chairmanship of Christopher Tufton, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries of Jamaica.

3.2 *Contribution of Spain to agriculture and food security*

3.2.1 The Chair invited the delegation from Spain to make a presentation on their country's contribution to agriculture and food security.

3.2.2 The Under Secretary of the Ministry of Environmental, Rural and Marine Affairs of Spain, Mr. Santiago Menendez de Luarca, began his address by congratulating the Director General-elect, who, he was certain, would know how to lead the Institute in pursuit of its objectives aimed at improving agriculture and rural development, and offered the collaboration of his government.

3.2.3 Referring to the consequences of the current crisis, he underscored their impact on small-scale food producers, on rural women and on all those suffering from hunger, most of who live in rural areas.

3.2.4 As regards Spain's contribution in the areas of agriculture and food security, he recalled that in January 2009, Spain had hosted the high-level meeting "Food Security for All," which culminated in the adoption of a declaration calling for the establishment of global partnership for agriculture, food security and nutrition.

3.2.5 As regards Spain's international commitments, he underscored the participation of his country in the Food Security Summit convened by FAO and scheduled for November 16-17, 2009, in Rome. In addition, Spain, as part of the cooperation

of the Ibero-American Summits, was collaborating with the Ibero-American Program for Cooperation in Territorial Management (PROTERRITORIOS).

- 3.2.6 He said that, in light of the Millennium Development Goals, to which all governments were committed, it was necessary to return agriculture to a strategic position and ensure that rural areas become centers of economic development and that their products are sold on local and regional markets.
- 3.2.7 He concluded by thanking the Director General for the leadership he had provided while at the helm of the Institute, and for repositioning it to tackle the challenges of the 21st century, including food security through sustainable rural development.

3.3 CATIE Strategic Plan

- 3.3.1 The Director General of CATIE began his presentation by congratulating the new Director General on his election, and acknowledging the outstanding work of Dr. Chelston W.D. Brathwaite.
- 3.3.2 Next, he highlighted the strength of CATIE, which has three integrated functions: to promote science, promote education and provide technical cooperation, which are essential in making agriculture competitive, reducing poverty and promoting environmental conservation. Among the key activities of CATIE, he mentioned the generation of scientific knowledge, the preparation of leaders to contribute to the formulation of policy (especially at the local level), the implementation of projects that contribute to development and conservation of natural resources by promoting sustainable agricultural practices, and the development of strategic partnerships with more than 200 public and private partners, etc.
- 3.3.3 Prior to presenting the Strategic Plan, he summarized the most important actions included in the 2007-2008 Biennial Report he had presented to the IICA Executive Committee.
- 3.3.4 Regarding CATIE's 2010-2012 Strategic Plan, he described the six pillars on which the work of Center rests: i) a shared vision; ii) a strategy for making that vision a reality; iii) an appropriate organizational structure; iv) appropriate management systems; v) an appropriate organizational culture; and vi) financial stability. According to the Director General, the institution was committed to becoming a center of excellence for the development of systemic and

collaborative approaches to finding innovative and sustainable solutions to the complex challenges facing agriculture and natural resources management in Latin America and the Caribbean.

- 3.3.5 He then explained that the Center expected to achieve the following goals by 2012: to bring about improvements in human well-being in at least 50% of the territories where CATIE works; to succeed in having the Center's proposals adopted in development programs and projects; to contribute to the formulation of policies on agriculture and natural resources in at least six countries; to provide 75% of its technical cooperation through multi-partner programs such as Mesoamerican Agroenvironmental Program (MAP); to succeed in having 80% of the findings of the Center's research program adopted by other organizations; to increase by 10% the interdisciplinary nature of the curriculum; to secure 75% of the financing for projects through multi-partner programs such as MAP; to reduce by 25% the quota arrearages of member countries pending as of 2009; to ensure the payment of the US\$1,500,000 in membership fees currently due; and to enter into cooperation agreements with two additional strategic donors.

3.4 *Donation of IICA lands to the Government of Costa Rica*

- 3.4.1 The Chair gave the floor to the Representative of Costa Rica to present the topic.
- 3.4.2 The Representative of Costa Rica began by congratulating the Director General for a job well done, and the Director General-elect on his election. Regarding the request from the Government of Costa Rica that CATIE donate five hectares of land, the Minister explained that, since the time the Government donated to IICA the land where CATIE currently operates, the town of Turrialba had grown considerably. He also said that the need to build a new hospital with the modern equipment and the facilities required to serve Turrialba and the surrounding area was first identified in 2001.
- 3.4.3 He explained that the amount of land required was approximately 10 hectares and that the Government of Costa Rica owned five hectares adjacent to a plot of land of similar size owned by CATIE. For this reason and because the terrain of the land owned by CATIE would be ideal for the construction of a hospital, the Government had formally requested that CATIE ask IICA to donate the necessary land. Next the Minister explained that the request had been discussed with the Directors General of CATIE and IICA, and was now formally being

presented to the IABA, asking that the land be transferred in usufruct for the sole purpose of building the hospital.

3.4.4 The Chair thanked the Representative of Costa Rica for the presentation and asked the Director General of IICA for his comments on same.

3.4.5 The Director General referred to Resolution 512 of the Executive Committee, stating its support for the transfer to the Government of Costa Rica of five hectares of land for the sole purpose of building the new hospital in Turrialba. He added that if construction of the hospital was not completed within the next five years, ownership of the land would revert to IICA. In concluding, he noted that the Executive Committee had recommended that the IABA approve the resolution.

3.5 *Designation of the Representative of the IABA on the CATIE Governing Council*

3.5.1 The Technical Secretary explained the procedure, based on the principle of rotation, which the IABA had been applying to designate its representative on the CATIE Governing Council. However, the procedure was due to expire in 2010. The proposal was made to use the same procedure to designate the representatives of the IABA for the 2011-2018 period.

3.5.2 The purpose, he explained, was to have one country from each region represent the IABA for two years, as follows: 2011-2012, Dominica for the Caribbean Region; 2013-2014, the United States for the Northern Region; 2015-2016 Chile for the Southern Region; and 2017-2018 Ecuador for the Andean Region. In this way, the Director General would only have to communicate with the respective government to designate the corresponding delegate and not bring up the subject at every IABA meeting.

3.6 *Proposal for granting the 2008-2009 Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector*

3.6.1 The Chair asked the Representative of Peru, who chaired the Selection Committee for the Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector (Awards Committee) to explain the work of the Committee.

3.6.2 The Representative of Peru explained the procedure followed by the Committee in studying the nominations received, and the recommendations it had issued for the IABA to grant the awards. He added that the committee member from Chile

had abstained for voting on candidates if the person or organization nominated was from Chile.

3.6.3 In addition, he noted that the members of the Committee wanted to recommend that the IABA consider the proposal to create the Award for Young Entrepreneurs.

3.7 Reading and Approval of Draft Resolutions

3.7.1 The Chair asked the Rapporteur to read aloud the following draft resolutions: “Plan of Action of the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI);” “Progress in Strengthening Technical Expertise at IICA;” “Authorization for the Executive Committee to Approve the 2010-2014 Medium Term Plan at its Thirtieth Regular Meeting;” “2010-2012 Plan of Action of the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE);” “Rotation Mechanism for Designating the Representative of the IABA on the Governing Council of the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE);” “Donation of Land in Turrialba for the Construction of a Hospital;” “Institutionalization of Consultations with Members of Agricultural production-trade Chains (value chains) in the Ministerial Meetings;” “Strengthening of the Monitoring of the 2010-2011 Hemispheric Agenda;” “Status of the Resolutions of the Fourteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) and the Twenty-eighth and Twenty-ninth Regular Meetings of the Executive Committee;” all of which were approved as read.

3.7.2 Draft Resolution: “IICA Strategic Framework for 2010-2020”

3.7.2.1 The Director General and the Representatives of the United States and Brazil referred to the coherence that must exist between the medium- and long-term planning instruments of the Institute once the Strategic Framework is approved. Specifically, they noted that the Medium Term Plan, prepared every four years, must take as a reference the Strategic Plan, which lasts 10 years.

3.7.2.2 The draft resolution “IICA Strategic Framework for 2010-2020” was approved as read.

3.7.3 Draft resolution: “2008-2009 Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector”

3.7.3.1 Draft resolution “2008-2009 Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector” was approved with the modification proposed by the Awards Committee, calling for the creation of the Award for Young Entrepreneurs.

3.7.4 Draft resolution: “Joint IICA-FAO Action on behalf of Agriculture in the Americas”

3.7.4.1 The Representative of Canada suggested modifying this draft resolution, eliminating operative paragraphs 3 and 5. He argued in the first case that there must be a prior decision by the Member States approving the proposal to integrate IICA-FAO efforts before they present it to FAO; and in the second case that it was still too early to issue a mandate for the Thirty-first Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee, to be held in 2011.

3.7.4.2 The Director General endorsed the proposal of the Representative of Canada to eliminate operative paragraph 5, but suggested retaining the spirit of operative paragraph 3, which was that it be the Member States which present to FAO, as a sister organization of IICA, the proposal on the integration of efforts at the hemispheric and regional levels.

3.7.4.3 The Representative of the United States seconded the proposal of the Representative of Canada to eliminate operative paragraph 5.

3.7.4.4 The Legal Advisor proposed a modification of operative paragraph 3 with which the Representative of Canada agreed.

3.7.4.5 The Draft resolution “Joint IICA-FAO Action on Behalf of Agriculture in the Americas” was approved as amended.

3.7.5 Draft resolution “Vote of thanks to the Government and People of Jamaica”

3.7.5.1 This draft resolution was approved unanimously.

3.8. “Date and Site of the Sixteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA”

3.8.1 The Technical Secretary explained that, according to Article 17 of the Rules of Procedure of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture, it must consider offers to host its meetings, based on the principle of rotation and geographic distribution.

Since to date no offers had been received to host the next meeting, it would be held during the second semester of 2011. He added that offers could still be made at this meeting.

- 3.8.2 The Member States were asked if any wished to host the Sixteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA. There being no offers, he referred to Article 18, which indicated that if no site was offered, or if the regular meeting could not be held at the site agreed upon, the Board would meet at the Headquarters of the Institute. However, if at any time before the call to the meeting was issued, one or more Member States offered to host the meeting, the Committee could decide by majority vote of its members, either in session or by correspondence, that the regular meeting of the Board would be held at one of the sites offered.
- 3.8.3 Considering that there was still plenty of time to hear offers, the Chair said that any delegation interested could consult with their government and then make the corresponding offer.
- 3.9 *Proposal by the Representative of Chile regarding the progress made in ending the political-institutional crisis in Honduras.*
- 3.9.1 The Representative of Chile suggested that the IABA express its satisfaction with the progress made in reaching an agreement to end the political-institutional crisis in Honduras.
- 3.9.2 The Director General felt it would be better to wait for official communication from the Organization of American States, which would be remitted in due course to the Representatives. He stated that, to date, the Institute was continuing to provide technical cooperation in Honduras, in the understanding that same focus on low-income small-scale farmers in rural areas and on the production of staple foods.
- 3.10 *Close of the session*
- 3.10.1 The Third Plenary Session was adjourned at 16:30 hours

CLOSING SESSION

4.1 *Opening of the session*

4.1.1 The Closing Session of the Fifteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) was called to order at 16:30 hours under the chairmanship of Christopher Tufton, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries of Jamaica.

4.2 *2008-2009 Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector*

4.2.1 The Chair gave the floor to the Technical Secretary, who explained that during the Nineteenth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee the decision was made to extend the deadline for presentation of nominations for the Inter-American Awards until October 15, and a committee was set up to select the winners, whose recommendations had been presented and accepted at this meeting of the IABA.

4.2.2 The winners were: i) Roberto Rodrigues, from Brazil, and Alejandro Bonifacio, from Bolivia, share the 2008-2009 Inter-American Agricultural Medal, ii) Susana Mejillones, from Bolivia, with the 2008-2009 Inter-American Award for the Contribution of Women to Rural Development iii) Fundación de Comunicaciones, Capacitación y Cultura del Agro (FUCOA), from Chile, with the 2008-2009 Inter-American Award for Institutional Contributions to Agricultural and Rural Development, iv) Rodolfo Bezerra de Menezes Lobato de Costa, from Brazil, with the 2008-2009 Inter-American Award for Young Professionals, v) Federación de Cooperativas NGEN, from Chile, with the 2008-2009 Inter-American Award for Innovative Producers vi) and Karen Latoya Tamasa, from Jamaica, and Carol Thompson, from Barbados, with an honorable mention in the 2008-2009 Inter-American Award for Young Professionals category.

4.2.3 Because the awards were being granted at this meeting, the winners could not be present. The IICA Representative in the corresponding country would present each winner with his/her award.

4.2.4 The JIA bestowed a special posthumous award upon Assafaw Tewelde, from Mexico, and Roberto Villeda Toledo, of Honduras, and instructed the Director General to see that they were delivered them to their families.

4.3 *Remarks by the Director General*

4.3.1 The Director General began his remarks by thanking all the participants for their support and collaboration during the Fifteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture and the Fifth Ministerial Meeting Agriculture and Rural Life “Agriculture and Rural Life.”

4.3.2 He noted that progress had been made at this meeting in defining strategies and developing capabilities for food security in the hemisphere, as well as in renewing the commitment to hemispheric cooperation in agriculture.

4.3.3 He added that the Institute must support the efforts of the Member States to achieve food security and ensure food safety, which would require the continued strengthening and modernization of IICA and efforts to increase and maintain strategic partnerships with multilateral development banks, FAO, IFAD, WFP and other institutions, as well as with private-sector organizations and institutions of the United Nations System.

4.3.4 He mentioned that in order to strengthen technical expertise at IICA it was also necessary to consolidate the Institute’s financial base, and then referred to the difficulties IICA had had to face due to a frozen budget since 1995.

4.3.5 He stated his satisfaction with several accomplishments of his administration, including the development of a new vision and strategy that would ensure the agricultural sector a key role on the inter-American development agenda; the implementation of a technical cooperation model which had facilitated the process of improving support services to the Member States; the modernization of the Institute to more effectively meet the needs of the Member States; and the strengthening of relations with strategic partners and the financial base of the Institute.

4.3.6 He then wished the Director General-elect success and ensured him that the transition process would be smooth, underscoring that, in his judgment, the personnel of the Institute and the Member States were ready to take the next step for IICA to continue growing and changing. He referred to the principles that underpinned his administration, noting that the success achieved was the

result of the work of all, and expressed his wish for prosperity and success for the Institute in the future.

- 4.3.7 He expressed appreciation for the support and collaboration he had received during his nomination process and his administration from the ministers and secretaries of agriculture; the governments and people of the Dominican Republic and Barbados; the heads of government, ministers of foreign relations and ambassadors of the Member States; the Secretary General and personnel of CARICOM; the strategic partners; the Permanent Council, Secretary General and Assistant Secretary General of the OAS. Also, he paid special tribute to the former Directors General of IICA, from whom he received sage advice. He then thanked the Institute personnel, his family and God.
- 4.3.8 Next he acknowledged all the people who supported and cooperated in holding this meeting, naming 12 of them, to whom he presented a special certificate of recognition.
- 4.3.9 The Director General concluded his remarks by wishing the participants a safe return trip to their countries.

4.4 *Remarks by the Chair of the IABA*

- 4.4.1 The Chair of the IABA expressed satisfaction with fact that consensus had been reached on the plan of action contained in the 2010-2011 Hemispheric Agenda, and that there was increased awareness of the urgent need to carry out actions aimed at achieving food security and reducing poverty in the rural milieu of the member countries of the Institute.
- 4.4.2 He highlighted some of the matters addressed at the Ministerial Meeting and the IABA meeting, including the designation of the new Director General of IICA for 2010-2014, who will be responsible for implementing the agreements reached and commitments assumed during the week. He offered his support, as Chair of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) for the next two years, in completing this task.
- 4.4.3 He paid tribute to the outgoing Director General for his leadership, and hoped that the experience and leadership of Dr. Brathwaite would continue to be at the disposal of agriculture and rural life and the Americas.

4.4.4 He reiterated the satisfaction of his country for having hosted the important events held during the Week of Agriculture and Rural Life Jamaica 2009, and, thanking all for their participation and contributions, adjourned the Fifteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA).

4.5 *Closing of the session*

4.5.1 The session was adjourned at 17:30 hours.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTIONS

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IICA/JIA/Res.443(XV-O/09)

30 October 2009

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 443

2002-2009 MANAGEMENT REPORT

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

HAVING SEEN:

Document “Promoting rural prosperity in the Americas: 2002-2008 Management Report” and the presentation of the Director General, Chelston W. D. Brathwaite, on his work as Director General of IICA during the periods 2002-2005 and 2006-2009,

CONSIDERING:

That, at its Twenty-ninth Regular Meeting, by means of Resolution IICA/CE/Res.497(XXIX-O/09) the Executive Committee resolved: (i) to accept the 2002-2008 Management Report and to congratulate the Director General and the staff of the Institute on the work accomplished and the results achieved, which were made possible thanks to the support provided by the Member States; and, (ii) to urge Member States to implement initiatives for the technical, administrative and financial strengthening of the Institute, to ensure that it has the appropriate means with which to carry out its mandates fully; and

That the report presented by the Director General provides an adequate summary of the Institute’s work during the period 2002-2009 under the leadership of Dr. Chelston W. D. Brathwaite,

RESOLVES:

1. To accept the 2002-2009 Management Report.
2. To congratulate the Director General on the results achieved during his term of office, both in terms of the technical cooperation provided and the process of financial strengthening and modernization of the Institute.

