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Committee on Agriculture

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**THE MARRAKESH DECISION AND FOOD SECURITY: CONTRIBUTION
OF THE INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR COOPERATION
ON AGRICULTURE (IICA)**

SUBMISSION BY THE IICA

The following submission, dated 2 November 2016, is being circulated at the request of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA).

The purpose of this document is to inform Member countries of the World Trade Organization (WTO) about the technical cooperation activities carried out by the IICA in 2016 to provide support for Latin American and Caribbean countries in the area of food and nutrition security.

One of the objectives of the IICA's 2014-2018 Medium-Term Plan (MTP) is to improve agriculture's contribution to food security. Accordingly, the Institute supports its Member States in developing policies, strategies and institutional frameworks to enhance the contribution of agriculture, and especially family farming. In this connection, the IICA provides technical cooperation through four flagship projects, which are geared towards the competitiveness and sustainability of agricultural chains for food security and economic development; inclusion in agriculture and rural areas; resilience and comprehensive risk management in agriculture; and the productivity and sustainability of family farming for food security and the rural economy. Thus, the Institute's contributions to the food security¹ of the Americas are based on the four dimensions established by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO): availability of food, access to food, food utilization and food stability.

1 MULTINATIONAL ACTION BY THE IICA

1.1. When the Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas met in October 2015, in Cancún (Mexico), they signed a ministerial declaration containing eight commitments for improving agricultural productivity and sustainability. In the cooperation agenda agreed, the IICA undertook to support activities involving the participation of the Ministries of Agriculture to promote a modern education system that included and respected traditional practices; to help to increase the capacity of innovation systems to achieve a sustainable agriculture adapted to climate change; to promote programmes that further food health and safety; and to support technical cooperation in the area of international trade in agricultural products.

1.2. In 2016, the Food Security Observatory of the Americas was consulted by more than 8,700 users from all over the world. This information tool is free of charge and provides relevant data - in both English and Spanish - on food security in the Americas. For further information, please visit: <http://www.infoagro.net/programas/Seguridad/default.aspx>.

1.3. The IICA seeks to promote the market integration of producers, and hence greater access to food, by facilitating the strengthening of market information systems in the Americas. It does this by supporting the Market Information Organization of the Americas (MIOA), which disseminates

¹ IICA, 2009, "IICA's Definition of Food Security". Available at: http://repiica.iica.int/otrosdocumentos/SeguridadAlimentarias_Quees_Esp.pdf.

relevant and transparent information on the markets and agricultural products of the 33 member countries of the Americas. For further information, please visit: <http://www.mioa.org>.

1.4. In partnership with *Codex Alimentarius*, the IICA has helped to improve the regulatory frameworks in the Latin American and Caribbean countries in the areas of trade facilitation and agri-food production, for the purposes of consumer protection and assistance with multilateral negotiation processes. Some 60 delegates from 30 countries participated in two regional conferences and representatives of 16 countries in meetings of the *Codex Alimentarius* Commission.

1.5. With a view to improving the competitiveness of family farming, the IICA has supported various cooperation projects in the countries and subregions through joint regional programmes. The Cooperative Programme for the Technological Development of Agri-food and Agro-industries in the Southern Cone (PROCISUR), the Cooperative Programme on Agricultural Research, Development, and Innovation for the South American Tropics (PROCITROPICOS), and the Cooperative Research and Technology Programme for the Northern Region (PROCINORTE) focus on research, public policy, and knowledge sharing and management in relation to topics such as marketing models, genetic resources, and animal and plant health, all of which are linked to the availability and biological utilization of food.

1.6. In parallel, the Regional Agricultural Technology Fund (FONTAGRO), with the technical support of the IICA, has supported the implementation of resilience-related projects in Chile, Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay in connection with traditional seed variety supply centres; in Nicaragua and Honduras via technological innovations for providing resilient means of livelihood for small farming families of the Corredor Seco and bio-intensive farming; and in Uruguay and Argentina in connection with an innovation platform for the sustainability of family livestock systems.

1.7. In partnership with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) action has been taken to improve the entry of safe agricultural products into the United States market, products which give their small and medium-sized producers in various Latin American and Caribbean countries the opportunity to improve their access to food thanks to the improvement in their income due to increased exports.

