

IICA  **News**



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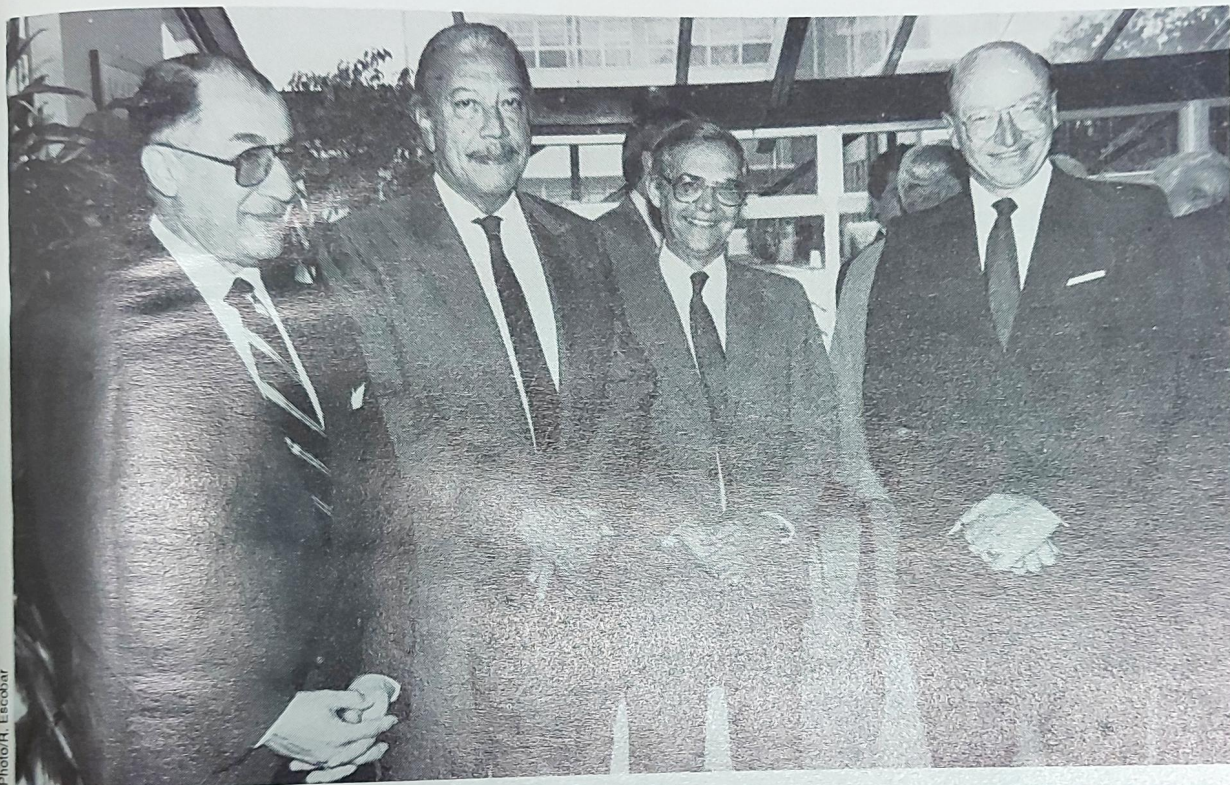


Photo: R. Escobar

Jamaican Minister visits IICA. During a visit to IICA Headquarters on February 4, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Jamaica, David H. Coore, met with Martin E. Piñero, Director General of IICA. The Minister praised the work carried out by the Institute and requested further cooperation for agricultural development in the Caribbean, and his country in particular, in the area of marketing. With Minister Coore (second from left to right), are the Deputy Minister of Foreign Relations of Costa Rica, Hernan Castro; the Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñero; and the Vice President of Costa Rica, German Serrano.

50
1942-1992
anniversary

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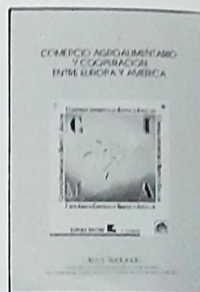
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NEWS

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The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) is headquartered in San José, Costa Rica. It is the specialized agency for agriculture of the inter-American system. It was founded by the governments of the hemisphere in 1942 to encourage, promote and support the efforts made by its Member States for agricultural development and rural well-being. It has 32 member countries and 14 permanent observers.

50 Years of Cooperation

This will be a special year for the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), which will celebrate its fiftieth anniversary with a series of activities.

IICA, founded on October 7, 1942, was originally called the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences.