IICA/JIA/Res.444(XV-O/09)
30 October 2009
Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 444

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK OF IICA

THE INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (IABA), at its Fifteenth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/JIA/Doc.327(09), “Proposed 2010-2020 Strategic Framework of IICA”,

CONSIDERING:

That at its Twenty-eighth Regular Meeting, the Executive Committee approved the Report of the Special Advisory Committee on Management Issues (SACMI) by means of Resolution IICA/CE/Res. 490 (XXVII-O/08);

That the report in question contains both the report of the Steering Committee and its proposal for follow-up of the assessment of technical expertise at IICA;

That in its report, the Steering Committee recommended preparing a Strategic Framework and a Strategic Plan for IICA for the period 2010-2020 as part of a comprehensive strategy to enable the Institute to reposition itself and thereby address the technical cooperation needs of Member States and solve some of the structural problems that have accumulated;

That the proposed Strategic Framework should take into account both the factors and emerging challenges that could affect agriculture and the rural milieu, the role of institutions and other groups of key players in emerging and future scenarios, and the Institute’s role as an intergovernmental organization with a hemispheric mandate;

That the preliminary version of the proposed Strategic Framework prepared by the Steering Committee and IICA, with the support of a consultant and panel of experts, has been discussed and analyzed at length; and

That the Executive Committee asked the Steering Committee and the Director General in IICA/CE/Res. 499 (XXIX-O/09) to prepare a revised version of the Strategic Framework, incorporating the Steering Committee's opinions, observations and suggestions and to submit it to the consideration of the IABA, and that a document was prepared in compliance with that mandate, which is one of the working documents of the Fifteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA,

RESOLVES:

1. To congratulate the members of the Steering Committee and the technical staff at IICA on the work accomplished in preparing the 2010-2020 Strategic Framework of IICA.
2. To approve the 2010-2020 Strategic Framework of IICA.
3. To instruct the newly elected Director General to utilize the 2010-2020 Strategic Framework of IICA as a guiding document in the preparation of a 2010-2020 Strategic Plan for IICA as proposed by SACMI and approved in Res.490.

IICA/JIA/Res.445(XV-O/09)

30 October 2009

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 445

**PROGRESS WITH THE STRENGTHENING
OF TECHNICAL EXPERTISE AT IICA**

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

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/JIA/Doc.DI-11(09), “Report to the Inter-American Board of Agriculture on the status of the recommendations to improve technical expertise at IICA”,

CONSIDERING:

That, at its Twenty-sixth Regular Meeting, the Executive Committee adopted Resolution IICA/CE/Res.447(XXVI-O/06), thereby establishing the procedure for conducting the assessment of technical expertise at IICA;

That, in order to implement said resolution, a Steering Committee, chaired by Mexico and comprising members from Argentina, Belize, Canada, Costa Rica, Panama, and Paraguay, was set up and charged with giving direction to the work of the consulting firm retained to conduct the assessment;

That, after receiving the report of the consulting firm, the Executive Committee, at its Twenty-seventh Regular Meeting, adopted Resolution IICA/CE Res.462(XXVII-O/07), in which it established a process for following up on the recommendations of the assessment, which included consultations with all the Member States of the Institute;

That the Executive Committee instructed the General Directorate to implement a number of the recommendations made in the aforementioned assessment that called for neither decisions by IICA's governing bodies nor the allocation of additional funds; and

That the Director General presented to the Twenty-eighth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee a report on the status of the recommendations mentioned in the previous paragraph, which was approved by means of Resolution IICA/CE/Res.483(XXVIII-O/08),

RESOLVES:

To accept the report of the Director General on the implementation of the recommendations of the external assessment to strengthen technical expertise at IICA.

IICA/JIA/Res.446 (XV-O/09)

30 October 2009

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 446

**AUTHORIZATION FOR THE THIRTIETH REGULAR MEETING
OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO APPROVE THE
2010-2014 MEDIUM TERM PLAN OF IICA**

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

CONSIDERING:

That Article 2.a of the Rules of Procedure of the IABA states that a function of this governing body is “to adopt measures related to the policies and actions of the Institute” and, consequently, to approve the Institute’s Medium Term Plans;

That the Director General-elect, with the participation of the Member States, is required to prepare a proposal for a Medium Term Plan for the period 2010-2014, based on the guidelines contained in the 2010-2020 Strategic Framework;

That said Plan must also address the mandates emanating from the Summit of the Americas Process, from the Ministerial Meetings on Agriculture and Rural Life, particularly the Agro 2015 Plan, and from the Executive Committee and the IABA;

That, to facilitate implementation of the 2010-2014 Medium Term Plan, it is essential to ensure consistency between the mandates of the Plan and the Institute’s budget, and that, therefore, it is advisable to ensure that the Plan establishes the financial requirements for its implementation in the 2010-2014 period; and

That inasmuch as the IABA will not hold a Regular Meeting in 2010, it is necessary to delegate to the Executive Committee at its Thirtieth Regular Meeting authority to review and approve the proposal for the 2010-2014 Medium Term Plan and the adjustments required in the 2010-2011 Program Budget for its implementation,

RESOLVES:

1. To instruct the Director General to prepare the 2010-2014 Medium Term Plan of IICA in consultation with the Member States, considering as basic guidelines: (i) the mandates on agriculture and rural life of the Summit of the Americas Process; (ii) the mandates emanating from the Ministerial Meetings on Agriculture and Rural Life, in particular the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan, (iii) the resolutions in force of the IABA and of the Executive Committee, and (iv) the guidelines contained in the 2010-2020 Strategic Framework of IICA.
2. To authorize the Executive Committee to approve the 2010-2014 Medium Term Plan at its Thirtieth Regular Meeting, as well as the adjustments required in the 2010-2011 Program Budget for its implementation.

IICA/JIA/Res.447(XV-O/09)

30 October 2009

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 447

**IICA-FAO JOINT ACTION ON BEHALF OF
AGRICULTURE IN THE AMERICAS**

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

HAVING SEEN:

The document “Strengthening Partnership and Coordination between IICA and FAO to the benefit of Agriculture in the Americas”,

CONSIDERING:

That IICA and FAO are the two most important organizations in the Americas mandated to provide technical cooperation to the countries of the region, to support them in their efforts to achieve the development of modern, competitive and sustainable agriculture and improve the living conditions of the rural population;

That the Member States of the two organizations, with a view to strengthening relations and joint action, consider it essential that both agencies respond in a coordinated and more efficient and effective manner to the demand for their services; and

That, in accordance with the recommendation of the Special Advisory Committee on Management Issues (SACMI), the Director General of IICA presented to the Member States the document “Strengthening Partnership and Coordination between IICA and FAO to the benefit of Agriculture in the Americas”, which contains an analysis of the matter and recommends strengthening ties between the two organizations within the framework of a new model,

RESOLVES:

1. To thank the Director General for the document “Strengthening Partnership and Coordination between IICA and FAO to the benefit of Agriculture in the Americas.”
2. To direct SACMI:
 - a. to analyze the document “Strengthening Partnership and Coordination between IICA and FAO to the benefit of Agriculture in the Americas” and develop options for closer IICA-FAO integration; and
 - b. to present recommendations to the IICA Executive Committee in 2010 on how to proceed on IICA-FAO integration with a view towards a formal proposal on this integration, including an analysis of modalities and other considerations, at the 2011 meeting of the IABA.
3. To request that the Member States, through the appropriate channels, present to the corresponding institutions any proposal that may wish to make.
4. To direct the Director General of IICA to provide whatever technical, legal and logistical support SACMI may require to carry out this mandate.

IICA/JIA/Res.448(XV-O/09)
30 October 2009
Original: English

RESOLUTION No. 448

**STRENGTHENING THE MONITORING OF THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE 2010-2011 HEMISPHERIC AGENDA**

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

CONSIDERING:

The concerns expressed by member countries regarding the effective implementation of the Hemispheric Agenda 2010-2011; and

The critical need for an effective monitoring and reporting mechanism regarding the implementation of the Hemispheric Agenda 2010-2011,

RESOLVES:

To instruct the Director General of IICA: a) to strengthen mechanisms for monitoring the implementation of the Hemispheric Agenda 2010-2011; and b) to facilitate the exchange of experiences among Member States for implementing the Hemispheric Agenda 2010-2011.

IICA/JIA/Res.449(XV-O/09)

30 October 2009

Original: English

RESOLUTION No. 449**INSTITUTIONALIZING CONSULTATIONS WITH THE MEMBERS OF
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION-TRADE CHAINS (VALUE CHAINS)
AT THE MINISTERIAL MEETINGS**

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

CONSIDERING:

The impact the entire agri-food value chain can have in increasing agricultural productivity, raising the incomes of farmers and rural persons, improving trade capacity, and strengthening food security;

The importance of designing policies and strategies for the agricultural sector that take into consideration the views and needs of the members of the value chain to effectively inform Ministers' deliberations;

The fact that the Ministerial meetings held in Guatemala 2007 and in Jamaica 2009 each held successful consultations with members of the value chain to effectively inform Minister's proceedings;

RESOLVES:

1. To encourage the hosts of future Ministerial meetings to host a consultative dialogue with members of the value chain, with a view to providing insights useful in the Ministers' proceedings;
2. To ask IICA to work with the government hosting the Ministerial meeting and provide support, as appropriate, to ensure the success of the consultation with members of the value chain.

IICA/JIA/Res.450(XV-O/09)
30 October 2009
Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 450

**2007 AND 2008 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE INSTITUTE
AND REPORTS OF THE EXTERNAL AUDITORS**

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

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/JIA/Doc.329(09), which contains the “2007 Financial Statements of the Institute and Report of the External Auditors,” and the “2008 Financial Statements of the Institute and Report of the External Auditors”;

CONSIDERING:

That the Executive Committee, at its regular meetings in 2008 and 2009, pursuant to articles 4(d) and 3(c) of its Rules of Procedure, studied the Institute’s financial statements for 2007 and 2008 and the reports of the External Auditors for the same years;

That, in the abovementioned reports, the External Auditors attest to the sound management of the Institute’s financial resources, and to the fact that the General Directorate of the Institute acted in conformity with the regulations of the organization;

That, in the opinion of the External Auditors, the financial statements for 2007 and 2008, respectively, present fairly, in all material respects, the financial situation of the Institute at December 31, 2007 and December 31, 2008, respectively, the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the years ending on those dates;

That, in its Fourteenth and Fifteenth Annual Reports, the Audit Review Committee (ARC) states that it studied the reports of the External Auditors and found the work performed to be thorough and in accordance with the Institute's rules and generally accepted accounting standards; and,

That, at its Twenty-eighth and Twenty-ninth Regular Meetings, by means of Resolutions IICA/CE/Res.486(XXVIII-O/08) and IICA/CE/Res.500(XXIX-O/09), the Executive Committee decided to forward the Financial Statements, along with the reports of the External Auditors, to the Inter-American Board of Agriculture for its consideration,

RESOLVES:

To accept the "2007 Financial Statements of the Institute" and the "2008 Financial Statements of the Institute," as well as the reports of the External Auditors on said 2007 and 2008 financial statements contained in Document IICA/JIA/Doc.329(09).

IICA/JIA/Res.451(XV-O/09)
30 October 2009
Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 451

**FOURTEENTH AND FIFTEENTH REPORTS OF
THE AUDIT REVIEW COMMITTEE (ARC)**

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

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/JIA/Doc.330(09), “Fourteenth and Fifteenth Reports of the Audit Review Committee (ARC)”,

CONSIDERING:

That the IABA, at its Seventh Regular Meeting, by Resolution IICA/JIA/Res.231(VII-O/93), created the ARC and approved its Statute;

That Article 3(k) of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee establishes that the Committee “shall appoint the members of the ARC and receive and approve the ARC’s reports and recommendations”;

That the work of the ARC is of great value to the Member States, to ensure that the institution manages its resources properly, and a useful tool for obtaining the budgetary support that the Institute needs; and

That the Executive Committee, at its Twenty-eighth and Twenty-ninth Regular Meetings, adopted resolutions IICA/CE/Res.487(XXVIII-O/08) and IICA/CE/Res.501(XXIX-O/09), respectively, approving the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Reports of the ARC, respectively,

RESOLVES:

1. To accept both the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Reports of the Audit Review Committee, contained in document IICA/JIA/Doc.330(09).
2. To express to the members of the ARC the satisfaction and gratitude of the Member States that make up the IABA for the Committee's valuable work.

IICA/JIA/Res.452(XV-O/09)
30 October 2009
Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 452

**PROGRESS IN THE COLLECTION
OF QUOTAS OWED TO IICA**

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

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/JIA/Doc.331(09), “Current status of quota payments and progress in the collection of quotas owed to the Institute”,

CONSIDERING:

That the financial strengthening of the Institute and the normal execution of the programs and projects included in IICA’s national, regional and hemispheric cooperation agendas can only be possible if Member States keep up to date with the payment of their annual quotas to the Institute;

That, at its Thirteenth Regular Meeting, the IABA, by Resolution IICA/JIA/Res.414(XIII-O/05), adopted the “revised measures” for collecting quotas owed to the Institute;

That the aforementioned document draws and improves on the provisions of resolutions IICA/CE/Res.417(XXIV-O/04) of the Twenty-fourth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee and IICA/JIA/Res.392(XII-O/03), of the Twelfth Regular Meeting of the IABA, which establish a set of measures intended to encourage Member States to make current their financial obligations to the Institute;

That, thanks to the effectiveness of the measures adopted, the goodwill and support of the ministers of agriculture and other authorities in the Member States and the efforts of the General Directorate of IICA, it has been possible to decrease considerably the total amount of quotas owed to the Institute; and,

That the above enabled the Administration to fund both the 2008-2009 Program Budget and the 2008-2009 Special Budget approved by the governing bodies of the Institute for the execution of high-priority technical cooperation programs during the biennium in question, which are being executed satisfactorily,

RESOLVES:

1. To thank the ministers of agriculture and foreign affairs and other high-level government officials in IICA's Member States for the efforts they have been making to honor their countries' annual quota payments to the Institute.
2. To acknowledge the importance of maintaining in effect the measures established by the Executive Committee and the IABA to encourage Member States to make their annual quota payments to the Institute in a timely fashion and to pay quota arrears for previous years.
3. To instruct the Director General of IICA to: a) continue efforts to collect quotas from the Member States for the current year and those owed for previous years; and, b) to keep the Member States informed of progress in this area.
4. To urge the Member States to keep up to date with the payment of their annual quota contributions to the Institute, and especially those that have agreed on plans with the General Directorate for the payment of quotas owed for previous years, to make said payments on time.

IICA/JIA/Res.453(XV-O/09)
30 October 2009
Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 453

2010 AND 2011 PROGRAM BUDGET

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

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/JIA/Doc. 332(09), entitled “Proposed 2010-2011 Program-Budget”;

Resolution IICA/CE/Res.504(XXIX-O/09) of July 14, 2009, in which the Executive Committee, at its Twenty-ninth Regular Meeting, recommended that the IABA approve the global allocation of resources and quota contributions of the Member States for 2010 and 2011, and the use of resources for 2010;

CONSIDERING:

That the Convention on the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) establishes:

- a. In Article 8(b), that a function of the IABA is “to approve the biennial Program-Budget and to determine the annual quotas of the Member States;” and,
- b. In Article 23, that “the Member States shall contribute to the maintenance of the Institute through annual quotas established by the Board, in accordance with the system for calculating quotas of the Organization of American States;”

That, inasmuch as a new Administration will be taking office in 2010 that will require sufficient flexibility to propose the detailed allocation of resources for 2011, the Director General has submitted a Program-Budget proposal in which a detailed allocation of resources from the Regular Fund appears only for 2010, with a global figure proposed for 2011;

That the General Directorate expects to mobilize external resources in the approximate amount of US\$145 million to finance programs and projects, which would generate some US\$8.6 million in Institutional Net Rate (INR) resources, to be used for funding the complementary structures of the units involved in the execution of externally-funded programs and projects and financing corporate activities in support of those programs and projects; and

That the proposal included in Document IICA/JIA/Doc.332(09), "Proposed 2010-2011 Program-Budget", is the document studied and recommended by the Executive Committee at its Twenty-ninth Regular Meeting,

RESOLVES:

1. To approve the amount of US\$33,398,239 annually from the Regular Fund as the overall allocation for the 2010-2011 Program Budget of the Institute, financed with quota contributions from the Member States in the amount of US\$27,298,239 per year, according to the amounts indicated in the Quota Scale attached hereto as "Appendix A," and Miscellaneous Income in the amount of US\$6,100,000 per year, consisting of US\$4,100,000 in expected income per year and US\$2,000,000 annually from the Miscellaneous Income Fund.
2. To approve the use of the resources for the Program Budget for 2010, in accordance with the allocations for each of the chapters, headings and strategic priorities detailed in Document IICA/JIA/Doc.332(09), "Proposed 2010-2011 Program-Budget," a summary of which is attached to this resolution as "Annex B."
3. To instruct the Director General to present to the consideration of the Executive Committee, at its Thirtieth Regular Meeting, a proposed detailed allocation of the funds approved for the 2011 Program Budget consistent with the priorities of the Institute's new 2010-2014 Medium Term Plan approved by the Executive Committee.

4. To authorize the Director General to make transfers between the chapters of the Program-Budget, provided total transfers neither increase nor reduce the amount allocated to the chapters by more than 10% and do not substantially affect the priorities approved.
5. To authorize the Director General to make the necessary adjustments in the allocation of resources recommended in this resolution, should income from each of the fiscal years of the 2010-2011 biennium fall below the amount estimated. The Director General shall inform the Executive Committee and the IABA of the situation.