1.8. Similarly, through a programme called "Food for Progress", the IICA has supported the formulation of a preliminary draft sanitary control law and regulations for quarantine control and inspection systems in Haiti and the Dominican Republic. Food for Progress is a USDA programme with funds from the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) and Food for Peace.

1.9. In the course of other technical cooperation activities, 1,043 government and private-sector employees from ten member countries were given training to improve their understanding of the requirements for exporting to the United States and of the rules proposed under the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA).

1.10. Central America:

- a. Central America has recently been paying greater attention to the coffee-growing sector, since in previous years coffee rust had a serious impact on the region, jeopardizing food security for small-scale coffee growers and pickers, since the crop is a source of income for the families that subsist on this activity. Consequently, the IICA is continuing to support the fight against coffee rust, alongside the Regional Cooperative Programme for the Technological Development and Modernization of Coffee Production (PROMECAFÉ), through which the Central American national institutions are continuing to implement the regional programme for the integrated management of coffee rust. The Programme has also introduced 30 new varieties of coffee for acclimatization, evaluation and reproduction in countries such as Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Costa Rica, Panama, Dominican Republic, Jamaica and Peru.

1.11. Implementation of the Regional Programme for Research and Innovation in Agricultural Value Chains (PRIICA), a project funded by the European Union in collaboration with, and in support of, the countries of Central America. The programme seeks to increase the availability of,

and access to, food through agricultural research and the marketing of tomatoes, avocados, yucca and potatoes, which form an essential part of the diet of low-income families in the Central American region. The programme is being implemented in Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama, to the benefit of some 5,000 producers. In 2016, PRIICA made available to some 400 beneficiaries, organized in 24 local innovation syndicates, more than 25 validated technologies and practices, in concertation with the national agricultural research institutions of six Central American countries.

1.12. In Panama, 836 Panamanian producers received training in the role of women in food and nutrition security.

1.13. For further information, please visit: <http://www.priica.sictanet.org>.

1.14. Caribbean:

- a. The IICA is continuing to play a leading role in implementing the Agricultural Policy Programme (APP) funded by the European Union in association with CARDI and CARICOM. The Programme covers the 15 CARIFORUM countries and seeks to enhance the agricultural sector's regional capacities in respect of poverty eradication. It sets out to improve the regional availability of food products such as roots and tubers (e.g. yucca and sweet potatoes), minor species, citrus fruits and spices, all of which are produced mainly in family farming. Other actions under the programme include strengthening the capacity of groups of producers in terms of business management and market link-ups.
- b. The Climatically Intelligent Agriculture Forum was established and has been used to train more than 450 technical officers from environment and agriculture ministries, including outreachers and decision-makers, in adapting agriculture to climate change.
- c. In Barbados, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Granada, Dominica and St. Kitts and Nevis a total of 109 public and private-sector stakeholders were trained in good farming practices (GFP) in the face of climate change.

1.15. The IICA, as the Secretariat for the Inter-American Commission on Organic Agriculture (CIAO), has helped to strengthen the National Organic Production Systems of eight countries of the Americas and to draw up the organic production agenda for the member countries of the CIAO; has supported the creation of three sets of regulations linked to the *Codex Alimentarius* and two handbooks on good practices; and has provided technical support in connection with two models for the presentation of Public Certification Systems to interested countries of the CIAO.

2 ACTIONS IN VARIOUS LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES

2.1. Listed below are some of the main activities carried out by the IICA in support of its Member States. The activities are grouped according to the four dimensions of food security:

2.2. **Food availability²:**

- a. Ecuador: Three technological innovations for sustainable production systems used by the country's family farmers were validated.
- b. Guatemala: A diagnostic study of irrigated rice growing was carried out and two promising varietal lines were selected for study. Where cocoa is concerned, a base line was established for five areas of the country, and various samples of germplasm were collected on small farms; moreover, an agronomic recommendation for the integrated management of cocoa growing was validated.

² FAO, 2015. Food availability: The availability of sufficient quantities of food of appropriate quality, supplied through domestic production or imports (including food aid). See "An Introduction to the Basic Concepts of Food Security": <http://www.fao.org/docrep/014/al936s/al936s00.pdf>.