Fifty years later, IICA now has 32 Member States and 14 Permanent Observers, the most recent being the European Community (EC).

In order to "encourage, promote and support the efforts of the Member States to achieve their agricultural development and rural well-being," IICA channels its technical cooperation actions through five Programs: Agricultural Policy Analysis and Planning, Technology Generation and Transfer, Organization and Management for Rural Development, Trade and Agroindustry, and Agricultural Health.

Modernization of the agricultural sector, seeking equitable development and sustainability, is a key element of the strategy followed in the region.

The Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC) was set in motion in 1989, the conceptual framework of which was enhanced with the recommendations issued at the Tenth Inter-American Conference of Minis-

ters of Agriculture (ICMA), held in Spain in September 1991.

RETROSPECTIVE

Ever since it was established as an agricultural research and training center, the Institute has been steadily expanding the scope of its action, programs and activities. At the same time, it has modified its structure as necessary to equip it to meet the technical cooperation needs of its Member States for promoting agricultural development and improving rural life.

The ongoing evolution of the Institute made it necessary to revise the Convention signed in 1944. The new Convention, which went into effect in 1980, gave IICA its present name (Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture). This new legal instrument introduced important changes into the structure of the Institute and consolidated and broadened its purposes.

CELEBRATIONS

The spirit of IICA's fiftieth anniversary will permeate many of the activities to take place during the year, both at Headquarters and in the Offices in the member countries.



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On October 7, the anniversary will be commemorated with special ceremonies, to which authorities, diplomats and representatives from international organizations and the inter-American system will be invited.

Modernization of the agricultural sector, seeking equitable development and sustainability, is a key element of the strategy followed in the region.

IICA and the Mandates of the Tenth ICMA



In Madrid, the ministers issued 17 recommendations which will focus the Institute's actions on four broad topics.

Shortly after the conclusion of the Tenth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA), during which the challenges to be faced by the sector over the next few years were clearly identified, IICA undertook the task of translating the political agreements into concrete action.

This is nothing new for the Institute. In 1987, in Canada, the ministers of agriculture of the Americas approved the Ottawa Declaration, which gave rise to a process that gave birth, two years later, to a hemisphere wide plan for agricultural reactivation (Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean, PLANLAC).

In contrast to Ottawa, where a single recommendation led to an intense process of consultation and search for consensus in preparing the PLANLAC, the conference of ministers meeting in Madrid in September 1991 presented 17 recommendations, all equally important, which will now focus IICA's actions in four main areas: 1) to support agri-food trade and hemispheric, regional and subregional integration; 2) to promote a modern, comprehensive and sustainable agricultural sector, as defined at the Conference; 3) the topic of natural resources and the environment; and 4) human

resource training and participation of the private sector in the process to design this new sector.

PRINCIPAL ACTIONS

In Spain, the ministers, satisfied with the progress made under the PLANLAC, asked IICA to identify new priority areas and proposals for action, within the framework of the Plan. To this end, the Institute has undertaken a series of assessments through which it will identify, for each of IICA's four subregions, issues not already addressed or projects that require reformulation. The report will be presented to the consideration of the member countries during the regular meeting of the Executive Committee, next June.

In compliance with another recommendation issued in Madrid, a meeting in Washington has been scheduled tentatively for April, to evaluate the impact of the outcome of the Uruguay Round of GATT on agriculture in the region. To this end, consultations are under way with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the Latin American Economic System (SELA), among others. During the meeting, in addition to studying the overall situation, representatives from the

government and the private sectors will have a chance to evaluate the impact on each subregion.

Along other lines, IICA and the IDB will hold a meeting with the different agencies of the inter-American system to discuss their positions on issues on the agenda of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), to be held in Rio de Janeiro this June. It is likely that an inter-agency study group will be set up to coordinate implementation of the recommendations generated during this international conference.

IICA specialists and highly qualified consultants continue to work to draft a concrete proposal for taking advantage of debt swaps for natural resource conservation and sustainable agricultural development.

Work is also under way on a short-term proposal to design a research and technology transfer program for fragile highland ecosystems, funding requests for which will be submitted to several donor agencies.

The Inter-American Agricultural Documentation and Information Center (CIDIA) is in charge of providing human

resource training for agricultural modernization. CIDIA is a specialized unit of IICA which will support the member countries in designing their sectoral training programs.

With regard to rural development, during the first semester of 1992, a preliminary meeting will be held to study ways to ensure the participation of non-governmental agencies in decisions related to the agricultural sector. During the second semester, a larger meeting will be held with non-governmental organizations to draw up new proposals for rural development.