APPENDIX A
2010-2011 PROGRAM BUDGET
Quota Scale of the Member States and Miscellaneous Income for 2010 and 2011
Bases on the OAS Quota Scale for 2009.¹ (US\$)

MEMBER STATES	2010			2011	
	OAS	IICA		IICA	
	%	%	AMOUNT	%	AMOUNT
Antigua and Barbuda	0,022	0,022	6.052	0,022	6.052
Argentina	3,211	3,211	883.304	3,211	883.304
Bahamas	0,077	0,077	21.182	0,077	21.182
Barbados	0,060	0,060	16.505	0,060	16.505
Belize	0,022	0,022	6.052	0,022	6.052
Bolivia	0,046	0,046	12.654	0,046	12.654
Brazil	7,953	7,953	2.187.765	7,953	2.187.765
Canada	13,761	13,761	3.785.469	13,761	3.785.469
Chile	1,073	1,073	295.168	1,073	295.168
Colombia	0,839	0,839	230.798	0,839	230.798
Costa Rica	0,187	0,187	51.441	0,187	51.441
Dominica	0,022	0,022	6.052	0,022	6.052
Dominican Republic	0,206	0,206	56.668	0,206	56.668
Ecuador	0,207	0,207	56.943	0,207	56.943
El Salvador	0,105	0,105	28.884	0,105	28.884
Grenada	0,022	0,022	6.052	0,022	6.052
Guatemala	0,187	0,187	51.441	0,187	51.441
Guyana	0,022	0,022	6.052	0,022	6.052
Haiti	0,045	0,045	12.379	0,045	12.379
Honduras	0,045	0,045	12.379	0,045	12.379
Jamaica	0,123	0,123	33.836	0,123	33.836
Mexico	8,141	8,141	2.239.482	8,141	2.239.482
Nicaragua	0,045	0,045	12.379	0,045	12.379
Panama	0,163	0,163	44.839	0,163	44.839
Paraguay	0,124	0,124	34.111	0,124	34.111
Peru	0,553	0,553	152.123	0,553	152.123
Saint Kitts and Nevis	0,022	0,022	6.052	0,022	6.052
Saint Lucia	0,022	0,022	6.052	0,022	6.052
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	0,022	0,022	6.052	0,022	6.052
Suriname	0,045	0,045	12.379	0,045	12.379
Trinidad and Tobago	0,152	0,152	41.813	0,152	41.813
United States of America	59,470	59,470	16.359.412	59,470	16.359.412
Uruguay	0,181	0,181	49.791	0,181	49.791
Venezuela	2,060	2,060	566.679	2,060	566.679
SUB TOTAL	99,235	99,235	27.298.239	99,235	27.298.239
Cuba	0,765	0,765		0,765	
TOTAL QUOTAS	100,000	100,000	27.298.239	100,000	27.298.239
MISCELLANEOUS INCOME²			6.100.000		6.100.000
TOTAL REGULAR FUND			33.398.239		33.398.239

Note: The percentage for Cuba is not taken into consideration when calculating the Member State quotas.

1/ As per Resolution AG/RES. 1 (XXXVI-E/08), of the OAS General Assembly.

2/ In 2010 and 2011 miscellaneous income will comprise US\$4,100,000 to be generated and US\$2,000,000 from the Miscellaneous Fund.

APPENDIX B
2010 PROGRAM BUDGET
SUMMARY BY CHAPTER
(US\$ x 000)

CHAPTER	2010		
	QUOTAS	MISCELLANEOUS	TOTAL
I: DIRECT TECHNICAL COOPERATION SERVICES	24.420,9	5.587,9	30.008,8
Strategic Priority			
1. Trade and Competitiveness of Agribusiness	6.017,2	1.515,8	7.533,0
2. Technology and Innovation	5.666,2	817,6	6.483,8
3. Agricultural Health and Food Safety	5.037,7	1.439,5	6.477,2
4. Development of Rural Communities	3.722,8	1.002,1	4.724,9
5. Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and the Environment	1.757,1	392,9	2.150,0
6. Repositioning of Agriculture and Rural Life and Renewal of their Institutional Framework	2.219,9	420,0	2.639,9
II: MANAGEMENT COSTS	1.292,5	82,8	1.375,3
Office of the Director General	679,6	25,0	704,6
Directorate of Administration and Finance	612,9	57,8	670,7
III: GENERAL COSTS AND PROVISIONS ¹	1.183,2	20,0	1.203,2
Governing Bodies	395,0	0,0	395,0
Insurance	380,0	0,0	380,0
Pensions	287,7	0,0	287,7
OAS Administrative Tribunal	25,0	0,0	25,0
External Audit	95,5	0,0	
Emergency Assistance Program	0,0	20,0	20,0
IV: RENEWAL OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND EQUIPMENT	401,6	409,3	811,0
TOTAL	27.298,2	6.100,0	33.398,3

1/ Does not include Cuba's quota.

IICA/JIA/Res.454(XV-O/09)

30 October 2009

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 454**TRIBUTE TO MRS. SHARMAN OTTLEY FOR HER CONTRIBUTIONS
AS A MEMBER OF THE AUDIT REVIEW COMMITTEE (ARC)**

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

CONSIDERING:

That the ARC is an important mechanism of the IABA for directly advising the Director General on the administrative and financial conduct of the Institute, as well as for assisting the IABA in the administrative and financial supervision of IICA;

That the members of the ARC, appointed by the governments, fulfill a vital function; and,

That Mrs. Sharman Ottley, Auditor General of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, was a member of the ARC between January 1, 2004 and December 31, 2009, during which time she performed her duties with great dedication and expertise,

RESOLVES:

1. To thank the Government of Trinidad and Tobago for the support provided by Mrs. Sharman Ottley, who served as a member of the ARC from 2004 to 2009.
2. To acknowledge the excellent and dedicated efforts of Mrs. Ottley, and offer sincere thanks for her contributions to the ARC, and to the administrative and financial management of the Institute.

IICA/JIA/Res.455(XV-O/09)

30 October 2009

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 455

**BYLAWS OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION FOR
ORGANIC AGRICULTURE**

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

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/Res.506(XXIX-O/09), “Bylaws of the Inter-American Commission for Organic Agriculture (ICOA)”,

CONSIDERING:

That, at its Twenty-ninth Regular Meeting, in Resolution IICA/CE/Res.506(XXIX-O/09), the Executive Committee adopted, subject to approval by the IABA, the bylaws of the Inter-American Commission for Organic Agriculture; and

That the Member States that make up the IABA are in agreement with the procedures and decisions adopted by the Executive Committee for the approval of said bylaws, and recognize the importance of this Commission in promoting and guiding the development of organic agriculture in the Americas,

RESOLVES:

To approve the Bylaws of the Inter-American Commission for Organic Agriculture, attached to this resolution.

APPENDIX A**BYLAWS OF THE INTER-AMERICAN
COMMISSION FOR ORGANIC AGRICULTURE (ICOA)****CHAPTER I****ORGANIZATION, FUNCTIONS AND MEMBERSHIP****Article 1: Nature**

1. The Inter-American Commission for Organic Agriculture (ICOA) is a Special Commission that was established by the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), in accordance with Article 52 of its Rules of Procedure.
2. The ICOA shall have technical autonomy for the discharge of its functions, within the parameters established in the Convention on the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, these Bylaws and the resolutions of the IABA and the Executive Committee. The ICOA is subordinate and answerable to the Executive Committee and has no enforcement power with regard to IICA.

Article 2: Structure

The ICOA shall accomplish its objectives through:

- a. The Assembly of the ICOA
- b. The Board of Directors (BD/ICOA)
- c. The Technical Secretariat

Article 3: Objectives and functions**Objectives**

The objectives of the ICOA are:

- a. To contribute to the development of organic agriculture in the countries of the Americas, trade in its products, and serve as a technical body for knowledge management and the sharing and dissemination of appropriate information in a timely manner;
- b. To contribute to the strengthening of the institutional structures of the Competent Authorities in Organic Agriculture in the countries of the Americas;
- c. To coordinate and promote the development and harmonization of standards and procedures to stimulate and regulate the production and control of and trade in organic foods in the countries of the Americas;
- d. To serve as a mechanism for consultation, liaison and reciprocal cooperation with the competent governmental bodies that promote and establish standards for the development and control of organic agriculture in each country of the Americas; and
- e. Within the framework of other functions that contribute to the development of organic agriculture, to sponsor, insofar as possible, the development of organic agriculture and its institutional framework.

Functions

The functions of the ICOA are:

- a. To monitor the international environment that impacts organic agriculture in the region, send out alert signals to the Member States of the ICOA and advocate the taking of positions and the building of common regional strategies by the public and private sectors on topics that are important for and relevant to organic agriculture;
- b. To encourage the organization of electronic discussion fora and studies on relevant topics that impact the functioning of the offices of the Competent Authorities and the overall development of organic agriculture;
- c. To promote virtual and face-to-face training fora on topics of relevance for enhancing the performance of the offices of the Competent

Authorities and for the overall development of organic agriculture and, in so doing, give preference to existing capabilities in the hemisphere;

- d. To advise and work with the respective Member States of the ICOA in preparing standards to govern organic agriculture and setting in place and consolidating the offices of the Competent Authorities;
- e. To promote horizontal cooperation among the Member States of the ICOA to facilitate an exchange of information and sharing of experiences to bring development levels with regard to organic agriculture more in line with one another;
- f. To provide advice to and work with the authorities of the agricultural sector in Member States of the ICOA, and with other authorities related to the sector, when so requested, in the area of decision-making on topics related to organic agriculture;
- g. To gather, compile and share information of interest to the Member States of the ICOA and maintain an up-to-date database on organic agriculture with official information from the offices of the Competent Authorities and other pertinent information of interest in terms of supporting decision-making processes in which stakeholders in organic agriculture are involved;
- h. To prepare an annual report on the status of organic agriculture in the Americas based on information which the Competent Authorities of the ICOA shall provide at the request of their Technical Secretariat;
- i. To report on relevant events that affect the development of organic agriculture and that might be of interest to the Member States of the ICOA;
- j. To coordinate activities and determine positions with international multilateral and other cooperation organizations that support activities in aid of organic agriculture, especially in international fora;
- k. To serve as the main advisory body of the Member States of the ICOA, IICA and other entities that so request, on related topics;

- l. To consider other matters related to inter-American cooperation in the field of organic agriculture entrusted to it by the Executive Committee of IICA;
- m. To submit to the Executive Committee of IICA – through the Director General of IICA –an annual report on its activities, which may include recommendations and draft resolutions for its consideration;
- n. To establish liaison and cooperative ties with other similar entities in the Americas so as to achieve mutual objectives;
- o. To mobilize resources for the execution of its activities, in accordance with Article 24 of these Bylaws.

Article 4: Membership

1. The Members of the ICOA are:
 - a. All Member States of IICA that are members of the Network of Competent Authorities in Organic Agriculture in the Americas, established in Managua, Nicaragua, in August of 2007, at the time these Bylaws are adopted; and
 - b. Other Member States of IICA that have institutional entities that are part of the duly established Competent Authority in Organic Agriculture to perform oversight and regulatory functions related to organic agriculture and that request inclusion on the Commission, in writing, from the Director General of IICA, through the respective Minister of Agriculture.
2. Any Member State of the ICOA may withdraw from the Commission by addressing a letter, signed by the Minister of Agriculture, to the Director General of IICA. The withdrawal shall take effect ninety days following receipt of the letter by the Director General, during which time the Member State of the ICOA may reconsider its request and cancel it.

CHAPTER II**ASSEMBLY OF THE ICOA****Article 5: Purpose and functions****Purpose**

The purpose of the Assembly of the ICOA is to serve as an Inter-American Forum for the Competent Authorities in Organic Agriculture in Member States of the ICOA to engage in an exchange of views and share experiences, and thereby take appropriate decisions to achieve targeted objectives and fulfill mandates assigned.

Functions

The functions of the Assembly of the ICOA are:

- a. To establish policies for achieving the objectives and fulfilling the functions established in Article 3 of these Bylaws;
- b. To elect the members of the BD/ICOA;
- c. To approve the Work Plan and Budget of the ICOA prepared and presented by the BD/ICOA;
- d. To propose to the Executive Committee of IICA amendments to these Bylaws for its approval; and
- e. To approve the Rules of Procedure of the ICOA and amendments thereto, if this is considered necessary for the achievement of its objectives and the discharge of its functions.

Article 6: Venue and frequency of the meetings

1. The ICOA shall hold a regular meeting of its Assembly each year. The venue of this meeting shall be determined at the previous regular meeting. If more than one country offers to host the meeting, the decision shall be made on the basis of the principle of rotation. When no country offers to host the meeting, the annual regular meeting shall be held at IICA Headquarters.

2. The Assembly of the ICOA can hold special meetings called pursuant to the adoption of a resolution by a vote in favor of two-thirds of its Member States at the Assembly, or by correspondence or e-mail, at the request of the BD/ICOA, or at least ten of its Member States. In accordance with Article 17 of these Bylaws, the BD/ICOA shall determine the venue for the special meeting, taking into account the offers to host the meeting received from Member States and the principle of rotation. When no country offers to host the meeting, the venue of the Assembly shall be IICA Headquarters.

Article 7: Participation in the assembly of the ICOA

Representation

1. Each Member State has the right to send a Regular Representative to the Assembly of the ICOA who shall have the right to voice and vote. He/she shall be accompanied by alternate representatives and/or advisors, who must be accredited to the Assembly through the Technical Secretariat of the ICOA. The Regular Representative of each Member State at the Assembly shall be the official in charge of the duly established Competent Authority in Organic Agriculture in that State or, in his/her stead, a well experienced and recognized official of that Authority designated by the official in charge of the Competent Authority in the Member State.
2. The Director General of IICA, or his representative, may participate with voice but without vote in the deliberations of the Assembly of the ICOA, in both the plenary sessions and those of the committees and subcommittees.

Observers

If their participation is requested in writing sufficiently in advance, the following may be represented by observers at the meetings of the Assembly of the ICOA, and shall have the right to voice but not to vote, subject to the decision of the Chair of the Assembly.

- a. Member States of IICA that are not members of the ICOA, the associate country, and Permanent Observers of IICA that have asked to participate in the meeting;

- b. States in the Americas that are not Member States of IICA that have asked to participate in the meeting and whose participation has been approved by the BD/ICOA;
- c. Inter-American regional and subregional government entities and organizations involved in organic agriculture;
- d. Specialized bodies and agencies connected with the United Nations and other public international organizations; and
- e. The Director General of IICA.

Guests

Other persons or institutions, including representatives of civil society, not included in this article, may attend the meetings of the Assembly of the ICOA as special guests, subject to approval by the BD/ICOA, and in consultation with the government of the host country.

Article 8: *Officers of the assembly of the ICOA*

1. There shall be a Chair and a Vice Chair of the Assembly of the ICOA. The Chair shall be the Competent Authority in Organic Agriculture in the host country, and the Vice Chair shall be the representative of the Member State that follows the country of the Chair in alphabetical order.
2. In the event that the Assembly is held at IICA Headquarters, the Chair of the BD/ICOA shall preside in the interim until a Chair is elected by vote.

Article 9: *Agenda*

1. With support from the Technical Secretariat, the BD/ICOA shall prepare the preliminary agenda for each session of the Assembly of the ICOA and shall submit it for the consideration of Member States at least three months prior to the inauguration of the meeting of that Assembly. Member States shall have 30 consecutive days to submit their observations on the preliminary agenda to the Chair of the BD/ICOA. The BD/ICOA shall prepare the final agenda on the basis of these observations.

2. The agenda thus approved may only be modified or amended during the meeting of the Assembly of the ICOA by a vote of two-thirds of the Member States present.

Article 10: *Sessions and meetings*

Each meeting of the Assembly of the ICOA shall consist of the plenary sessions and such presentations as may be necessary to address the entire agenda for the meeting.

Article 11: *Committees*

1. The Assembly of the ICOA may establish committees, subcommittees and working group when it needs to do so. The committees may be standing committees or may be for a limited time.
2. The Assembly of the ICOA shall designate coordinators for each committee, subcommittee and working group, who shall be responsible for following up on the work entrusted and presenting reports on results to the General Assembly.
3. The meetings of the committees, subcommittees and working groups may be virtual or face-to-face, depending on the nature of the work to be accomplished and the availability of resources.

Article 12: *Quorum*

1. The quorum of the plenary sessions shall consist of more than one-half of the Member States of the ICOA.
2. The quorum of the committees, subcommittees and working groups of the Assembly of the ICOA shall consist of more than one-half of the Member States sitting on each of those bodies.

Article 13: Voting

1. The decisions of the Assembly of the ICOA shall be adopted at the plenary sessions, except for special cases when it is necessary to vote by correspondence, or by e-mail, in which case this procedure shall be coordinated by the Technical Secretariat of the ICOA. Each Member State shall have the right to one vote. The right to vote does not imply an obligation to vote.
2. In the event that consensus is not reached in the deliberations, the decisions of the Assembly of the ICOA shall be adopted by a vote of the absolute majority of Member States present, unless the vote is by correspondence or by e-mail.
3. In the committees, subcommittees and working groups, the decisions shall be adopted by a simple majority of Member States present.
4. The vote in a meeting of the Assembly, committee, subcommittee or working group, as the case may be, shall not be in order unless the requirements as to the corresponding quorum have been met and Member States have been duly advised to participate duly in advance of the meeting.
5. As used in these Bylaws, the term “absolute majority” means over half of the votes of the Member States present at a meeting of the Assembly of the ICOA. The term “simple majority” means more than half of the members present and voting in any session of a committee, subcommittee or working group.
6. If decisions need to be made concerning urgent matters and the Assembly is not in session, the procedure of voting by correspondence or e-mail may be employed. In such cases, at the written request of the BD/ICOA, presented through its Chair, or at the request of twelve or more of the representatives of the Member States, by means of a petition signed by them, the Technical Secretary shall send all the Member States the information related to the matter in question, including a proposition to resolve the issue. He shall also ask the Member States to cast their votes and inform them of the deadline for receipt of the votes submitted in writing or by e-mail. Once the deadline has passed, the Technical Secretary shall count the votes, certify the result and inform the Member States of the outcome. The decisions of the Assembly taken using this procedure shall be adopted by a vote of the absolute majority of the Member States.