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- c. Jamaica: In a joint effort between the Jamaica Dairy Development Board (JDDDB) and the IICA, the knowhow of the producers in the silvopastoral sector was enhanced by establishing two fodder banks. In addition, three groups of producers in the dairy products chain improved their skills in record-keeping, group dynamics and corporate governance.
 - d. Paraguay: About 200 producers benefited from various training measures aimed at increasing the animal breeding rate and integrated producing farms, with emphasis on the ovine chain.
 - e. Suriname: The Ministry of Agriculture was helped to develop a programme for training approximately 40 onion production and research specialists, in collaboration with the Dominican Agricultural and Forest Research Institute (IDIAF) and various stakeholders from the Dominican Republic's industrial sector. Another activity carried out with the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (LVV) involved the development of basic research and agronomic capacity to promote onion production.
 - f. Trinidad and Tobago: Innovation capacity-building was provided for around 20 stakeholders from the caprine chain in order to improve productivity and quality in the high-quality fodder and dairy product production system.

2.3. **Access to food**³:

- a. Costa Rica, Panama and Peru: With the support of specialists from AGROCALIDAD, the *Codex Alimentarius* Committee and Ecuador's National Agricultural Research Institute (INIAP), a process of building innovation capacity was begun to address the issue of cadmium in the cocoa value chain. Around 130 persons from 17 different countries in the Americas benefited from this process.
- b. Antigua and Barbuda: Thanks to the IICA, the Rural Women Producers Network will have a site for a commercial agro-processing centre and with financing from the Global Environment Fund (GEF) and the Caribbean Development Bank has been able to provide business plan training for the women concerned.
- c. Granada: For the purpose of building the public and private-sector capacity necessary to rehabilitate the coconut industry, around 50 people were trained in the correct management of nurseries for resistant seedlings and in good coconut plant management practices. In addition, steps were taken to build the capacity of the Ministry of Agriculture for the purpose of distributing around 2,000 better-tasting and higher-quality disease-resistant coconut seedlings.
- d. Honduras: Training was provided for 50 stakeholders in the cashew chain in order to develop a strategy for marketing and adding value to cashew products, such as paste, juice and other beverages.
- e. Haiti: In conjunction with the cooperation agencies of Canada, France and Switzerland, a training programme for a technical diploma in farm management was designed in order to assist Haiti's Ministry of Agriculture with the technical support it provides for farmers so as to afford them greater opportunities of generating income. The IICA gave backing for the country's process of legislative modernization in this field, by collaborating on the drafting of the law on phytosanitary protection and a legislative code on veterinary medicines.

³ Ibid. 2. Access to food: Access by individuals to adequate resources (entitlements) for acquiring appropriate foods for a nutritious diet. Entitlements are defined as the set of all commodity bundles over which a person can establish command given the legal, political, economic and social arrangements of the community in which they live (including traditional rights such as access to common resources).

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- f. Jamaica: Technical training geared towards adding value and improving the associative capacities of agricultural entrepreneurs in the cocoa and coffee chains was provided. Two cocoa bean driers were built to serve around 275 people in the areas of St. Mary, Portland, St. Catherine and St. Thomas. In addition, 50 people were trained in the bean fermentation process.
 - g. Mexico: In conjunction with the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food (SAGARPA), assistance was provided with the monitoring of specific activities related with the attraction of investment, market access and international cooperation, with a view to expanding the country's agricultural exports.
 - h. Peru: Around 100 cocoa and coffee producers improved their ability to manage technologies for increasing productivity, sustainability and efficiency in connection with specialty products.
 - i. St. Vincent and the Grenadines: The incomes and skills of 20 mango producers were improved by means of an analysis of commercial viability and juice production. The authorities also received support with the preparation of a plan for the managerial monitoring of the sanitary conditions necessary for manufacturing this product.
 - j. Trinidad and Tobago: The technical capabilities of 25 caprine chain stakeholders were strengthened to assist them in developing a marketing strategy and processing the resulting products.

2.4. **Food stability**⁴:

- a. Bahamas: In collaboration with the Bureau of Women's Affairs of the Ministry of Social Services, the managerial skills of the Bahamas Network of Women Producers were improved with a strategic plan and with at least 100 women trained in backyard agriculture, empowerment, food security and sustainable development.
- b. Brazil: Support was provided for the systematization of initiatives and proposals for concluding the Strategic Action Plan concerning the legal framework for genetic resources based on the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA). The aim is to contribute to food security by expanding the genetic base of crops in the research institutions within a climate change scenario.
- c. Costa Rica: In order to improve the sustainable use of water for agricultural production, support was provided for the updating of a digital map of the country's soils, with the emphasis on Costa Rica's Corredor Seco territories in the Chorotege Region.
- d. Dominica: Together with the German cooperation agency GIZ, the IICA helped to improve the skills of 30 farmers in the cucurbitaceae and tuber crop chains in order to help reduce their vulnerability to the effects of climate change and improve their ability to rehabilitate their production areas. Moreover, it established three model units for demonstrating better practices in adapting to and mitigating climate change in the livestock and beekeeping sectors. In addition, 25 women from the Delices community received agricultural inputs and machinery following the tropical storm Erika. More than 40 people from the public and private sectors were given training in sustainable agriculture, soil care and methodologies for making climate adaptation assessments.
- e. Uruguay: In order to promote a more resilient agriculture, support was provided with the development of a methodology for mapping soils with organic content and pasture soils degraded by erosion. Likewise, a contribution was made to the updating of a water erosion map for the Arroyo de la Virgen Basin in Uruguay.

⁴ Ibid. 2. Stability: To be food secure, a population, household or individual must have access to adequate food at all times. They should not risk losing access to food as a consequence of sudden shocks (e.g. an economic or climatic crisis) or cyclical events (e.g. seasonal food insecurity). The concept of stability can therefore refer to both the availability and access dimensions of food security.

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- f. Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic of: To achieve improved production in small-scale farming capable of being adapted to and coping with climate change, about 60 people were given training in the efficient use and conservation of water. In addition, awareness-raising with respect to local water management was provided for around 1,800 people, by carrying out activities and distributing outreach materials, together with local capacity-building for 10 women who will promote training processes and responsibilities that affect the improved use, management and local conservation of water.

2.5. **Utilization of food**⁵:

- a. Brazil: The National Environmental Health Secretariat of the Ministry of Urban Planning and the IICA worked together on a technical cooperation study of the regulation and supervision of sanitation services and the reduction of water losses and management of energy use in the operation of water systems for four municipalities in Bahia and Pernambuco, with a view to improving institutional efficiency in the delivery of these services, which benefit around four million people. Likewise, the Institute helped to formulate a national action plan for a treated water re-utilization policy and provided technical cooperation for a study intended to help to improve the regulation and inspection of basic health services; this involved five regulatory agencies, such as the State Agency for the Regulation of Public Services of Mato Grosso del Sur (AGEPAN) and the Municipal Agency for the Regulation of Delegated Public Services of Cachoeiro de Itapemirim (AGERSA), for the benefit of around 10 million people.
- b. Ecuador: In a joint activity with the decentralized autonomous government of the province of Esmeraldas (GADPE), some 20 small livestock farms were diagnosed and a technical protocol for the implementation of epidemiological profiles of zoonotic diseases was drawn up. In addition, the National Institute of Agricultural Research (INIAP) and AGROCALIDAD have a strengthened biological control laboratory and 30 technical staff trained to implement the methodologies and methods of bio-input analysis and biological control.
- c. El Salvador: The IICA supported the process of recognition of the system of chicken meat inspection between El Salvador and the United States by means of a proposal for inspection regulations for poultry meat and the recognition of the United States inspection system.
- d. Jamaica: A food control handbook that describes the tasks, responsibilities and functions of the regulatory bodies needed to ensure that food is safe and suitable for human consumption is being developed.
- e. St. Kitts and Nevis: Within the framework of the sanitary and phytosanitary measures programme between the IICA and the European Union, support was provided for the detailed evaluation of the organization of the country's veterinary and plant health services, using the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) tool for evaluating the performance of veterinary services.
- f. Suriname: Training was provided for nine officials of the Fisheries Department of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, as well as for officials from public bodies responsible for managing outbreaks of diseases of aquatic animals. This work was carried out with support from the Cooperation Programme between the IICA and the European Union.

⁵ Ibid. 2. Utilization of food through adequate diet, clean water, sanitation and health care to reach a state of nutritional well-being where all physiological needs are met. This brings out the importance of non-food inputs in food security.

2.6. For further details on IICA activities in this area, please contact:

James French
Lead Specialist
Agricultural chains for sustainability and economic development
Email: james.french@iica.int
Tel: + (506) 2216 0218

Adriana Campos Azofeifa
Trade Specialist
Email: adriana.campos@iica.int
Tel: + (506) 2216 0170

2.7. For further information, please visit the IICA website: <http://www.iica.int>.