In response to another recommendation, a short-term proposal was prepared for defining development alternatives to replace the production of illegal psychotropic substances. This proposal gives continuity to an inventory of projects on development alternatives prepared by the IICA Office in Peru.

In addition to these and other actions taken to comply with the mandates of the Tenth ICMA, IICA has made a series of operational adjustments to ensure prompt and effective implementation of the ICMA recommendations.



Photo: Helza de Almeida, Brazil

Prior to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, a meeting will be held to promote discussion of the positions to be adopted in Rio de Janeiro.

Korea Supports Promotion of Agroindustrial Trade

The Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Korea, Kyung Shik Cho, and the Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñeiro, recently signed a technical cooperation agreement in Rome aimed at promoting the trade of agroindustrial commodities between Latin America and Korea. Both officials were in Rome in November to attend the FAO Biennial Assembly.

Under the terms of the agreement, the Korean Ministry of Agriculture and IICA will work through a joint project to formulate practical strategies for boosting agricultural trade between Korea and several Latin American countries.

Korea will provide researchers and operating funds for the three-year project, which will operate out of IICA Headquarters. Market studies will be conducted on products including grains and edible oils, non-traditional products, traditional products (coffee, bananas, cotton and meat), and products with varying degrees of processing, such as fruit pulp, canned goods and chocolates.

Korea, which is a Permanent Observer of IICA, has participated in various cooperation activities with the Institute over the past few years. In July 1991, a Korean mission of specialists visited Headquarters to study opportunities and constraints in the region for the

production and export of agricultural commodities to meet demand in that country. They also studied the trade, sanitary and monetary policies currently affecting trade between the two regions. The results of these studies will serve as the basis for the project to be carried out over the next three years.

One of the specialists noted that the Korean market is growing rapidly, as is its demand for agricultural products, adding that Korea does not have enough land to produce the amount of food it needs to feed a growing population. While at present, the United States, Australia and China are the leading suppliers of agricultural commodities for the Korean market, the specialists feel that the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean are in a good position to supply, for example, tropical fruits and vegetables.

Cooperation in Support of Sustainable Development in the Region



IICA and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) will develop joint actions to promote sustainable development in Latin America and the Caribbean.

To this end, the Directors General of these organizations, Martin E. Piñeiro and Martin Holdgate, respectively, signed an agreement establishing a framework for collaboration aimed at ensuring the appropriate management, conservation and use of natural resources.

Piñeiro and Holdgate signed the agreement in Rome during the Biennial Conference of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), which took place in November last year.

The two organizations will provide technical assistance to national insti-

tutions, with the aim of upgrading their skills in defining policies and designing strategies on natural resources and environmental management. Special attention will be given to identifying and seeking international funding for these initiatives.

Other key elements of the agreement concern the generation and processing of information on sustainable development, with emphasis on the establishment of services for identifying needs, defining priorities and creating investment opportunities.

According to Piñeiro and Holdgate, the agreement will contribute to: improving the capabilities of institutions and their personnel for managing natural resources, upgrading the actions of governmental and non-governmental institutions, promoting cooperation programs among countries, and encouraging the implementation of national conservation strategies by the public and private sectors.

The purpose of the agreement is to improve institutional capabilities for managing natural resources.

Specialists from the United States, Canada, Latin America and the European Community (EC), attending a seminar last December in Buenos Aires, Argentina, agreed that the trade protectionism of developed countries is not ecologically viable.

IICA was represented at the seminar by its Director General, Martin E. Piñero, who, together with the Secretary of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries of Argentina, Marcelo Regúnaga, synthesized the conclusions of the seminar.

During the seminar, entitled "The Environmental Impact of OECD Agricultural Policies," the Secretary for International Relations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Argentina, Alieto Guadagni, recommended further study on the concept of swapping debt for sustainable development. As he said, "We cannot afford to pass up opportunities for production."

In Piñero's judgement, there is a "perverse relationship" between the protectionist and subsidy policies of the industrialized countries and the deterioration of the environment and the natural resources related to agriculture.

According to information discussed at the seminar, the EC countries spend some US\$300 billion in subsidies to farmers and exporters, which hurts the countries of this region, whose principal comparative advantage lies in agricultural development.