CHAPTER III**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS (BD/ICOA)****Article 14: Membership**

1. The Board of Directors (BD/ICOA) is the governing body of the ICOA and comprises four Members of the ICOA, elected by the Assembly of the ICOA and observing, insofar as possible, the principles of rotation and equitable geographical representation.
 - a. Three members of the ICOA who are members of the BD/ICOA shall be elected by direct vote.
 - b. The fourth member of the BD/ICOA shall be the representative of the Member State that is designated to host the next Regular Meeting of the Assembly of the ICOA. If no country has been designated by the Assembly to host the next Regular Meeting, or if the country of one of the three members elected by direct vote will be hosting the next Regular Meeting, the fourth member shall be elected in the Assembly by drawing lots among the members of the ICOA who are not members of the BD/ICOA and who have not served as members of the BD/ICOA during the previous two years.
2. Except for what is specified in the transitional provisions adopted by the Executive Committee, the members of the BD/ICOA elected by the Assembly by direct vote shall serve for a three-year term. One of the members shall be replaced each year at the Regular Meeting of the Assembly.
3. The term of the member of the BD/ICOA who is the representative of the country that will be hosting the next meeting of the BD/CIA shall begin at the end of the Assembly held in the year prior to the year in which his/her country will be hosting the Assembly, and finish at the end of the Assembly hosted by his/her country.
4. The representative of each Member State on the BD/ICOA shall be the official in charge of that State's duly established Competent Authority in Organic Agriculture or, in his/her stead, a well-experienced and recognized official of that Authority who is accredited to the BD/ICOA, through the Technical

Secretary, by the official in charge of the Competent Authority of the Member State.

5. If, due to some unforeseen event, no Regular Meeting of the Assembly is held during the calendar year, the terms of the members of the BD/ICOA shall be extended until the next Regular Meeting, so that no more than one member is elected at that next Regular Meeting and in subsequent Regular Meetings.
6. If a Member State resigns its membership of the BD/ICOA, the BD/ICOA shall appoint another member to take its place until the next Regular Meeting, when a special election will be held to choose a member to serve out the remainder of the term of the member that resigned. Special elections of this kind shall not be taken into account for the purposes of the application of paragraph 5 of this Article.

Article 15: *Organization meeting and election of officers*

The Assembly of the ICOA shall elect the members and officers of the BD/ICOA during its first plenary session.

Article 16: *Chair of the BD/ICOA*

The Chair of the BD/ICOA will have the following specific responsibilities:

- a. To chair the sessions of the Commission;
- b. To supervise and coordinate the discharge of the functions of the BD/ICOA, especially during the period between its Regular Meetings; and,
- c. To represent the ICOA in its dealings with the IABA and the Executive Committee of IICA, and with other organizations that participate in the development of organic agriculture within the region and outside it.

Article 17: *Functions of the BD/ICOA*

The functions of the BD/ICOA are as follows:

- a. To carry out the decisions of the Assembly of the ICOA, taking into account the rules governing the operation of the IABA and the Executive Committee of IICA;
- b. To achieve and enforce the objectives specified in Article 3;
- c. To decide the dates of the Regular and Special Meetings of the Assembly of the ICOA and the venues for Special Meetings, and modify the dates and venues of either as and when necessary;
- d. To prepare the draft agendas of the Regular and Special Meetings of the Assembly of the ICOA and submit them to the Members of the ICOA for consideration, through the Technical Secretary, to comply with the provisions of Article 9;
- e. To propose to the Assembly of the ICOA any amendments it deems necessary to these Bylaws and, should any be adopted, to its Rules of Procedure;
- f. To establish a Work Program for the Technical Secretariat and for the Chair of the BD/ICOA to implement the decisions of the Assembly of the ICOA;
- g. To adopt any urgent measures that cannot wait until the next meeting of the Assembly of the ICOA, which shall remain in effect until the Assembly of the ICOA can consider them;
- h. To represent the ICOA, through its Chair or another member of the BD/ICOA, in international, regional or national meetings or conferences devoted to organic agriculture or collateral activities;
- i. With the collaboration of the Technical Secretariat, to prepare studies, draft agreements and inter-American treaties and other documents related to organic agriculture in the hemisphere;
- j. To examine and approve the annual report on the activities of the ICOA prepared by its Technical Secretariat
- k. To submit to the General Assembly of the ICOA the report on the activities of the ICOA.

- l. Through the Director General of IICA, to submit to the Executive Committee the annual report on the activities of the ICOA;
- m. To create any technical committees and working groups that it deems necessary and establish their work programs;
- n. Within the framework of the objectives of the ICOA, to plan and coordinate the inter-American activities within its purview, related to organic agriculture;
- o. To study and approve the Work Plan of the ICOA and the proposed budget prepared by its Technical Secretariat, ensuring the greatest possible economy but bearing in mind the ICOA's obligation to achieve satisfactory results in its work programs;
- p. To present for consideration and approval by the ICOA, at the Regular Meeting of its Assembly, the Work Plan and budget for its operation;
- q. To oversee implementation of the Work Plan and budget of the ICOA approved by the Assembly.

Article 18: *Meetings and venue of the BD/ICOA*

1. The BD/ICOA shall hold a Regular Meeting each year in the country where the Regular Meeting of the Assembly is to take place. The meeting shall be held two days before the Regular Meeting of the Assembly.
2. The BD/ICOA may hold special on-site or virtual meetings when necessary, subject to the availability of resources. The Technical Secretary shall convene special meetings at the request of the Chair of the BD/ICOA or at the written request of two or more members.

Article 19: *Quorum*

The quorum for a meeting of the BD/ICOA shall consist of more than one-half of its members.

Article 20: Voting

1. In the deliberations of the BD/ICOA, each member shall have one vote. If no consensus is reached, the Board's decisions shall be adopted by a vote of the absolute majority of its members. However, in matters of procedure, decisions shall be taken by a simple majority of voting members present. In the latter case, abstentions shall not be counted as votes cast.
2. The vote in a meeting of the BD/ICOA shall not be in order unless the requirements as to the corresponding quorum have been met and the members of the BD/ICOA were duly notified prior to the meeting.
3. If decisions need to be made concerning urgent matters and the BD/ICOA is not in session, the procedure of voting by correspondence or e-mail may be employed. In such cases, at the written request of the Chair of the BD/ICOA or at the request of two or more of its members, through a signed petition, the Technical Secretary shall send the members of the BD/ICOA the information related to the matter in question, including a proposition for resolving the issue. He shall also ask the members to cast their votes and inform them of the deadline for receipt of the votes submitted in writing or by e-mail. Once the deadline has passed, the Technical Secretary shall count the votes, certify the result and inform the Member States of the outcome.

CHAPTER IV**THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT****Article 21: Objectives and functions**

The Technical Secretariat is the permanent, technical and administrative central entity of the ICOA. It shall coordinate the technical and administrative services needed to implement the decisions of the Assembly of the ICOA and the BD/ICOA, and shall perform the functions assigned to it by those bodies.

Article 22: The technical Secretary of the ICOA

In consultation with the BD/ICOA, the Director General of IICA shall appoint the Secretary Technical of the ICOA, who shall have the following functions:

- a. To carry out the technical and administrative tasks entrusted to the Secretariat and to coordinate the administrative services provided by the Secretariat;
- b. To prepare an annual work program for presentation to the BD//ICOA, pursuant to the provisions of Article 3 of the present Bylaws and the decisions of the Assembly;
- c. To prepare and present to the BD//ICOA and to the Director General of IICA the draft program-budget of the ICOA, for consideration in the Institute's draft budget. The draft program-budget of the ICOA shall include the expenses related to travel and the salaries of the personnel assigned to the Secretariat of the ICOA;
- d. To assist in the coordination and collaborate in the execution of the work plans of any working groups established by the Assembly of the ICOA and the BD//ICOA;
- e. To make the preparations for the Regular and Special Meetings of the Assembly of the ICOA and the BD//ICOA;
- f. To verify the credentials of the participants in the Assemblies of the ICOA and the BD//ICOA, and ensure that the minutes and resolutions of the meetings of those bodies meet IICA's requirements in terms of form and style.
- g. To prepare annual reports on the situation of organic agriculture with the information provided by the Competent Authorities that are members of the Commission, and any other data it deems pertinent.
- h. To prepare an annual report on the activities carried out by the ICOA.
- i. To perform its functions in accordance with IICA's regulations and other rules.

Article 23: Secretariat Services

In accordance with the funds allocated in IICA's Program Budget, the Director General of IICA shall provide the ICOA with Technical Secretariat services and any other services required to achieve the objectives established in Article 3.

CHAPTER V**RESOURCES OF THE ICOA****Article 24: Sources of financing of the ICOA**

1. The main resources of the ICOA shall come from:
 - a. Funds from ICOA Member States to defray the expenses of its representatives and the activities for which it is responsible;
 - b. Financial assistance, donations and specific contributions from technical and financial cooperation agencies, which may include IICA;
 - c. Financial assistance, donations and specific contributions from institutions, individuals and legal entities.
 - d. Financial assistance, donations and contributions from the host and other countries to defray the costs of meetings.
2. These specific funds shall be managed and accounted for pursuant to the Rules of Procedure of the General Directorate and the Financial Rules of IICA.

Article 25: Other resources

The Member States of the ICOA and other institutions may channel and offer other resources, materials, facilities and equipment, and temporarily assign personnel to the Technical Secretariat for internships and to provide professional support services.

CHAPTER VI**OFFICIAL AND WORKING LANGUAGES****Article 26: Languages**

If sufficient resources are available, and it proves necessary, interpretation services and translations of pertinent documents shall be provided at the meetings held.

CHAPTER VII**GENERAL PROVISIONS RELATED TO THE BYLAWS AND RULES OF PROCEDURE****Article 27: *Governing provisions***

The ICOA shall be governed by the present Bylaws, any Rules of Procedure that may be adopted, and the pertinent resolutions of the IABA and the Executive Committee of IICA.

Article 28: *Amendments*

The present Bylaws approved by the Executive Committee, pending final approval by the IABA, may only be amended by the IABA or the Executive Committee of IICA, on their own initiative or at the request of the ICOA.

Article 29: *Rules of procedure of the ICOA*

1. The ICOA may adopt Rules of Procedure, provided they are consistent with the present bylaws. If Rules of Procedure are adopted, the Technical Secretary shall present them to the Executive Committee of IICA for informational purposes.
2. Procedural issues related to the Assembly not provided for in these Bylaws or in any Rules of Procedure that may be adopted shall be resolved by the Assembly. Procedural issues related to the BD/ICOA not provided for in these Bylaws or in any Rules of Procedure that may be adopted shall be resolved by the BD/ICOA.

Article 30: *Entry into force and duration*

1. The present Bylaws shall enter into force on the date of their approval by the Executive Committee, pending final approval by the IABA.
2. The ICOA and its Bylaws shall remain in force for an indefinite period of time and may be abolished by a resolution of the Executive Committee, pending final approval by the IABA, or by the IABA on its own initiative.

IICA/JIA/Res.456(XV-O/09)

30 October 2009

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 456

AMENDMENTS TO THE RULES OF THE INSTITUTE
ON THE ELECTION OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF
IICA

THE INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (IABA), at its Fifteenth Regular Meeting,

CONSIDERING:

That the rules pertaining to the election of the Director General are set out in Articles 101 to 106 of the Rules of Procedure of the IABA and the Special Rules to Govern the Presentation of Candidates for the Position of Director General, approved under Resolution IICA/CE/Res.341(XX-O/00);

That those rules require, in pertinent part, that all candidates for the position of Director General be a national of one of IICA Member States and nominated in writing by an IICA Member State;

That the period for presenting nominations begins six months prior to the election date and ends forty-five days prior to that date, unless under the special circumstances set out in those rules or otherwise decided by the IABA; and

That in the interest of clarity and transparency in the application of the rules governing the election of the Director General, it is necessary to amend them to establish how to proceed if a Member State wishes to withdraw a nomination prior to the election,

RESOLVES:

To amend Article 105 of the Rules of Procedure of the IABA and Section 2.1 of the Special Rules to Govern the Presentation of Candidates for the Position of Director General set out in Annex A.

ANNEX A
**AMENDMENTS TO ARTICLE 105 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF
THE INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AND TO SECTION
2.1 OF THE SPECIAL RULES TO GOVERN THE PRESENTATION OF
CANDIDATES FOR THE POSITION OF DIRECTOR GENERAL OF IICA**

Article 105 (the amended language is in *italics*)

The Member States shall submit nominations in accordance with the Protocol Governing the Election of the Director General of the Institute, approved by the Executive Committee. The nominations shall be submitted by means of a communication addressed to the General Directorate, which shall immediately forward them to all the Member States as it receives them. *A Member State which has nominated a candidate may also withdraw that nomination by a written communication addressed to the General Directorate, which shall immediately forward it to all the other Member States. No candidate's name may be on the election ballot on the day of the election, unless the Member State that nominated the candidate reaffirms the nomination in the Preparatory Session of the meeting in which the election is to be held.*

Section 2.1 (the amended language is in *italics*)

No person may be a candidate for the position of Director General unless nominated in writing by an IICA Member State. The nomination must be endorsed by the duly authorized entity or official of the Member State *and addressed to the General Directorate, which shall immediately forward it to all the other Member States. A Member State which has nominated a candidate may also withdraw that nomination by a written communication endorsed by the duly authorized entity or official and addressed to the General Directorate, which shall immediately forward it to all the other Member States. No candidate's name may be on the election ballot on the day of the election, unless the Member State that nominated the candidate reaffirms the nomination in the Preparatory Session of the meeting in which the election is to be held.*

IICA/JIA/Res.457(XV-O/09)

30 October 2009

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 457**GENERAL POWER OF ATTORNEY OF
THE DIRECTOR GENERAL-ELECT**

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

CONSIDERING:

That in the Plenary Session of the Fifteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA held on October 30, 2009, Mr. Víctor Manuel Villalobos Arámbula was elected Director General of the Institute for the 2010-2014 period;

That this election was conducted in accordance with the provisions of articles 8.f and 19 of the Convention on the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (the Convention), and articles 2.f, 103 and 106 of the Rules of Procedure of the IABA;

That during the 2010-2014 period, which begins on January 15, 2010 and ends on January 14, 2014, the Director General-elect shall legally represent the Institute;

That pursuant to Article 20 of the above mentioned Convention, the Director General is the legal representative of the Institute and is also responsible for administering the General Directorate;

That in accordance with Costa Rican legislation, all general powers of attorney must be recorded in the Public Registry of Costa Rica, the host country of IICA,

RESOLVES:

1. To grant to the Director General-elect, Mr. Víctor Manuel Villalobos Arámbula, General Power of Attorney for a period of four years, beginning January 15, 2010, so that he may faithfully fulfill the responsibilities of Director General conferred upon him under Article 20 of the Convention on the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture and Chapter II of the Rules of Procedure of the General Directorate.
2. To confer this General Power of Attorney pursuant to the general stipulations of the Civil Code of the Republic of Costa Rica, the host country of the Institute, and to Article 1253 of said Code in particular.
3. To authorize Mr. Víctor Manuel Villalobos Arámbula to grant powers of attorney of all kinds and to revoke same, and to register the power of attorney conferred upon him, where indicated.
4. To request that the Director General, Dr. Chelston W. D. Brathwaite, carry out the legal procedures required to fulfill this mandate.

IICA/JIA/Res.458(XV-O/09)

30 October 2009

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 458**APPOINTMENT OF DR. CHELSTON W. D.
BRATHWAITE AS DIRECTOR EMERITUS**

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

CONSIDERING:

That Dr. Chelston W. D. Brathwaite has served the Institute for more than a quarter of a century, first as an exemplary specialist and for the last eight years as its Director General;

That Dr. Chelston W. D. Brathwaite will complete his mandate as Director General and his career as a member of IICA's international professional personnel on January, 14, 2010, having fulfilled the maximum term as Director General as allowed in the Convention on the Institute;

That during his administration Dr. Brathwaite raised the Institute to the highest level of excellence and efficiency to the benefit of the Member States and achieved for the Institute an important position of leadership in the improvement of agriculture and rural life in the Americas;

That his personal efforts at the helm of the Institute promoted, among other things, the repositioning of agriculture in the hemisphere, established a new model of cooperation aimed at the active participation of the national authorities and the private sector; introduced a new style of management and the transformation of the Institute into a modern, technologically sophisticated organization; and strengthened the participation of IICA in the Summit of the Americas process;

That the integrity, creativity and humanity with which Dr. Brathwaite has led the Institute have increased the trust of the Member States and motivated the Institute's personnel to work with total commitment to position the Institute as a leading organization in its sphere of action; and,

That in accordance with Article 15 of the Rules of Procedure of the Director General Directorate, the IABA may confer appointment and title of Director Emeritus to a person who, like Dr. Brathwaite, has "served as the Director General of the Institute, showing superior technical ability and an outstanding spirit of service,"

RESOLVES:

1. To highlight the positive work performed by Dr. Chelston W. D. Brathwaite as Director General of IICA during the last eight years and as a member of the international professional personnel for more than a quarter of a century.
2. To thank Dr. Chelston W. D. Brathwaite for the concern, integrity and intelligence with which he carried out the responsibilities entrusted to him by the Member States, and for his contributions to the repositioning of agriculture in the region, the establishment of IICA as a leading institution in its field of specialization, the modernization of the Institute's technical and management systems, the establishment of a new model of technical cooperation with the participation of the national authorities and the private sector, and for the strengthening of the Institute's role in the Summit of the Americas process.
3. To bring to the attention of the nations of the hemisphere the importance of the administration of Dr. Chelston W. D. Brathwaite for its contributions to the improvement of agriculture and rural life in the Americas, emphasizing the efficiency, effectiveness and transparency with which he managed the Institute.
4. To appoint, with great pleasure, Dr. Chelston W. D. Brathwaite as Director Emeritus of the Institute, as of January 15, 2010.

