

RESOLUTION No. 499

**THE MINISTERIAL MEETINGS OF AGRICULTURE AND
THE AGRO 2003-2015 PLAN OF ACTION**

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

CONSIDERING:

That, within the framework of the Summits of the Americas process and its mandates on agriculture and rural life, the ministers of agriculture of the continent decided to hold biennial ministerial meetings at which they adopted, by consensus, the Declaration of Bavaro for the Improvement of Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas (Dominican Republic, 2001), and the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan of Action for Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas (Panama, 2003) and its updates and thematic focuses (Ecuador, 2005; Guatemala, 2007; Jamaica, 2009; Costa Rica, 2011; Argentina, 2013 and Mexico, 2015);

That, on November 13, 2003, the IABA adopted Resolution IICA/JIA/Res. 387 (XII-O/03), "Implementation of and Follow-Up to the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan of Action," in which it adopted said Plan, charged the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) with continuing to assist the ministers of agriculture with the process of its implementation, and instructed the ministerial delegates and their hemispheric forum, supported by the secretariat of the ministerial meetings operated by IICA, to present progress reports on the implementation of the Plan and proposals for updating it;

That, based on that mandate, IICA has assisted the ministers and their delegates with the implementation of, and follow-up to, the Plan in its areas of responsibility and in which it has expertise as an agency that provides technical cooperation to its member countries, and in its capacity as the technical secretary of the biennial forums of delegates and ministers held since 2001;

That the work program of the AGRO Plan was scheduled to conclude in 2015, coinciding with the target date of the Millennium Development Goals. For that reason, the secretariat prepared the document "Report on the Meetings of Ministers of Agriculture and the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan of Action for Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas," which outlines the background to, and results and conclusions of, the process of ministerial meetings and the agreements adopted through 2015; and,

That the United Nations General Assembly adopted 17 Sustainable Development Goals for 2030, with 169 targets that are closely related to agriculture and rural well-being in the countries of the Americas,

RESOLVES:

1. To acknowledge the effort made by the countries, in particular by the ministers of agriculture and the delegates, to construct the ministerial agreements, and to implement and provide follow-up to them in their respective countries.
2. To extend special recognition to the Dominican Republic, Panama, Ecuador, Guatemala, Jamaica, Costa Rica, Argentina, and Mexico, for their successful hosting of the biennial meetings of ministers of agriculture held from 2001 to 2015.
3. To capitalize on the experiences and lessons learned from the ministerial process surrounding the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan of Action in drafting an agenda for the sustainable development of agriculture through 2030.