For his part, Regúnaga warned that subsidies

Trade Protectionism is not Ecologically Viable



The Secretary for International Relations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Argentina, Alieto Guadagni (right) proposed that further thought be given to the concept of exchanging debt for sustainable development. With him are (from left to right) Miguel Ferré, Presidential Advisor, and Martin E. Piñero, Director General of IICA.

distort the conditions of production and depress international prices for agricultural commodities. They also contribute to a vicious circle of environmental deterioration and worsening poverty.

The Environment:

German Official Praises IICA's Contribution

A senior official from Germany's Ministry of Economic Cooperation (BMZ) praised IICA's contribution and role as a multilateral cooperation agency involved in sustainable development throughout the region.

Hans Wollny, from the BMZ's Department for Latin American Affairs, made

this statement during an official visit to IICA Headquarters last January, where he met with the Director General, Martin E. Piñero, and other IICA officials.

According to Wollny, IICA's work is extremely important and can help multiply the efforts of the German government, which has identified the sus-

tainable management of natural resources as one of its priorities for cooperation activities in the region.

Through the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ), Germany has supported the Institute in its efforts to incorporate the issue of sustainability into the technical cooperation it provides to its member countries. According to the official, although the initiative which began in 1990 will conclude at the end of this year, chances are very good that it will be extended.

Central America and Panama: Study to be Conducted for Improving Conditions of Women Farmers

With US\$230,000 in funding from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), IICA will implement a project to formulate policy proposals aimed at supporting women who produce food in Central America and Panama.

The first stage of this IDB-funded project aims to:

- prepare national assessments on the situation of rural women and their contribution to the production process;
- analyze sectoral policies and regulations affecting farming women;
- study the technological processes used by women in the production of foodstuffs, and
- describe the food marketing process.

The results of the first stage of the project will be analyzed in a regional

seminar scheduled to take place at IICA Headquarters in October 1992, to be attended by the ministers of agriculture of Central America and Panama.

The meeting will also be attended by representatives of public and private enterprises, officials of the Permanent Secretariat of the General Treaty on Central American Economic Integration (SIECA), the Regional Council for Agricultural Cooperation in Central America, Mexico, Panama and the Dominican Republic (CORECA), the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI), and

representatives from the ministries of agriculture, the economy, planning and labor.



Photo/R. Escobar

The IDB Representative in Costa Rica, Juan Manuel Corredor (left), and the Director General of IICA, Martín E. Piñero, signed a technical cooperation agreement which covers a project for rural women in Central America.



Photo/R. Escobar

Official Visit.—During an official visit to IICA Headquarters on January 16, the Ambassador of Canada to Costa Rica, Henry G. Parry, met with the Director General, Martín Piñero, at which time he delivered Canada's quota payment for 1992.

Proceedings of International Meetings Published

The proceedings of two high-level international meetings were recently published in Paris, one of which dealt with changes in the world economy, and the other with the agricultural issues discussed in the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

IICA was represented at both meetings by the Director of its Center for Programs and Investment Projects (CEPPI), Fernando Dall'Acqua, who spoke at one on market liberalization and the possibilities for developing countries, and at the other on macroeconomic adjustment and the liberalization of agricultural trade.

Environment, Development and the Rio Conference

Eduardo Trigo (*)

Natural resource conservation and environmental protection are key items on the international agenda today, and may be the most critical factors determining the viability of the new world order that is taking shape.

At the close of the twentieth century, we occupy most of the usable land our planet has to offer; the astounding economic growth of the Western countries in recent decades has now shown that the Earth's capacity is not unlimited nor without serious constraints. Evidence of the global nature of ecological phenomena and of the relationship between economics and the environment abound, underscoring the need for an integrated approach to the issue and for the community of nations to share in the challenges and responsibilities.

For the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), this issue is of particular importance. The region enjoys clear comparative advantages in agricultural production, and for many nations, increasing their participation in the world economy will mean intensifying agricultural activity and using this activity to create new competitive advantages. This will be inevitable if the countries are to "get back on the road to growth." Here, agriculture must play a strategic role, be it in feeding an ever-growing population; producing the raw materials needed to tap the agroindustrial potential (which, in turn, will stimulate the demand for input industries and services); or generating the foreign exchange required to restore equilibrium to the countries' external accounts.

The challenge lies in finding ways to intensify agricultural activity while promoting equitable and sustainable development. This means bringing the poor small-farm economy into the mainstream of growth, while preserving, and in some cases recovering, the natural resource base of the region in order to ensure the well-being of coming generations. This will not be an easy undertaking. The direct relationship between agricultural production and the natural resource base determines that there will always be a conflict between the need to produce and the need to conserve. Another dimension of the problem, which may be of even greater importance, is that "conservation" of natural resources must be based on the understanding that there are groups within the areas to be preserved that have certain rights. Thus, simply establishing

reserves in which production is prohibited is not a viable alternative.