IICA/JIA/Res.459(XV-O/09)

30 October 2009

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 459**STATUS OF THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE FOURTEENTH REGULAR
MEETING OF THE INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (IABA)
AND THE TWENTY-EIGHTH AND TWENTY-NINE REGULAR
MEETINGS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

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

HAVING SEEN:

Documents: (i) IICA/JIA/Doc. 337(09) “Report on the Status of the Resolutions of the Fourteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture”; and, (ii) Document IICA/JIA/Doc.338(09) “Report on the Status of the Resolutions of the Twenty-eighth and Twenty-ninth Regular Meetings of the Executive Committee;

CONSIDERING:

That the status reports demonstrate that the General Directorate has satisfactorily complied with the resolutions adopted by the IABA at its Fourteenth Regular Meeting, and satisfactorily carried out the tasks required to comply with the resolutions adopted at the Twenty-eighth and Twenty-ninth Regular Meetings of the Institute’s Executive Committee,

RESOLVES:

1. To approve the reports: (i) “Report on the Status of the Resolutions of the Fourteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture”; and, (ii) “Report on the Status of the Resolutions of the

Twenty-eighth and Twenty-ninth Regular Meetings of the Executive Committee”.

2. To express satisfaction with the implementation of the above-mentioned resolutions.

IICA/JIA/Res.460 (XV-O/09)

30 October 2009

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 460**2008-2009 INTER-AMERICAN AWARDS
IN THE RURAL SECTOR**

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (IABA), as its Fifteenth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

The report presented by the Selection Committee for the Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector (Selection Committee), comprised of representatives of Chile, El Salvador, Peru, the United States of America and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and its recommendations to the IABA for granting the Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector for 2008-2009,

CONSIDERING:

That, as can be seen from the Selection Committee's report, said Committee, based on the Regulations for Conferring the Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector, has conducted a thorough review of the nominations received and has recommended granting the Inter-American awards in the various categories;

That the individuals and institutions recommended by the Selection Committee meet the requirements and have the distinction that warrant the granting of the Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector as international public recognition of their worthy contribution to the development of agriculture and the improvement of rural life in the Americas;

That the IABA, as IICA's highest governing body, has the power to establish and grant additional awards that are not established in the Regulations, if the circumstances so warrant; and,

That the Selection Committee has recommended that the IABA establish a special, posthumous award and grant it to Dr. Assefaw Tewolde, of Mexico, and Dr. Roberto Villeda Toledo, of Honduras, in recognition of their outstanding contributions to agriculture in the Americas,

RESOLVES:

1. To grant the:
 - a. Inter-American Agricultural Medal for 2008-2009, to be shared by Mr. Roberto Rodrigues, of Brazil, and Mr. Alejandro Bonifacio, of Bolivia;
 - b. Inter-American Award for the Contribution of Women to Rural Development for 2008-2009 to Ms. Susana Mejillones, of Bolivia;
 - c. Inter-American Award for Institutional Contributions to Agricultural and Rural Development for 2008-2009 to the Fundacion de Comunicaciones, Capacitacion y Cultura del Agro (FUCOA) of Chile;
 - d. Inter-American Award for Young Professionals for 2008-2009 to Rodolfo Bezerra de Menezes Lobato da Costa, of Brazil;
 - e. Inter-American Award for Innovative Rural Producers for 2008-2009 to the Federacion de Cooperativas NGEN, of Chile; and,
 - f. Special, posthumous award to Dr. Assefaw Tewolde, of Mexico, and Dr. Roberto Villeda Toledo, of Honduras, for their achievements and contributions to the development of agriculture in the Americas.
2. To grant the following honorable mentions:
 - a. In the category of the Inter-American Agricultural Award for Young Professionals for 2008-2009, to Karen Latoya Tamasa, of Jamaica, and Carol Thompson, of Barbados.

3. To thank the Member States that took part in the process of identifying and nominating an outstanding group of candidates to receive the Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector for 2008-2009.
4. To instruct the Director General to organize the awards ceremony within the framework of the Fifteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture and to present the respective awards to the Representatives of the Member States of which the winners are citizens.
5. To task the Director General with presenting a special, posthumous award to the relatives of Dr. Assefaw Tewolde, of Mexico, and Dr. Roberto Villeda Toledo, of Honduras.
6. To recommend to the Director General that, with the support of the members of the Selection Committee, every effort be made to ensure that as many candidates as possible are nominated for the next round of Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector.
7. To thank the members of the Selection Committee for the work carried out and for their well-founded recommendations to the IABA concerning the decisions taken with regard to the granting of the Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector for 2008-2009.

APPENDIX A**REPORT OF THE SELECTION COMMITTEE FOR THE INTER-AMERICAN AWARDS IN THE RURAL SECTOR**

The Selection Committee for the Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector met on October 28, 2009, in the city of Montego Bay, Jamaica, in the St. Andrew's Salon of the Ritz Carlton Hotel. The Committee was comprised of representatives of Chile, El Salvador, Peru, the United States of America and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and elected the representative of Peru to serve as Chairperson. During the meeting, the Committee studied 12 nominations from different countries that had proposed candidates for the five inter-American awards.

After examining and discussing the respective documentation, the Committee reached the following decisions:

1. To recommend that the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) grant the following awards:
 - The Inter-American Agricultural Medal to be shared by Dr. Roberto Rodrigues, of Brazil, and Dr. Alejandro Bonifacio, of Bolivia;
 - The Inter-American Award for the Contribution of Women to Rural Development for 2008-2009 to Ms. Susana Mejillones, of Bolivia;
 - The Inter-American Award for Institutional Contributions to Agricultural and Rural Development for 2008-2009 to the Fundacion de Comunicaciones, Capacitacion y Cultura del Agro (FUCOA), of Chile;
 - The Inter-American Award for Young Professionals for 2008-2009 to Rodolfo Bezerra de Menezes Lobato da Costa, of Brazil;
 - The Inter-American Award for Innovative Rural Producers for 2008-2009 to the Federacion de Cooperativas NGEN, of Chile; and,
 - Honorary mentions in the category of the Inter-American Agricultural Award for Professional Young People 2008-2009 to Karen Latoya Tamasa, of Jamaica, and Carol Thompson, of Barbados.
2. To recommend that the IABA grant a posthumous, special award, for their outstanding achievements and contributions to agriculture in the Americas, to two IICA officials who recently passed away, Dr. Assefaw Tewolde, of Mexico, and Dr. Roberto Villeda Toledo, of Honduras; and

to request that the IABA instruct the Director General to present the awards to the relatives of both gentlemen.

3. Instruct the Director General, with the support of the members of the Selection Committee, to make every effort to ensure that as many candidates as possible are nominated for the next round of Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector.
4. Propose that the IABA create the Award for Young Entrepreneurs of the Agricultural Sector.
5. Place on record that the Representative of Chile refrained from participating in the discussions and voting in those cases in which Chilean individuals or institutions were nominated for the inter-American awards; and,
6. Thank IICA officials Fernando del Risco and Guillermo Toro, and the Legal Adviser, Dr. William Berenson, for the assistance they provided to the Committee.

IICA/JIA/Res.461(XV-O/09)

30 October 2009

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 461

**ROTATION MECHANISM FOR APPOINTING THE REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (IABA) TO THE
TROPICAL AGRICULTURE RESEARCH AND HIGHER EDUCATION
CENTER'S GOVERNING COUNCIL**

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

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/JIA/Doc.337(09), "Appointing the representative of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) to the CATIE Governing Council;"

CONSIDERING:

That the rotation procedure of the Member States for appointing the representatives of the IABA to the Governing Council of CATIE, established at the Twelfth Regular Meeting of the IABA by means of Resolution IICA/JIA/Res.397(XII-O/03), comprises a list of IICA Member States that are not Member States of CATIE only up to 2010;

That the next Regular Meeting of the IABA will take place in the second half of 2011, which means that the representative of the IABA to the Governing Council of CATIE needs to be appointed for that year from among the Member States of IICA that are not members of CATIE; and

That the period covered by the mechanism in question therefore needs to be extended to ensure that there is no gap,

RESOLVES:

1. To adopt the following table that establishes the rotation of the IICA Member States that are not members of CATIE that must appoint the individuals who will represent the IABA on the Governing Council of CATIE, for the term specified in each case:

IABA Representative to the Governing Council of CATIE		
Region	Member State of IICA that is not a member of CATIE	Years
Caribbean	Dominica	2011-2012
Northern	United States of America	2013-2014
Southern	Chile	2015-2016
Andean	Ecuador	2017-2018

2. To instruct the Director General of IICA: (i) to inform the Institute's Member States of the table approved in the foregoing operative paragraph for appointing the representatives of the IABA to the Governing Council of CATIE; and, (ii) in the future, to request that the corresponding Member States appoint the individual who will represent the IABA on the Governing Council of CATIE, according to the established rotation procedure.

IICA/JIA/Res.462 (XV-O/09)

30 October 2009

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 462

**DONATION OF A PLOT OF LAND IN TURRIALBA FOR
THE CONSTRUCTION OF A HOSPITAL**

THE INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (IABA), at its Fifteenth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Resolution IICA/CE/Res.512(XXIX-O/09), “Donation of a plot of land in Turrialba for the construction of a hospital”,

CONSIDERING:

That IICA’s assets include land situated in Turrialba given to CATIE in usufruct under the terms of the Law establishing CATIE, which is an agreement between the Republic of Costa Rica and IICA;

That the Board of Directors of the Board of Health of the William Allen Taylor Hospital in Turrialba, with the support of lawmakers of the Legislative Assembly of Costa Rica, the Minister of Agriculture of Costa Rica and the Executive President of the Costa Rican Social Security Fund, have asked IICA and CATIE to donate five hectares of land identified in Document IICA/CE/Doc.554(09) (the land requested) for the construction of a new hospital/medical center for the Municipality of Turrialba and neighboring areas;

That any decision to donate, sell or transfer to third parties, in permanent usufruct or for lengthy periods, rights to land owned by IICA that forms part of the Institute’s assets must be taken by the IABA;

That the Board of Directors of CATIE has stated that it is willing to support any decision that IICA takes to donate the land requested for the construction of the new hospital/medical center in Turrialba, bearing in mind that the land in question is not essential for CATIE to carry out its activities;

That the request is based on the fact that: (i) the land requested is the most suitable in Turrialba for the construction of a modern hospital/medical center; (ii) the significant growth of the population of Turrialba in recent years has created an urgent need to expand the infrastructure and health services; (iii) the current hospital of Turrialba has always served the CATIE community; and, (iv) the donation of the land requested for such extremely humanitarian use is consistent with IICA and CATIE's commitment to the development of needy and vulnerable communities; and

That the Member States sitting on the Executive Committee raised no objections to the proposed transfer of the land requested to the Municipality of Turrialba for the construction of the new hospital/medical center and recommended that the IABA approves the transfer exclusively for the purpose described,

RESOLVES:

1. To approve the free transfer of the five hectares of land shown in the attached plan to the entity indicated by the Government of Costa Rica, in permanent usufruct, subject to the following conditions:
 - a. That the land is to be used exclusively to construct and operate a public hospital/medical center for the population of Turrialba and neighboring areas; and,
 - b. That the usufruct arrangement will cease and the land will revert to IICA if the land requested is used for purposes other than those specified in subparagraph "a" above and/or the hospital/medical center is not constructed and operational within five years of the date on which the rights to the use of land are transferred.
2. To instruct the Director General, in his capacity as the legal representative of the Institute, to take the actions necessary to execute the approved transfer of rights.

ANNEX A



IICA/JIA/Res.463(XV-O/09)

30 October 2009

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 463**VOTE OF THANKS TO THE GOVERNMENT
AND PEOPLE OF JAMAICA**

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

CONSIDERING:

That, thanks to the hospitality of the people and Government of Jamaica, the Fifth Ministerial Meeting “Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas within the framework of the Summit of the Americas process” and the Fifteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA took place in Montego Bay, Jamaica, from October 25 to 30, 2009, as part of the events that made up the Week of Agriculture - Jamaica 2009,

RESOLVES:

1. To extend gracious thanks to The Honorable Bruce Golding, M.P. Prime Minister of Jamaica, his distinguished and enlightened participation in the inauguration of the Fifth Ministerial Meeting and the Fifteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA, events of such great importance for agriculture and rural life in the Americas.
2. To express appreciation to His Excellency Mr. Christopher Tufton, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries of Jamaica, for his utmost willingness to engage in constructive dialogue with his colleagues and for the very efficient and evenhanded manner in which he chaired the Fifteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA.

3. To thank the industrious staff of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other public and private institutions in Jamaica for their cordial welcome and generous support, which were determining factors in the success of the meetings held in Jamaica, during the Week of Agriculture and Rural Life of the Americas - Jamaica 2009.

IICA/JIA/Res.464(XV-O/09)

30 October 2009

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 464**PLAN OF ACTION OF THE CARIBBEAN AGRICULTURAL
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE (CARDI)**

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

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/JIA/Doc.342(09), “2008-2009 Report of the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI)” and the presentation made by its Executive Director, Dr. Arlington D. Chesney, on that Institute’s Plan of Action 2010-2013”,

CONSIDERING:

That under the terms of the current agreement between IICA and CARDI, the latter organization is to submit a biennial report to the IABA covering technical, financial and administrative matters;

That the Executive Director of CARDI submitted the 2008-2009 biennial report of that Institute to the Twenty-ninth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee of IICA, pursuant to operative paragraph 3 of IICA/JIA/Res.440(07), adopted by the IABA at its Fourteenth Regular meeting, held in Antigua Guatemala, Guatemala, from July 26 to 27, 2007;

That, at its Twenty-ninth Regular Meeting, the Executive Committee adopted Resolution IICA/CE/Res.514(XXIX-O/09), in which it approved the 2008-2009 Report of CARDI and congratulated the Executive Director and staff of that Institute on its contents; and,

That the Executive Director of CARDI presented that Institute's Plan of Action 2010-2013 to the Fifteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA,

RESOLVES:

1. To thank and congratulate the Board of Governors, Executive Director, the senior management and staff of CARDI, for the presentation and contents of its Plan of Action 2010-2013.
2. To note the progress made by CARDI so far in the implementation of its MTP 2008-2010 and its support for improvements in the Caribbean agricultural sector.
3. To note the difficulties the Member States of CARDI are experiencing in this critical financial period.
4. To note the Plan of Action, 2010-2013, which:
 - a. is built on the success achieved so far in attracting external resources for projects,
 - b. shows improvements in its financial situation, and
 - c. demonstrates the need for additional resources from traditional CARDI supporters.
5. To demonstrate its support to the Caribbean region in the diversification and productivity of its agricultural sector by its continued allocation to CARDI of US\$200,000.00 per annum for the period, 2010-2013, from its regular Program Budget.
6. To work further with the management of CARDI to obtain external resources of a minimum of US\$300,000.00 per year for the period 2010-2013 to support its efforts to implement the Region's agriculture diversification programme.

IICA/JIA/Res.465(XV-O/09)

30 October 2009

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 465**PLAN OF ACTION OF THE TROPICAL AGRICULTURE RESEARCH
AND HIGHER EDUCATION CENTER (CATIE)**

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

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/JIA/Doc.341(09), “2007-2008 Report of the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE)” and the presentation made by the Director General, Dr. Jose Joaquin Campos, on that Center’s 2010-2012 Plan of Action,

CONSIDERING:

That, in accordance with Clause Nine of the CATIE Contract, signed between the Government of the Republic of Costa Rica and IICA, that Center is to submit a biennial report to the IABA covering technical, financial and administrative matters;

That the Director General of CATIE presented that Center’s 2007-2008 biennial report to the Twenty-ninth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee of IICA, pursuant to operative paragraph 3 of Resolution IICA/JIA/Res.441(07), adopted by the IABA at its Fourteenth Regular meeting, held in Antigua Guatemala, Guatemala, from July 26 to 27, 2007;

That, at its Twenty-ninth Regular Meeting, the Executive Committee adopted Resolution IICA/CE/Res.515(XXIX-O/09), in which it approved the 2007-2008 Report of CATIE and congratulated the Director General and staff of that Center on its contents; and;

That the Director General of CATIE presented that Center's 2010-2012 Plan of Action to the Fifteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA;

RESOLVES:

To thank and congratulate the Director General, the senior management and the staff of CATIE for the presentation and contents of that Center's 2010-2012 Plan of Action.

SIGNING OF THE REPORT

**SIGNING OF THE REPORT OF THE FIFTEENTH REGULAR MEETING OF
THE INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

Pursuant to Article 85 of the Rules of Procedure of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), the Report of the Fifteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA is hereby signed in Spanish, French, English and Portuguese, the official languages of that meeting, at 17:30 on the thirtieth day of October of the year two thousand and nine.