This situation presents a real challenge to the imagination: a challenge for technology, which must afford us the means for tapping the opportunities made possible by scientific breakthroughs, both to bring about a more benign relationship between production and the natural resource base, and to expand existing production, or even to "create" new products, by making better use of the tremendous genetic diversity of the region. It is also a challenge to our institutions, which must develop means to enable us to correct certain types of behavior that have produced the current state of deterioration; to create markets for the "services" of our ecological capital; to try to reconcile private and social interests with a view to conserving the natural resource base; to organize the use of our land and water resources differently; and to facilitate and expand national and international cooperation on behalf of sustainable development.

For these reasons, the upcoming United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, this June, constitutes a real landmark in the history of the world. More than 100 presidents and heads of state will gather to demonstrate their political commitment to taking a new path to development; one which will better balance the need for economic growth with social needs and natural resource conservation, for the benefit of future generations.

Thus, the UNCED and what may or may not be achieved in Rio de Janeiro, is a required topic of discussion on almost every private and public, national and international agenda. Perhaps this should not be the major focus of concern. Associated problems are immense, from both the technical and political points of view, and affect vested interests and rights at all levels. Easy solutions will not be found. Nonetheless, what has been achieved in the process leading up to the meeting is of tremendous importance. Over the last two years, the international community has become aware of the problems we must solve. There is now a community of ideas and an understanding that sharing a single planet makes us all responsible for its management and preservation. Of course, there are differences: North and South, rich and poor, and, until recently, East and West. Inevitably, this produces different outlooks on the same issues and problems.

Two weeks in Rio de Janeiro will not resolve these differences, but they should lay the groundwork for a new era and provide an opportunity to find new ways to address common problems and shared responsibilities. If the meeting produces a working agenda for the coming decade and mechanisms for seeking solutions, something of great importance will have been achieved. To expect more would, perhaps, be unrealistic.

(*) Director of IICA's Technology Generation and Transfer Program.

In an effort to increase agricultural trade in Latin America and the Caribbean, IICA is promoting a project aimed at modernizing quarantine information systems.

The goal of the initiative is to fill the existing void in agricultural health services and sectoral organizations, which need standard models for information, legal procedures and quarantine controls, as well as information on importers' requirements.

Special importance is being attached to this project, as it parallels the development of free-trade zones, which will substantially boost agricultural trade opportunities.

MODERNIZACIÓN DE LOS SISTEMAS DE INFORMACIÓN CUARENTENARIA PARA INCREMENTAR EL COMERCIO AGROPECUARIO EN AMÉRICA LATINA Y EL CARIBE



IICA
Programa V
Sanidad Agropecuaria

Juan Leon, an IICA specialist and coordinator of the project, explained that the project would work to strengthen information systems and contribute to harmonizing agricultural health in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC).

Latin America and the Caribbean:

Modernization of Quarantine Systems Promoted

He added that the goal is to upgrade the capabilities of animal health and plant protection services, improve the quality of agricultural commodities exported from the region, upgrade information systems, and develop new phytosanitary and zoosanitary procedures.

This bold initiative falls within the scope of the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC), execution of which is being coordinated by IICA. The PLANLAC seeks to consolidate a modern and dynamic agricultural sector that is closely linked to agroindustry and that will contribute to the countries' efforts to achieve equitable and sustainable development.

One of the objectives of the project is to have a hemisphere-wide, compatible information system on agricultural health, divided into different subsystems on quarantine registries, laws and legal procedures.

According to Leon, a set of equivalent and compatible models of laws and regulations will be designed to facilitate trade. Also, a data base will be installed at IICA with current information on pertinent legislation in LAC, which will be updated regularly.

A third output of the project will be the design of phytosanitary and zoosanitary procedures for important ag-

ricultural commodities, based on quarantine principles. These instruments will take into consideration:

- inspection of commodities at the point of embarkation
- emergency systems
- measures to prevent, diagnose and control animal and plant pests and diseases
- minimum acceptable levels of toxic residues
- risk analysis methods
- criteria for rejection
- phytosanitary and zoosanitary certification
- definition and documentation of diagnostic techniques
- training

Leon pointed out that once the countries of the region have access to timely and up-to-date information on the agricultural health standards currently in effect on international markets, they will be able to take steps to avoid rejection of their commodities, thus increasing their foreign exchange earnings.