This report will be edited by the Secretariat and changes adopted during the Closing Session will also be included before its publication in the Official Documents Series, all versions being equally authentic and valid.

The Secretary shall file the original texts in the archives of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, and the General Directorate shall send copies of the official version of this report to the Governments of the Member States, the Permanent Observers of the Institute and other participants in the meeting.

Montego Bay, Jamaica



Chelston W.D. Brathwaite
Director General of IICA
Ex-officio Secretary of the IABA



Dr. The Hon. Christopher Tufton
Minister of Agriculture and
Fisheries of Jamaica and Chairman
of the IABA

SPEECHES

**ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY MR. BRUCE GOLDING, PRIME MINISTER
OF JAMAICA, AT THE INAUGURAL SESSION OF THE FIFTH
MINISTERIAL MEETING “AGRICULTURE AND RURAL LIFE” IN THE
CONTEXT OF THE SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS PROCESS, AND THE
FIFTEENTH REGULAR MEETING OF THE IABA**

It is a pleasure and a privilege not only for Government, but also for the people of Jamaica, to host the Fifth Hemispheric Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture and the Fifteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture.

I am advised that delegations from 34 member countries of the Americas are attending these meetings, and I want to welcome all of you.

It is significant that you are meeting here this week, and that next week Montego Bay will be the site of a high-level ministerial meeting on the integration and development of Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as the Twenty-eighth ministerial meeting of the Rio Group.

Coming as they do, one right after the other, these meetings are two important examples of the increasing cooperation and solidarity among the countries of the Americas, which have so much in common in terms of history and culture. We confront so many challenges that are either identical or similar; we share much in terms of our hopes and our goals; and there is so much that we can do together in search of the opportunities that will enable us to achieve those goals.

You are meeting at a time when all the countries of this region and of this hemisphere, indeed all the countries of the globe, are experiencing different degrees of stress; some very extreme, some severe, some moderate and perhaps manageable. However, all are affected in one way or another by the economic pandemic that has hit the world.

In the case of Jamaica, the global crisis has had a very severe impact. It has come like an earthquake that has hit an already fragile economy. I believe that our experience is not different from that of many of the countries that are represented at this meeting.

One of the great fears I have is that many of the gains we have made in recent decades in terms of reducing poverty and creating momentum for investment as a basis for real sustained growth may be eroded, meaning that we may have to virtually start all over again.

Many of us, many of the countries of the region, were already striving to come to grips with the effect of globalization. Some of us were not as prepared as others to confront the reality and the challenges and the risks that accompany globalization. We have been faced with the challenges of competitiveness and challenged in a way we were not accustomed to. There was a time not so long ago when, as developing countries of the region, our major challenge was how to break into external markets, how to increase our exports and how to ensure that our exports reached external markets.

Some of us were able to do that more effectively than others. Now we have to wrestle with a new challenge. We not only have to compete on external market, but also in our own market, on our own supermarket shelves. If we are not competitive, we find that we are being displaced even in our own market. We have to endure the loss of the preferential market on which so many of our economies were built over many, many, years; a secure market in which sometimes we had guaranteed quotas and even guaranteed prices, which sometimes were better than the market would otherwise be prepared to offer. We built our economies and, particularly, our agricultural sectors around that. We have had to contend with the disruption of our economies because trading relations throughout the world have had to be reconfigured to comply with WTO rules.

We have wrestled with the transformation of the traditional structures of the economy; those structures we thought we knew well. We have developed our own expertise in terms of the things we do to sustain life. We have been wrestling with the challenges of becoming involved in new things that we know so little about, but which we are trying to come to grips with, new technology for example, trying to find our way in this new sea of globalization.

Our accomplishments in this regard have been varied. Some of us have done well, others not so well. I want to pay tribute to the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, which in a sense has intervened in and assisted many of our countries, creating a platform that has enabled us to help each other and to share our best practices. They have given tremendous assistance in terms of institutional strengthening, and have provided a friendly, useful and supportive framework for cooperation. Therefore, even as we contemplate the impact of the global recession and the momentum we thought may have been disturbed and disrupted, our response cannot be to wring our hands in despair.

Indeed, we must view the disruption and the setbacks that we have suffered as a call to arms, a cause to redouble our efforts and build up our capacity, so that we can secure the improved standard of living and better quality of life that all of us desire for

our people. It is in essence, a challenge to us to reenergize ourselves in order to face the difficulties of the moment, but also to secure the opportunities and the successes of the future.

Nowhere is that need more compelling than in improving our food security; a point made by Dr. Chelston Brathwaite and, before him, by Mr. Jose Miguel Insulza. If increased production and improved productivity; if the call for us to grow more of what we eat and eat more of what we grow; if these goals were important two years ago, they are now a commanding and compelling imperative. I want to dwell for just a moment on this point.

We in this region have every reason to call ourselves blessed. We enjoy a tropical climate. We do not have to virtually shut the country down for months, certainly not in the part of the Hemisphere I am in. We have this gift that has been given to us: a good, supportive climate for agriculture, arable land and of water. We have been blessed with the fact that we have a demand that we ourselves control: our own need for food. Therefore, we have no excuse for not using these assets to make us agricultural producing powerhouses. Why have we not done so? There are some reasons that I want to cite, which I believe must be addressed if, after the recession has receded, we are to put ourselves on the path to sustained growth. We have to move more purposefully toward making the transition from the traditional structures of agriculture to more diversified agriculture. We have to move away from the status that so many of our countries have maintained for many years. As producers of primary products who transfer them to other countries, some of as far as Europe, for them to add value, we are working for the rest of the world rather than working for ourselves.

We have not done as well as we should have in embracing science and technology and applying them to agriculture to see how much better can we do, how much more can we produce and how we can produce things that we have never produced before. The technology that is available today makes this more possible than ever before. How can we, through every diplomatic channel where we can exert some influence, bring an end to that paradigm that has existed for so long, where we believe that we are protecting the public interest by taking advantage of cheap subsidized food from industrial countries, which is subsidized because those countries are determined to protect their agricultural sector and their farmers. And we do so at the expense of our own productive capacity. In a sense, so many of us have been pursuing policies that are sustaining farmers in other parts of the world while neglecting the development of our own agricultural sector and its capacity to produce here.

Some of us have pursued investment strategies that have made some assumptions that have not held good.

There have been times we have felt that agriculture may not be the way to go, may not be able to provide the best return on investment and may not be able to provide the robust standard of living that we want for our people. So, we make a calculation that we can invest in other sectors at the expense of agriculture and that those sectors can provide us with export growth that will earn the foreign exchange. And when we earn that foreign exchange then we can import the food that we have not been producing for ourselves.

The problem with this is that so many of the other sectors we have turned to exhibit a market demand that is so fickle and volatile and so susceptible to any kind of tremor in the global economy, whereas our demand for food is inelastic. Whether the world is booming or the world is going through a recession we have to eat. It is a normal bodily requirement. Ignoring that secure demand, we have turned our attention to other areas of endeavor which have not provided us with the support and the security we have wanted. So, from a macroeconomic standpoint, our survival demands a new strategic focus on agriculture.

There is another aspect, and this is the last point that I would like to make before I close. It is a reaction to your decision that this conference will be focused on the task and the challenge and the importance of linking agriculture with rural life. Today I want to challenge a notion that I think has informed policy development in my country and in other countries of this region. For many, many years, policymakers, governments and even multilateral institutions that have supported countries like ours have made the mistake of seeing agriculture as a sponge to absorb labor. Agriculture has been promoted and developed as something that will sop up this excess labor that you have; therefore, that in and of itself is a good thing. I want to challenge that notion because I think it has condemned rural communities to a life of struggling subsistence rather than sustained and accelerated development.

Let me give you an example of the situation in Jamaica. In Jamaica, 18% of our labor force is employed in agriculture, but agriculture contributes only 6% of gross domestic product. Therefore, in that equation, you have 18% who are in a sense sharing 6% of the economy. That discussion begins by recognizing that the agricultural sector is providing a standard of living that is 1/3 of the national average. In other words, it is a sector that does not attract young people or serve as a magnet for investors. It is a sector that took to a hard-nose business decision maker. It is a sector that is likely to trap you in poverty, so many of our good minds don't go there.

As a result of the application of this approach to agriculture over many, many years, rural development, and by that I mean the infrastructure we need in rural areas, the community, amenities, schools, health and recreational facilities are all totally dependent on cash transfers through budgeted expenditures. These communities are not able to support their own development because their economic base, agriculture, is itself so impoverished and being forced to carry such a burden of humanity to provide some sort of return that it's not able to generate the resources to sustain its own development. Therefore, each year the government has to budget funds to fix roads, build schools and provide economic opportunities. We have to carry rural communities on the budget simply because the economies of rural communities cannot meet their own investment needs.

Where is that base to come from? Again, we think sometimes that we can replace agriculture with other sectors such as tourism. Jamaica has done very well with tourism and has had opportunities with large industrial operations such as bauxite, aluminum, mining and refining, which can provide economic support. However, neither tourism nor mining or similar investments will ever have the multiplier effect of agriculture because they all depend on where the resources are located, in the case of bauxite, or in the case of tourism, on where the resort facilities, the beaches and the coast line are. These sectors will never achieve the level of penetration needed to provide a real base for generating economic growth in the rural communities. It is going to have to come from agriculture. And what we are now finding after many decades, probably a half century of pursuing alternative paths that we might have felt could offer a better return, is that we are left with and have to look to the stone that the builder refused and recognize that for many countries like Jamaica it is now the cornerstone to which we must return. However, if agriculture is to be the path to the future, it has to be more than an inescapable, but undesirable way of life. It has to offer more than just subsistence. It has to do more than put food on the table. That is a basic and fundamental need, but human beings need more than that. It has to be able to send my children to school, to a good school. It has to be able to provide me with a decent house. It has to enable me to have some savings in the bank so that if I get sick or I encounter some disaster I have some resources I can turn to. If it cannot offer me this hope, then it is something I will do if I have to, but it is not something on which I will seek to build a life and a future for myself.

We have to build up agriculture. It has to be a path way to prosperity. It has to be an instrument of social and economic transformation. We have so much more to do than we have done so far. There is so much that the world is going to need to do to help to sustain that sort of approach, in terms of our trading arrangements, in terms of the disparities that exist in the treatment of goods that move from one partner to another; in

other words, in the terms of trade. The extent to which WTO compliance is a rule that is applied in one way to some countries and in a completely different way to other countries; and the extent to which the voices of small and poor countries have still not been able to reach the decibel level to be heard, and even if we are heard we are not fully understood.

There is so much more that needs to be done. Much that is riding on this conference that you are engaged in this week. I wish your deliberations well. I have posed many questions and I have raised many challenges. That is the easy part; that is my job. Your job is to find the answers, and to find the right answers. I don't think that you could have chosen a better place than Jamaica to try to find those answers, and I trust that you will enjoy your stay here with us. And I hope that Jamaica, and indeed the entire region, will benefit from your being here this week; from the work that you will have done; and from the road map that I hope that you will leave with us when you do have to leave.

Thank you for making it in Jamaica. Enjoy your stay with us.

**ADDRESS BY DR. CHELSTON W. D. BRATHWAITE, DIRECTOR
GENERAL OF IICA, AT THE INAUGURAL SESSION OF THE FIFTH
MINISTERIAL MEETING “AGRICULTURE AND RURAL LIFE” IN THE
CONTEXT OF THE SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS PROCESS, AND THE
FIFTEENTH REGULAR MEETING OF THE IABA**

Let me begin, Mr. Prime Minister, by thanking you and the Government and people of Jamaica for this warm Jamaican welcome, and to thank you personally, Sir, for gracing this inauguration with your presence.

Mr. Prime Minister, for me personally, it is good to return to the warmth of the Caribbean and to have the opportunity to savour again the beauty of Jamaica and the gracious hospitality of your people.

I would like to express our sincere thanks to Minister Tufton and his Ministry for their commitment and cooperation in organizing this Fifth Ministerial Meeting of Agriculture and the Fifteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board.

We owe you a debt of gratitude for the impressive welcome which you and your people have given us here today.

Mr. Prime Minister, Honourable Ministers, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

I am indeed pleased to have the opportunity to address this distinguished body on what is the Fifth Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Rural life and the last meeting of the Inter-American Board during this Administration.

I am pleased that this event is taking place in Jamaica because it was here in 2001 that I received a telephone call asking me if I would consider being a candidate for the post of Director General of IICA.

It is here that I developed my vision for the modernization of IICA. It is here that I began a journey which resulted in me being here today to pass the mantle of power to the next generation of leadership of this noble institution.

That journey has been a journey of triumph, of challenge, of excitement and of achievement, but most of all a journey of satisfaction.

There can be no greater personal achievement in agriculture in the Americas than the opportunity to serve the interests of thirty-four Member States and to be counted among the nine leaders who have had the opportunity to lead this Institute during its 67 years of history in pursuit of the inter-American dream of hemispheric cooperation in agriculture.

Moreover, the opportunity to serve as Director General during the first decade of the 21st century was particularly rewarding in a century already characterized by profound changes in international relations and marked by significant global challenges.

The Century began with the unfortunate events of September 11, 2001 in the United States, which ushered in a new phase of global terrorism that led to global conflicts and wars.

These events were followed by a number of megatrends

- a. Increases in the incidence of global warming and climate change
- b. Increase in the incidence of transboundary diseases
- c. Increases in the cost of energy and the increase in the production of sustainable energy from agricultural sources
- d. A rise in the prices of basic commodities and the increasing cost of food
- e. Increase in the deterioration of natural resources and the accelerated loss of biodiversity
- f. A global financial crisis

The Executive Director of the World Food Programme, Madam Josette Sheeran, in a recent address to the Organization of American States (OAS), indicated that “Today we find ourselves at a critical crossroad, with hunger again knocking on the door of the Americas. Soaring food prices threaten to exacerbate the circumstances of the already vulnerable, and to turn back the clock on the progress made by those individuals and families who have achieved food security. This silent tsunami travels quietly around the globe hitting those who are most vulnerable hardest. It knows no borders. It has created perhaps the first globalized humanitarian crisis, adding an additional 130 million people to the ranks of the urgently hungry who were not there just 1 year ago”.

The World Bank has published the World Development Report for 2008, in which they indicate that “In the 21st Century, agriculture continues to be a fundamental instrument for sustainable development and poverty reduction. Three of every four poor people in developing countries live in rural areas – 2.1 billion living on less than \$2 a day and 880 million on less than \$1 a day – and most depend on agriculture for their livelihoods. Agriculture alone will not be enough to massively reduce poverty, but it has proven to be uniquely powerful for that task”.

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has held a high level conference on food security in Rome in which a number of short-term, medium-term and long-term strategies were discussed for treating the problem.

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) has indicated that the 5 years of positive economic growth which Latin America and the Caribbean enjoyed between 2002 and 2007 may be undermined by the current crisis. They indicate that the 27 million who left poverty during this period will probably return to poverty, thus making it impossible to reach the Millennium Development Goals in many of our countries.

The economic and social challenges facing the global economy are increasing in depth and intensity. Major developed economies are now in recession and growth in developing economies is slowing as world trade declines, capitals flow plunge, and the financial crisis intensifies.

This scenario has serious implications for the economies of the Americas, as we are likely to see a reduction in direct foreign investment and remittances and tourist arrivals, which will lead to economic contraction and increasing levels of unemployment.

The recent reduction in energy prices and food prices is likely to lead us to the conclusion that the challenges which we faced with the rapid increase in food prices in 2008 are over and we can get back to business as usual.

I agree with many professionals and institutions of the food and agriculture sector around the world that our food security problems are not over and that the recent reduction in food prices is a reflection of turbulence of international markets and lower demand associated with the global economic slowdown.

The drivers blamed for the food price crisis last year - drought, variations in exchange rates, biofuel production, high oil and grain prices, and increased food demand in India and China - have not disappeared and may again cause turbulence in the future.

In addition, the recent incidence of drought in many parts of the world, including Australia, Argentina and Uruguay, suggest that food supplies will be limited by climate change in the future. It is safe to say that many of the negative consequences of climate change are yet unknown, but there is significant concern in the scientific community. Therefore, close monitoring is necessary.

We stand today at an important moment in history.

- a. The major economic powers of the world are in recession.
- b. The G8 countries no longer dominate global consumption or global capital formation.
- c. Developing economies will grow at rates that will double those of the developed world.
- d. The population of developed countries will represent a small and declining proportion of the world population.
- e. The major growth in population in the future will occur in the cities of the developing world.

These issues will present important challenges for food production and food security in the future.

The increased population and increasing prosperity in the developing world will continue to demand food security and food of high quality at reasonable prices, and agriculture and agriculturalists will be challenged to meet this increasing demand and challenge.

The factors that drove the food crisis last year are ever present. The droughts have not disappeared, nor have the rising prices of petroleum and grains. Biofuels will continue to be part of the solution in the search for alternatives to petroleum.

These factors can cause the resurgence of future turbulence. What we are going through is not a short-term or a temporary phenomenon. We are witnessing a change in the world economy.

Recent droughts in several parts of the world—in Australia, Argentina and Uruguay, to name a few—would seem to suggest that the future provision of food will be compromised by climate change and population increase. The gains made in Latin America and the Caribbean in fighting hunger, poverty and malnutrition over the last five years are at risk.

The tragic fact is that some 200 million people in our hemisphere live in poverty and another 25 million could be pulled back into poverty in the future according to the ECLAC report.

In these turbulent times and given projected population increases, many of our countries must look once again to agriculture and the rural sector and must define strategies that focus more on restoring to agriculture the key role it has always played rather than on simply addressing the present crisis.

The concept of an expanded agricultural sector allows us to redefine a new multisectoral role for agriculture in national development and its contribution to confronting the global challenges of the 21st Century.

It is in these circumstances we meet here today to define appropriate strategies for building capacity for food security in the hemisphere.

We believe that the challenges which we face can be overcome by promoting a modern multisectoral, multidimensional agricultural sector in our countries.

When viewed from this perspective, agriculture becomes a strategic sector that can contribute to facing several challenges such as:

- a. Reducing poverty,
- b. Diminishing the impact of global warming and climate change,
- c. Improving nutrition,
- d. Controlling transboundary diseases,
- e. Ensuring food safety and food security,
- f. Producing a sustainable energy supply, and
- g. Solving the problems associated with increased urbanization.

However, for the agricultural sector to play this multidimensional role, a new vision is required. In order for agriculture to become once again one of the priorities on the national development agendas, a new model for development is needed.

To face the world food crisis, there are those who believe that the solution is a new green revolution.

At the end of the sixties, through what is known as the Green Revolution, an attempt was made to increase agricultural yields through new crop varieties, irrigation, mechanization and the use of fertilizers and pesticides.

The initiative resulted in reducing hunger and food insecurity in many countries and has been credited with saving some one billion lives. But was it a successful experience? I believe that those who advocate a new green revolution today must also take into consideration some of the negative aspects of the last green revolution, such as social exclusion of small-scale producers, dependence on the pesticide/fertilizer complex, and many environmental problems related to pollution of land and water supplies. The truth is that the Green Revolution did not eliminate hunger, but rather pushed up production costs, had a negative impact on the environment and did not work for everyone.

Rather than a green revolution, what is needed in our view is a new development model.

Past and even current development models have an anti-rural bias in which the recommended approach to modernizing the economy is based on industrialization and favors the growth of urban areas. This has several consequences: the concentration of population in cities, which leads to increased public investment in services for urban areas; continued inequality between urban and rural areas, despite economic reforms implemented in the mid 1980s and during the 1990s; and a limited inflow of resources for improving rural infrastructure due to inappropriate public policies on investment, trade and taxes.

In this meeting we propose a new development model, a model that facilitates better urban-rural balance through integral development of both urban and rural areas; a model that directs greater investments to the rural areas, which are essential for ensuring social and political stability; a model that promotes the competitiveness of agriculture and rural economic activities; a model that creates jobs in the rural economy.

The levels of poverty prevailing in our countries cannot and should not continue. We must modernize our rural sectors, strengthen rural communities and provide education, health care, infrastructure, access to technology and credit so that the poor can fulfill their dreams. Unless we promote rural prosperity, there will be no urban peace. Unless we promote rural prosperity, the rural poor will rise up and contribute to social unrest and threaten democratic governance in our countries.

It must be our responsibility to reduce the inequality and social injustice which prevails in so many countries of our hemisphere. Modern agriculture and rural development are keys to poverty reduction because the majority of the poor live in rural areas.

In IICA, we are aware that only by pursuing state policies of social inclusion, policies of equity and transparency, policies that promote education and a culture of entrepreneurship and innovation will we win the war against poverty.

A war that will not be won by the traditional weapons of war, but by the soft weapons of education, knowledge, the application of technology and investment in the rural sector.

I am not insensitive to the great challenges that lie ahead, but I believe that at the beginning of this 21st Century we have the means, the technology and the resources to eliminate hunger and suffering from our world. There is no morally justifiable reason for the continued existence of hunger and misery due to a lack of food and opportunity in a world of global prosperity.

And so, Mr. Chairman, we come to Jamaica to reflect on the achievements of the past and to construct the future.

We come to promote hemispheric cooperation in our search for food security and sustainable rural development.

We come to deliver results for the people of the Americas so that they can experience the true meaning of the dream of Simon Bolivar, who said in his famous letter from Jamaica in 1815: "More than anyone else, I desire to see the Americas fashioned into the greatest nation in the world; greatest not so much by virtue of her area and wealth as by her freedom and glory." (Salcedo, J. et al, 1991)

Mr. Secretary General, in your address to the recent OAS General Assembly in Honduras you noted, and I quote:

"Democratic policy is facing an important challenge today. The critical test of our democracies no longer lies in their ability to hold free elections or in maintaining stable governments. Rather it lies in demonstrating that democratic governments have the capacity to solve the problems of poverty, exclusion, environmental quality, and public security that affect the majority of people. The proof of democracy resides in showing that they are able to improve the standard of living of their citizens, that democracy is also good because it governs best."

We are in agreement with these sentiments and we hope that our leaders will incorporate the promotion of a modern agricultural sector as a strategic goal for integral development.

We also share the sentiments of John Boy Orr, Nobel Peace Laureate and first FAO Director General, who said, “You cannot build peace on empty stomachs” and Norman Borlaug who wrote, “The world cannot be at peace until the small scale farmers of developing countries are helped to feed themselves and escape poverty”.

Finally, this hemisphere has 800 million people, 200 million of which live in poverty; in other words, 600 million do not. If each of us were to help to move one person out of poverty, this hemisphere would not only achieve the Millennium Development Goals in 2015, but we would eradicate hunger and poverty from our hemisphere.

In the last 25 years, the world has seen a reduction in attention to and financing of agriculture. The development banks dismantled their agricultural divisions, the governments of our countries invested less in technology and innovation and we have dismantled our agricultural extension services. When, during the period of structural adjustment, reduced government expenditure became necessary, we reduced the size of the Ministries of Agriculture. The investment in the rural economy, where 40% of our population lives, accounts for on average 6% of our national budgets. We have established a Millennium Development Goal of reducing poverty by 50% by the year 2015, but the World Food Programme now indicates that instead of reducing poverty by 2015, an additional 100 million will return to poverty. In this hemisphere, where in the last 5 years, according to ECLAC, 27 million have left poverty, we face the possibility that 27 million and more will return to poverty.

Ladies and Gentlemen, let me end with the words of American freedom fighter Frederick Douglas, who wrote:

“Where justice is denied, where poverty is enforced, where ignorance prevails, where one class is made to feel society is an organized conspiracy to oppress and degrade, neither person nor property will be safe. Hungry men will eat. Desperate men will commit crime. Enraged men will seek revenge”.

Let me conclude by expressing again our thanks for your presence here today, and I hope that together we can once again use agriculture for furthering our development goals.

Thank you.

**ADDRESS BY MR. JOSE MIGUEL INSULZA, SECRETARY GENERAL
OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES (OAS), AT THE
INAUGURAL SESSION OF THE FIFTH MINISTERIAL MEETING
“AGRICULTURE AND RURAL LIFE” IN THE CONTEXT OF THE SUMMIT
OF THE AMERICAS PROCESS, AND THE FIFTEENTH REGULAR MEETING
OF THE IABA**

I am honored to be here in Jamaica to participate in this very important Ministerial Meeting on enhancing food security and rural life in the Americas. I present my congratulations and appreciation to our good friend, Dr. Chelston Brathwaite, for his leadership and tireless efforts to invigorate the mandate of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture (IICA) during his tenure.

Dr. Brathwaite, you have brought a new perspective on the role of agriculture in development by arguing that, to reduce poverty in our Hemisphere, we must focus on the cross-cutting impacts of agriculture and rural life on our food security, health, nutrition, education, social development, energy, economic growth and democratic governance.

I wish to also commend you, Mr. Director General, for your leadership in further institutionalizing the linkages between the Inter-American Ministerial Meetings and the Summit of the Americas Process. For example, ministerial representatives met yesterday and today in the context of the Group for the Implementation and Coordination of the Agreements on Agriculture and Rural Life of the Summits Process (GRICA) to reach consensus about the commitments made at previous Summits. IICA is also a valuable partner of the Organization of American States (OAS) in the Joint Summit Working Group (JSWG), which helps the Member States implement the various Summit mandates.

The issue of food security was not high on the agenda of the governments of Latin America and the Caribbean when you began your tenure as Director General in 2002. At that time, many of our economies were growing steadily, the global economy was booming and all signs were that we were making strides in alleviating poverty in this Hemisphere and the world. Despite this relatively rosy picture, Dr. Brathwaite had the foresight to include food security as one of the three pillars of IICA’s Mission. You have been persistent in your call for increased attention to this problem. As it turns out, you were correct to do so. Today, with the global economy still struggling to emerge from recession and the countries of the Americas feeling the negative effects of the economic downturn, the issue of food security and the need for increased attention and investment in the agricultural sector and rural communities is now more urgent than ever.

The UN's Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) is now concerned that the five years of positive economic growth in Latin America (2002-2007) may be undermined by the current economic crisis. They report that the approximately 27 million people who had managed to emerge from poverty in those good years will likely slip back into poverty. This situation will make it very difficult for some countries in our Hemisphere to reach the Millennium Development Goal of reducing poverty by 50% by the year 2015.

The World Food Programme is also concerned that despite lower fuel and food prices, the global economic recession is making hunger a reality for millions of people once again. We therefore cannot relax in our efforts to improve food security and reduce poverty in our region.

Our hemisphere is too rich in resources, technology and ideas, for any man, woman or child to go hungry. We have the natural and human resources to produce enough healthy food for our domestic consumption, as well as for export. We must exploit these resources by addressing the various challenges to our food security, which include: diminishing investment in the agricultural sector and rural communities; a younger generation that is uninterested in a career in agriculture; diminishing fertile land for farming due to unchecked land degradation; the impacts of climate change on land and water resources; extreme weather events and natural disasters; and the need for social safety nets, such as insurance, for the farming sector.

These challenges are not insurmountable if we work together and embrace the multidimensional approach to agricultural and rural development being advocated by IICA and recently reaffirmed by the leaders of this Hemisphere.

The Latin American and Caribbean region has become increasingly urbanized over the past few decades, with only 22% of our population now residing in rural areas. The global average is 50% of the population residing in rural areas. Urban areas receive the majority of the investments in social services, security and infrastructure. In order to really make our food supplies secure, the Governments of this Hemisphere must increase investment in the education, health, training and capacity building and public security of the rural communities, whose residents grow our food.

The OAS is already taking some critical actions to promote rural development and food security. We recently launched the Inter-American Social Protection Network to fight poverty and inequality in the Americas. The network will facilitate the exchange of best practices in social protection programs, like Brazil's Bolsa Familia, Chile's Solidario, Colombia's Familias en Acción, and Mexico's Oportunidades. These

programs have helped reduce national poverty rates in their respective countries. They really are an investment in our most precious resource, our people.

Our Sustainable Development Department is also helping to bolster the resilience of rural communities by: providing renewable energy options appropriate for rural settings; working through our Inter-American Natural Disaster network to reduce the impact of extreme weather events on the livelihoods of rural communities; promoting strategies that protect stressed water resources; and protecting biodiversity. All of these actions are critical to rural development and food security.

As I've said on other occasions, I am concerned that the socio-economic pressures caused by challenges such as poverty and food insecurity will erode some of the hard fought political gains of recent decades. Latin America and the Caribbean have made great strides on the democratic front, particularly in terms of holding free and fair elections and having all sides accept the results. But, for the democratic system to truly take hold in our region, the people have to see and experience its benefits. These benefits must include being able to work and feed one's family. These benefits must include people having access to social safety nets in those times when they are unable to find work or food. However, in many of our countries work and food are scarce and social protection networks are still a luxury.

Poverty and food insecurity threaten the sustainability of our democracies, because hunger can drive people to protest in the streets. I'm sure that you all recall the riots on the streets of Haiti a few years ago due to a shortage in basic foodstuffs, which led to the eventual resignation of the then Prime Minister. This is an extreme case, but it demonstrates how social and economic problems can quickly transform into political problems.

Ladies and gentlemen, I believe that we now have the political will in many of our countries to effectively modernize the agricultural sector, and to tackle poverty and the challenges to food security.

The Caribbean region has already embraced the Jagdeo Initiative, spearheaded by President Bharrat Jagdeo of Guyana, which seeks to reposition agriculture in the sustainable development plan for the Caribbean. It presents agriculture as a business and as a holistic sector, with backward and forward linkages with other sectors of the region's economy. This initiative was prepared in consultation with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), IICA and the CARICOM Secretariat.

During the recent Presidential Summit in Port of Spain, the thirty-four elected leaders of our Hemisphere put aside their differences and agreed to a shared agenda for improving human prosperity in this Hemisphere. The result of their open dialogue was a clear hemispheric agenda, which addressed the shared areas of concern: economic recovery, public security, democratic governance, energy, climate change, social protection and the rights of migrants.

An important facet of this Hemispheric Agenda was the leaders' reaffirmation of their commitment to the AgroPlan 2003-2015 and to a multidimensional approach to agricultural development in the Hemisphere. The implementation of these mandates should contribute significantly to an enhanced agricultural sector in our countries, as well as to improved food security, the promotion of human prosperity, environmental sustainability and the consolidation of democracy in our Hemisphere.

The OAS stands ready to work with IICA, other inter-American partners and our Member States to make these mandates a reality.

Thank you.

**ADDRESS BY DR. THE HON. CHRISTOPHER TUFTON,
MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES OF JAMAICA, AT THE
INAUGURAL SESSION OF THE FIFTH MINISTERIAL MEETING
“AGRICULTURE AND RURAL LIFE” IN THE CONTEXT OF THE SUMMIT
OF THE AMERICAS PROCESS, AND THE FIFTEENTH REGULAR MEETING
OF THE IABA**

Welcome to the Week of Agriculture and Rural Life of the America - Jamaica 2009, in particular the Fifth Ministerial Meeting “Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas” and the Fifteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture.

At the Third Summit of the Americas, held in Quebec City in 2001, the Heads of State and Government recognized agriculture as a way of life for millions of rural dwellers and a key strategic sector for generating prosperity. A result of this affirmation was the emergence of the Ministerial Process and the hemispheric meetings “Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas”.

Jamaica is pleased to be hosting the Fifth Ministerial Meeting and particularly pleased to be the first English-speaking Caribbean country in the Hemisphere to be hosting this worldwide event. We are also pleased to work with our strategic partners and critical stakeholders to ensure that this process achieves its objectives. The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture is an institutional partner in the Summit of the Americas Process and acts as the Secretariat of this ministerial process.

Please allow me to pause at this moment to recognize and thank the Director General of IICA, Dr. Chelston Brathwaite, who will demit office this year, for his sterling contribution to agricultural development in the Hemisphere during his two terms in office.

The Ministerial Delegates have updated the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan, which we Ministers will adopt in the Hemispheric Ministerial Agreement – Jamaica 2009. During these meetings, special attention has been paid to the private sector, which promotes investment in agriculture, economic growth and increased food security in the hemisphere.

Ladies and gentleman, we are pleased to be joined at these meetings with distinguished representatives of institutions such as the Organization of Americas States (OAS), in the person of its Secretary General, Mr. Jose Miguel Insulza; the United

Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the Caribbean Community (CARICOM); the World Bank (WB); the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB); the World Food Programme (WFP); the Common Fund for Commodities (CFC), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and other critical stakeholder groups committed to developing agriculture and improving rural life in the Americas.

I also want to give special recognition to the many local sponsors who have partnered with the Government of Jamaica in hosting these meetings.

Ladies and gentleman, according to FAO, the world population will reach 9.2 billion by 2050, which will almost double the current demand for food. This will require improved means and methods for increasing primary production, and appropriate rural infrastructure.

All countries, large and small, rich and poor, need to adopt a paradigm more focused on boosting food production, not only to meet their own needs, but also the demand at the hemispheric and global levels. We need a greater focus on the economic and social multiplier effect of primary production, which is linked to intermediary sectors such as value added processing.

Agriculture should not be viewed as a sector whose importance is measured only by traditional statistics that consider its contribution to per capita GDP, but rather as a sector of critical importance for the socioeconomic development of countries, in particular of our rural dwellers.

In welcoming you to Jamaica 2009, I wish for all of us a productive session leading to expanded and sustainable agriculture in the Hemisphere, for a more prosperous people.

Thank you.

**ADDRESS BY DR. CHELSTON W. D. BRATHWAITE, DIRECTOR
GENERAL OF IICA, AT THE CLOSING SESSION**

We have come to the end of the 15th Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture and the 5th Ministerial Meeting and I wish to thank all participants for your support and cooperation.

In this meeting, we were able to:

- Elect a new Director General for the Institute.
- Define strategies for building capacity in food security in the Hemisphere.
- Renew our commitment to hemisphere cooperation in agriculture in the Americas.

We discussed the need for a new development model that can unleash the talent, energy and enterprise of the people of the Americas so that the agricultural and rural sectors can compete internationally, and which facilitates a culture of excellence that results in the provision of information, knowledge, leadership and technical support that contribute to improving the lives of people and to ensuring prosperity in the nations of the hemisphere.

Our Institute has an important role to play in helping our countries achieve food security and guaranteeing the safety of food supplies, but we can only achieve this if we continue to strengthen and modernize the Institute.

The Institute cannot solve the problems of agricultural and rural development alone and, given the complexity of our mandates, strategic partners are essential. Partnerships with the multilateral development banks, FAO, IFAD, the World Food Programme, the private sector and institutions of the United Nations system are of great importance for the future.

With FAO, we should consider the implementation of a model of cooperation similar to the WHO/PAHO model.

We should institutionalize the SACMI, align the Medium Term Plan and the Program Budget and create a unit for creating linkages with the private sector, especially as relates to use of the internet, biotechnology and cellular technology in agriculture.

We must continue to strengthen the financial base of the Institute in order to strengthen the technical capacity of the Institute. It will be increasingly difficult for the Institute to continue to grow and fulfill its mandates on a frozen quota budget. Strategies must be developed to increase the allocation of financial resources to the Institute.