This will also contribute to boosting the prestige and reliability of the exporting country's products, and ensure better compliance with trade agreements. For producers, this will mean less risk when planning their activities.

Action in the countries

In 1992, the principal objective of the Regional Council for Agricultural Cooperation (CORECA) - the sectoral forum that brings together the ministers of agriculture of Mexico, Central America, Panama and the Dominican Republic - will be to shore up its position as a promoter of economic integration in Central America.

According to Roger Guillen, CORECA's Secretary for Coordination, CORECA will give momentum to the execution of the Plan of Action for Agriculture in Central America (PAC), approved by the presidents of the isthmus at their summit meeting in July 1991.

Guillen stated that 1992 will be an important year for subregional integration, especially with regard to the free trade of agricultural commodities, and the implementation of an across-the-

CORECA to Facilitate Economic Integration

board price band system for selected products. The so-called price band system is a regulatory mechanism by which domestic prices are linked to international prices, with a view to diminishing the effect of extreme fluctuations in the latter on local markets.

In 1992, CORECA will also select specific areas in which to intensify the joint efforts and cooperation called for in the initiatives pertaining to Central America promoted by the Group of Three (G-3, Colombia, Mexico and Venezuela), in general, and the Tuxtla Gutierrez Accords (signed by the presidents of Mexico and of the Central American countries), in particular.

This year, CORECA also expects to implement several technical and financial cooperation projects currently in an advanced stage of negotiation, including:

- a program of reciprocal or horizontal technical cooperation among the Central American countries, with possible funding from the Government of Canada;
- a project funded by the U.N. Special Program of Economic Cooperation for Central America (PEC), aimed at coordinating region-wide technical cooperation negotiations between the agricultural sector and international agencies.

Rural Development Strategies Designed for the Caribbean

In late 1991, a workshop was held to design and implement rural development strategies in the Caribbean, attended by 60 representatives from the public and private sectors of ten countries and eight regional organizations.

The activity was held in St. Lucia, with support from the Caribbean Network for Integrated Rural Development, IICA and the Ministry of Agriculture of the Commonwealth of Dominica, and funded by the IICA/Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) project and the Inter-American Foundation.

The participants agreed that, through joint efforts of the public and private sectors and the effective use of regional and international cooperation, it would be possible to design a rural development strategy for the region. In addition to indicating what should be included in the strategy, they identified specific areas of action. They requested support from the aforementioned network and IICA in formulating the strategy and helping government

and non-governmental agencies to formulate national rural development policies and provide follow-up on workshop recommendations.



The Minister of Agriculture of Dominica, Maynard Joseph (right), requested technical support for formulating rural development policies.

Central America: Office Established to Provide Support to First Ladies

IICA will open an Office of Cooperation and Support for the First Ladies of the Central American Isthmus, under the terms of an agreement signed in Honduras on December 13, 1991 by the First Ladies and the Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñeiro.

The agreement follows a decision adopted by the Central American presidents during their June 1991 meeting in El Salvador. On that occasion, a Commission of First Ladies was constituted for incorporating a regional perspective into the countries' social programs.



Photo/Julie A. Coimbra, Brazil

The agreement with IICA was submitted to the consideration of the presidents of Central America during their eleventh summit meeting, held in Tegucigalpa. The topic of discussion

at that meeting was "Human Development: Infancy and Youth," and the most important resolutions of the meeting laid the groundwork for reactivating the integration process.

The Office for Cooperation, which will monitor compliance with the regional

mandates of the First Ladies, will be advised by a technical committee made up of a representative of each First Lady. In addition to its coordination duties, the Office will assist in setting priorities and formulating regional projects of a social nature. It will also support and promote technical

cooperation on behalf of the most vulnerable segments of society, especially children, and help seek funding from international agencies that address social issues.

Technological Development to be Strengthened in Costa Rica

IICA's Office in Costa Rica will work in 1992 to formulate a long-term plan to upgrade agricultural research and technology transfer in that country.

According to experts from IICA and the National Commission on Agricultural Research and Technology Transfer (CONITTA), the plan, which will be executed over a ten-to fifteen-year period, proposes re-vamping and strengthening Costa Rica's agricultural research system.

The objective, they added, is to integrate the actions of related organizations, ensuring that they all adopt the plan and take it into account in future actions taken in support of the scientific and agricultural sectors. The final document should be ready by mid-year.

A number of different crops will be covered by the plan and will be studied from the perspective of diseases, pests, varieties, breeding, cultivation systems, marketing, biotechnology and sustainability, in accordance with internally established priorities.



Agricultural Award

Dr. James L. Walker, from the United States of America (third from the left), Coordinator for International Agricultural Affairs of the United States Department of Agriculture, received the Inter-American Agricultural Medal in Washington late last year, in recognition of his valuable contributions to agricultural development in the region since 1962.

With Dr. Walker in the photograph are IICA's Deputy Director General, L. Harlan Davis; the Undersecretary of Agriculture of the United States, Ann Veneman; and IICA's Representative in Washington, David L. Black.

Programs on the march

Economic Development and Environmental Protection are Compatible

Representatives from the Americas met at IICA Headquarters from January 23-24 for a high-level two-day conference-workshop entitled Natural Resources and Environmental Management in an Interdependent World. They concluded that economic growth, social development and environmental protection are compatible.

According to the participants, in a world characterized by the formation of economic blocs, active movement towards integration, economic opening and liberalization, it is imperative to implement trade and economic policies that balance the needs of development with those of environmental protection.

Aware that it will be easier to establish these policies if information on the impact of environmental degradation on the economy and on society in general is widely available, the participants agreed to set up a consortium of universities, research agencies and institutions to conduct studies on this topic.

They added that, within this context, priority must be given to establishing an information network of data, indica-

tors and research findings that can serve as the basis for drafting policy guidelines the countries can use in preparing their agri-environmental and rural development programs.

The meeting was organized by the University of California at Berkeley, the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), IICA and the National Center for Food and Agricultural Policy/Resources for the Future

(NCFAP-RFF), with funding from the MacArthur Foundation.

The recommendations were made during a workshop that followed the final session of the conference. At that time, some 30 specialists stressed the fact that natural resource conservation is a global issue in which both the North and the South share responsibility. They also underscored that it is necessary to solve the problems of poverty, which affects 80% of the world population, in order to ensure the success of environmental policies and measures.



Photo/R. Escobar

The Minister of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy of Costa Rica, Hernan Bravo (right), stated that the preservation of natural resources is a responsibility shared by all sectors of society.

Exotic flavors and fragrances, vegetables, sauces, dried fruits, natural juices and soft drinks are some of the products that the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) can place in niches or segments of the North American market.

This was revealed in a study conducted under a project to promote agroindustrial trade between LAC and North America, funded by the Canadian International Development

Market Niches Identified for LAC Products

Agency (CIDA) as part of the technical assistance it provides to IICA.

In the two-country market of the United States and Canada, which has approximately 300 million consumers with high purchasing power, these types of products brought in almost US\$2 billion in sales last year. This clearly indicates tremendous potential benefits for LAC companies.

The study, prepared by the consulting firm of Deloitte & Touche, recommends that LAC exporters link up with North American enterprises to cut the costs and risks involved in developing and launching new products. This would ease entry into one of the largest, most competitive and potentially most profitable markets in the world.

IICA and Spain set Agenda for Activities in 1992

IICA and Spain are working together on a project to design, in the medium term, an information system for the analysis of policies affecting the agri-food sector in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). The first activities carried out under this project will be three regional seminars, to be held this year in Costa Rica, Ecuador and Uruguay.

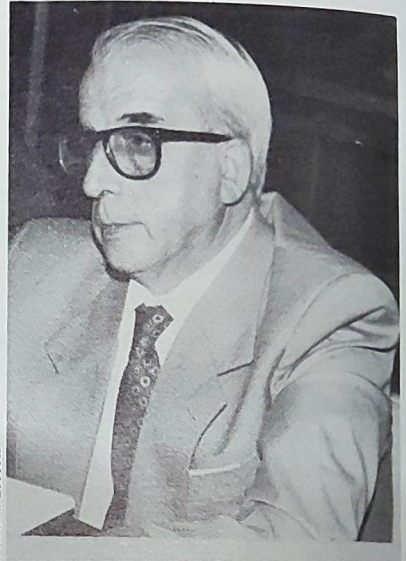
The decision to undertake this project was reached during a seminar held in late 1991, during which experts from Spain and IICA also discussed the parameters of IICA's action and the terms of Spanish cooperation in executing the initiative.

The Deputy Director General for Statistics and Analysis of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAPA) of Spain, Porfirio Sanchez, stated that the upcoming seminars will bring together public and private sector representatives responsible for or interested in information systems and the management of agri-food policies,

as well as specialists from Spain and IICA.