I am optimistic that this goal can be achieved if our message that agriculture is a strategic sector of the economy is promoted and accepted.

When I joined this Institute in 1981, I had no idea that 20 years later I would be called upon to lead the Institution, but when the opportunity came, I did my best. And so I leave in a few short months with a sense of personal satisfaction.

I am satisfied because:

- We have implemented a new vision and strategy that has kept the agricultural sector as central to the Inter-American development Agenda.
- We have implemented a technical cooperation model that has improved our services to the Member States.
- We have modernized the Institute and made it more responsive to the needs of the Member States.
- We have strengthened our strategic partnerships.

When I assumed this responsibility, I received many mandates, but the one I remember best is that given to me by the former Minister of Foreign Affairs of my country, Minister Billie Miller, who on January 15, 2002, said “The measure of IICA’s success will hinge on the extent to which you are able to raise its profile and to promote confidence among stakeholders in its ability to make a significant contribution to the development of agriculture in the Hemisphere”.

Ladies and gentlemen, I think we have lived up to her expectations because IICA today is the unquestionable leader in agricultural technical cooperation in the Hemisphere.

But this moment is not all about the past, this moment is also about the future.

In this meeting we have elected a new Director General, who will assume the mantle of leadership on January 15, 2010. I wish him success in this new responsibility and I wish to assure him, even now, of my commitment to a smooth and professional process of transition.

It is my view that the staff of the Institute is ready, and the Member States are ready to take the next step of institutional growth and institutional transformation.

The future is exciting and filled with hope and I wish us all the very best as we pursue the noble goal of continuing to strengthen our Institute to make it the best Inter-American Institution in the hemisphere and so continue to fulfill the dream of Henry Wallace and his colleagues of 1942.

In all that we have done in the last 8 years, we have sought to

- Inspire trust in the Institute among the agricultural community
- Clarify purpose in the mission of the organization
- Align systems so as to increase efficiency
- Unleash talent of our human resources

We recognized that these four imperatives of leadership are the key to superior institutional performance.

We recognized that a small team of persons can change the world, and that together we can succeed, but divided, we will fail.

We believe that what has been accomplished is the success of all of us and I wish the Institute a future of prosperity and success in this new phase of institutional life.

Today is my day to give thanks.

I wish to thank all the Ministers of Agriculture of the Member States of the Americas, past and present, for your confidence and trust during the past 8 years.

Your decision to elect me as your Director General in 2001 was an honour for me, for my family, for my country, Barbados, and for the Caribbean, and I believe that I have justified your choice.

Thanks to the Government and people of the Dominican Republic, where I was elected in 2001, to the Government and people of Ecuador, where I was reelected unanimously in 2005 and to the Government and people of Jamaica for the warm hospitality which we have received in this meeting.

I wish to thank the Government and people of Barbados for their endorsement of my election and my reelection and their continued support during the last 8 years.

I wish to thank the Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community and Ministers of Foreign Affairs of CARICOM for their trust, their endorsement of my candidacy and their confidence in my ability during my tenure of office.

Thanks to our strategic partners for cooperation and their contribution to the vision of “working together” which we have pursued in the last 8 years.

Thanks to friends, well wishers in CARICOM and the wider Caribbean for support and cooperation.

Allow me to pay tribute also to past Directors General of the Institute and thank them for their advice and support during the last 8 years. I speak of our Dr. Armando Samper, the late Dr. Jose Emilio Araujo, Dr. Francisco Morillo, Dr. Martin Piñeiro, and Dr. Carlos Aquino, all of whom have shared with me words of wisdom during the last 8 years.

Thanks to the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Ambassadors of the Permanent Council of the OAS for their cooperation and support.

Thanks also to the Secretary General, Deputy Secretary General and the Staff of the OAS for their cooperation and support

Above all, I wish to thank the staff of our Institute, the men and women who work daily to promote the ideals of this institution with dedication, loyalty and commitment.

I salute the entire staff of this Institution, from Chile in the South to Canada in the North, for their commitment to our shared values of flexibility and efficiency in operations, accountability to stakeholders, commitment to a vision of excellence, transparency in actions and a positive attitude of service. I wish to send a special message today to all our staff, International Professionals, National Professionals, General Services and consultants; I could not have done it with you and I will always be grateful for your cooperation and support.

Thanks to my family, especially my wife, Rosanna, and our children, Candace, Tamara, Brendon, Andre and Rhea, for their support and understanding.

Thanks to my parents for the gifts of discipline, honesty and integrity.

And, finally, thanks to God for health and strength.

I would like to thank the Deputy Director General; all members of my cabinet; all support staff, the translators, the security personnel, the transport services, the technical secretary, Mr. Del Risco, Mr. Bill Berenson, our legal advisor, and all for your support and cooperation. Mr. Chairman, for the excellent job which you have done, I am pleased to present you with our traditional memento.

Let me end by wishing all of you a safe trip back to your respective countries, and let me thank all of you again for your various contributions to the success of the 5th Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Rural Life and the 15th Meeting of the Inter-American Board.

I would like to end by quoting from a hymn that was quoted by my friend Sir George Alleyne when he finished his 8 years as Director of PAHO, in all that we have done there is much more to be achieved but, "When peace, like a river, attendeth my way, When sorrows like sea billows roll; Whatever my lot, Thou has taught me to say, It is well, it is well, with my soul."

And finally, the words of the great writer William Shakespeare "If we meet again, we will smile, if not this parting was well made".

I thank you.

**ADDRESS BY DR. THE HON. CHRISTOPHER TUFTON,
MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES OF JAMAICA AND
CHAIRMAN OF THE IABA, AT THE CLOSING SESSION**

Director General of IICA, Dr. Chelston Brathwaite; Director General-elect of the Institute, Dr. Victor Villalobos; distinguished ministerial colleagues and heads of delegation; representatives of regional and international organizations; ladies and gentlemen.

We are on the verge of concluding a very exciting Week of Agriculture and Rural Life of the Americas. The past week was comprised of a number of activities: the fifth meeting of the hemispheric forum of ministerial delegates, which was held, Monday and Tuesday, along with the Fifth Ministerial Meeting on Agricultural of Rural Life, which concluded yesterday; the private-sector dialogue held on Tuesday; an exhibition on agriculture which has been visited by hundreds of students and guests of the hotel and delegates; and the Fifteenth Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), which we are concluding today.

Distinguished members, I think we can all feel a sense of pride and accomplishment that we, as ministers and based on consensus among the 33 countries represented here, were able to adopt the Hemispheric Ministerial Agreement - Jamaica 2009 on the strategic actions we must pursue to build agriculture and enrich and reinvigorate rural life in the hemisphere.

Based on the numerous presentations by experts and your incisive interventions, I have no doubt that we are all convinced of the urgent need for action to reform the agricultural sector and make it a driver of food security, economic development, and rural renewal and prosperity.

We must now take ownership of this 2010-2011 Hemispheric Agenda and move forward with enthusiasm and commitment to implement the decisions we have taken here. Our success will be measured not only by an increase in the contribution of agriculture to GDP, but more so by the reduction of poverty and hunger and the reinvigoration of rural life. We must follow up, individually in our countries and collectively through IICA, engaging our international partners in a partnership for implementation of the agenda.

Ladies and gentlemen, here in the IABA, we have addressed critical issues having to do with the management of IICA, as well as numerous resolutions relative to

its budget and work program for the next two years. Significantly, we have elected a new Director General to lead the charge in repositioning agriculture throughout the Hemisphere as a key driver of economic growth and rural prosperity.

I would like, on your behalf, to congratulate Dr. Villalobos, the Director General-elect, as we hand him the baton and ask him to run his lap of the relay race with great vigor, vision and fixity of purpose.

As Chairman of the IABA for the next two years, I pledge to help the Director General-elect shape a new IICA, one equipped to take on this enormous challenge of ensuring food security for our hemispheric.

Distinguished members, as we welcome a new Director General, I also want, on your behalf, to pay homage to Dr. Chelston Brathwaite for his outstanding leadership of the institution and his persistent and strong advocacy for agriculture. I hope, sir that your skills, expertise and broad experience will continue to be available to the countries of the Hemisphere as they move forward in implementing this critical agenda focused on of food sustainability and rural development.

Distinguished delegates, it was a great week from my perspective, and it gives me great pleasure to say again that we were happy to host all who are here today and have been here over the past week. We hope you find some time to explore the beauty and magic of this great country.

May this ministerial meeting in Jamaica be a new beginning for the new agriculture that not only secures the health and nutrition of our Hemisphere, but serves as a driver for rural prosperity and the elimination of poverty. Once again, thank you, and may God bless all of us in the Hemisphere.

**ACCEPTANCE SPEECH DELIVERED
BY DR. VICTOR M. VILLALOBOS ARAMBULA**

It is always wonderful to be in Jamaica, but more so than ever today. My memories of this special day will forever be associated with this beautiful island. Mr. Minister, thank you very much for your hospitality.

Ministers of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture, I deeply appreciate your support of my candidacy and your decision to entrust me with guiding the cooperation actions your countries undertake together with IICA.

I view the high honor you have bestowed upon me today as recognition of the solidarity and proactiveness of Mexico's foreign policy. In my country, international cooperation is enshrined as a fundamental principle in our Constitution. In the name of Mexico and its government, I want to thank you for the trust you have placed in me.

As always, every change affords an opportunity to reflect upon what we have been doing well, and where there is room for improvement. Throughout the journey I undertook to listen to you and present my plans for the Institute, you shared with me concerns, ideas and proposals we will want to address. What I can promise is that we will take all your opinions and suggestions into consideration in our work, beginning now

We are living in extraordinary times. At the dawn of this new century, globalization brought the hope of a better world for all people. Today, however, globalization is showing us its ugly side. We are facing an unprecedented economic crisis that has spread rapidly throughout the world as a consequence of the integration of international financial and commercial processes.

If we have learned anything from international cooperation, it is that it is easier to solve problems together rather than individually, with everyone helping to find solutions rather than waiting for someone else to do it. The lesson we have learned is that globalization requires a commitment from all countries to stave off its negative effects before they appear.

Today, we are more aware of the damage our production processes can do if they are not environmentally friendly. Concepts such as climate change or global warming, and their fatal consequences in terms of food security, are well known and discussed not only in classrooms, laboratories, ministries or fora, but also in society in general.

We all recognize that problems affecting the environment go beyond national borders; the clearing of a forest, the disappearance of a river basin, or the erosion of farmlands, sooner or later, affect the fragile balance of the planet.

Agricultural practices that do not respect the environment not only have a direct impact on climate change, but also end up adversely affecting those who apply such practices.

Effective solutions are only possible if all members of the international community are involved. International technical cooperation organizations are an excellent vehicle for coordinating efforts in this area because of their political neutrality and because their work focuses more on technical than on political issues and, as a result, can offer more practical solutions.

Never before in history has so much progress been made and so much wealth generated. However, this has not been enough to eradicate poverty or avoid the marginalization of millions of people. Our Hemisphere is a clear example this; we are a mosaic of developed nations, emerging countries and countries that are among the poorest in the world.

The issue of social cohesion must be addressed. It is necessary to transfer resources via investment and fair trade, provide access to funds for regional development and, of course, increase international aid.

Today, more than ever, knowledge is driving development and is as important as or more important than the traditional factors of production. A qualified workforce is more necessary than an abundant workforce; the intensive application technology will do more to increase productivity than the acquisition of a large amount of agricultural land; and investment in education, research and training is as important as investment in infrastructure.

The transfer of experience and knowledge from countries that have them to countries that do not is the most important benefit of international cooperation, and is IICA's *raison d'être*.

We are living in exceptional times for our sector. Agriculture in the twenty-first century is a cross-cutting and multifunctional economic activity. Thanks to its impact on the economic and social structures of our Hemisphere, it is strategically positioned to contribute to development.

The countries of Latin America and the Caribbean must work to achieve the goal of sustainable and competitive agriculture if they are to help solve the problems I have mentioned and, rather than being mere suppliers of raw materials, offer products with added value that will make it possible to improve the quality of life for our rural population.

The steep increase in food price in 2008 is a clear example of how globalization can negatively affect the agricultural sector, where most of the poor in our Hemisphere live.

Poverty and its consequences (ignorance, hunger, disease, displacement and migration), is more evident in the rural sector.

Thanks to scientific and technological advances, many of the problems affecting the rural sector today can be solved. IICA, as a provider of international technical cooperation, plays a relevant role by transmitting experiences and managing knowledge. My job as IICA's Director General will be to assure that our institution plays that role successfully, while looking ahead to the future.

The proposal I put forward during my campaign focuses on developing the great agricultural market that our Hemisphere can become; taking advantage of hemispheric interaction; eliminating domestic inequalities and regional asymmetries; providing opportunities for everyone; bringing more investment to the sector; and increasing institutional capabilities. It is important to realize that the ministries of agriculture cannot assume full responsibility for making this happen.

My commitment is to transform IICA into an organization that addresses the needs and priorities you identify, and is more efficient at the national, regional and hemispheric levels, allocating its resources more effectively and developing its technical capabilities fully.

These extraordinary times afford the Institute a unique opportunity. We must seize the moment. We cannot pass our responsibilities down to coming generations. We must assume them now.

We need an institution that promotes closer relations between nations, and builds bridges and finds joint solutions to the problems the rural milieu is facing today.

IICA is an institution dedicated to generating ideas whose professional personnel accept the challenge of creating new paradigms in which collaboration and innovation

are the basis of its work. With these principles in mind, we will forge a better future for agriculture and rural life in the Hemisphere.

Those of us who work in international organizations are doubly blessed: first, because we have the opportunity to help the countries, and secondly, because our incomes are much higher than those of most of the people we serve: the men and women who work the land.

It is an ethical and moral imperative for those of us who enjoy these privileges to work as hard as possible and be fully transparent regarding and accountable for the resources the countries entrust to us.

The governments of the Member States must never view IICA as a cumbersome bureaucracy which must be maintained for political purposes, but rather as a useful institution that they feel a part of. As I stand before you today, you have my word that I will work toward that goal. A determining factor in the success of this effort will be the commitment of the personnel of the Institute, to whom I offer institutional security.

All of us who will be working on this new project for IICA will do all we can to develop the tools, methodologies and systems required to tackle the problems that I have mentioned.

Working together, we will form a team of the highest technical caliber, with a humanistic vocation, capable of developing agriculture that is more sustainable, cleaner, more competitive, progressive and equitable.

Honorable members of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture, please allow me to thank you again for bestowing on me the privilege of leading this joint effort. Just as I asked for your support during the campaign, I respectfully ask for it again to achieve the goals that I have shared with you.

I know that you, like I, want an institution which, shedding bad habits and applying good practices, can find solutions to the challenges that may be the most daunting ones our Hemisphere has ever faced.

We all want an IICA that is willing to change, to innovate and to inspire.

In concluding, I ask that we not forget those who are at the center of our efforts: our farmers; and that we heed the words of Ovid, who said: "Honor the farmers, for those who that work the land are the chosen people of God."

Thank you very much.

ANNEXES

ANNEX I: AGENDA

(IICA/JIA/Doc.325 (09))

1. Provisional Schedule of the Meeting

1.1 Provisional Schedule *IICA/JIA/Doc.326(09)*

2. Reports to the IABA

2.1 Director General's 2002-2009 Management Report Achievements *(unnumbered)*

3. Institutional and Technical Cooperation Policy

3.1 Proposed 2010-2020 Strategic Framework *IICA/JIA/Doc.327(09)*

3.2 Preparation of the 2010-2014 Medium Term Plan *IICA/JIA/Doc.328(09)*

4. Budgetary and Financial Matters

4.1 IICA's Financial Statements for 2007 and 2008 and Reports of the External Auditors *IICA/JIA/Doc.329(09)*

4.2 Fourteenth and Fifteenth Reports of the Audit Review Committee (ARC) *IICA/JIA/Doc.330(09)*

4.3 Current Status of Quota Payments and Progress in the Collection of Quotas Owed to the Institute *IICA/JIA/Doc.331(09)*

4.4 Proposed 2010-2011 Program Budget *IICA/JIA/Doc.332(09)*

5. Matters pertaining to the Governing Bodies Of IICA

- | | | |
|-----|---|-----------------------------|
| 5.1 | Election of the Director General of IICA for the 2010-2014 Term | <i>(no document)</i> |
| 5.2 | General Power of Attorney of the Director General-elect for the Period 2010-2014 | <i>IICA/JIA/Doc.333(09)</i> |
| 5.3 | 2007-2008 Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector | <i>IICA/JIA/Doc.334(09)</i> |
| 5.4 | Proposal for the Institutionalization of the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues (SACMI) | <i>IICA/JIA/Doc.335(09)</i> |
| 5.5 | Proposed Donation of Land owned by IICA for the Construction of a Hospital in Turrialba | <i>IICA/JIA/Doc.336(09)</i> |
| 5.6 | Appointment of the Representative of the IABA to the Governing Council of CATIE | <i>IICA/JIA/Doc.337(09)</i> |
| 5.7 | Report on the Status of the Resolutions of the Fourteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA | <i>IICA/JIA/Doc.338(09)</i> |
| 5.8 | Report on the Status of the Resolutions of the Twenty-eighth and Twenty-ninth Regular Meetings of the Executive Committee | <i>IICA/JIA/Doc.339(09)</i> |
| 5.9 | Date and Site of the Sixteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA | <i>IICA/JIA/Doc.340(09)</i> |

6. Contribution of international organizations

- | | | |
|-----|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 6.1 | Report and CATIE Plan of Action | <i>IICA/JIA/Doc.341(09)</i> |
| 6.2 | Report and CARDI Plan of Action | <i>IICA/JIA/Doc.342(09)</i> |

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