The first seminar is scheduled to take place in February in Costa Rica, and will involve representatives from the countries of Central America. The second, to take place in Ecuador in March, will be attended by representatives of the Andean countries, and the third, to be held in Uruguay in April, by representatives of the Southern Cone countries.

Participants in the meetings will have an opportunity to analyze agricultural statistics and to develop a methodology which can be transferred subsequently to the decision-making process. Seminar results will be used as an input in the design of the information system.



Photo/R. Escobar

Porfirio Sanchez, of MAPA, reported that the international seminars will bring together representatives of the public and private sectors.

Asian Center promotes Vegetable Research Network



Photo/R. Escobar

A hemisphere-wide strategy to promote the development of vegetable research came out of a seminar held at IICA Headquarters.

Representatives of the Asian Vegetable Research and Development Centre (AVRDC) met with specialists from Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean to lay the foundations for establishing, in the medium term, a network that will link regional agricultural research centers, with technical support from IICA.

This initiative is part of a hemisphere-wide strategy to promote vegetable research, approved during a seminar held recently at IICA Headquarters.

This network will enable AVRDC to expand its activities, currently concentrated in Asia and Africa, to the Americas, and will facilitate the exchange of techniques and methodologies to help boost the production and income levels of vegetable producers, improve nutritional levels in the region and protect the environment.

Training

Rural Development Training to be Expanded

A joint program to be undertaken this year by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and IICA will seek to improve training for technical personnel and organizations involved in rural development in the Andean and Spanish-speaking Caribbean countries.

IFAD has provided US\$1.2 million for implementing this ambitious three-year initiative, which will benefit 60 executives and 1,600 technical personnel from some 36 institutions in Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Panama, Peru, Venezuela and other countries.

IICA is responsible for the technical assistance component and will support the program by providing the services



Photo/Miguel Méndez, Argentina

The program will benefit institutions in Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Panama and the Dominican Republic, among other countries.

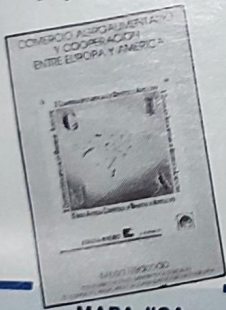
of specialized personnel from its Office in Venezuela, who will work closely with the Inter-American Agricultural Documentation and Information Center (CIDIA) and IICA's Program III (Organization and Management for Rural Development).

The Foundation for Training and Research Applied to Agrarian Reform (CIARA) of Venezuela, which has been working in rural development since the 1960s, will serve as executing institution.

This program is of special interest because of its multinational scope and because it is the first effort undertaken to prepare rural development specialists to deal with the topics of the new economic setting and the move toward integration in the region. Training will focus on the issues of management, technology and productivity, with a view to affording farmers' organizations greater access to markets.

Publications

Comercio agroalimentario y cooperación entre Europa y América: Mesa Redonda



MAPA, IICA
Editorial Service

This booklet (soon to appear in English) contains the speeches presented during the round table organized by the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food of Spain, Pedro Solbes, during the Tenth ICMA, held in Madrid in September, 1991.

The activity brought together ministers of agriculture and other representa-

tives from the Americas, their European counterparts and authorities from the European Community (EC).

The book shows how the meeting emphasized the importance of dialogue, mutual collaboration and co-responsibility in the search for solutions to problems that, although seen from different angles, are common to Europe and the Americas.

La Agricultura de América Latina y el Caribe: Estrategias para el Fin de Siglo



IICA, MAPA
Editorial Service

This publication (to be published this year in English) contains the working and reference documents pertaining to the general topic discussed during the Tenth ICMA: "Latin American and Caribbean Agriculture and the International Context of the Nineties: Strategies for the Close of the Century."

It also presents the points of consensus reached in the Declaration of Madrid, which can be summarized as follows: a) the success of the structural reform process; b) the importance of strengthening integration; c) the need to intensify agricultural modernization in the region; and d) a proposal for re-designing the bases of the traditional model of agricultural technical cooperation.

Costa Rica, Brazil, Dominican Republic, United States

Agricultura faz reunião na Costa Rica

El Instituto Interamericano de Cooperación para el Desarrollo (IICA) organizó una reunión de alto nivel sobre agricultura y medio ambiente en Costa Rica, el 15 y 16 de febrero. La reunión, que se celebró en San José, contó con la participación de representantes de Costa Rica, Brasil, República Dominicana y Estados Unidos. El tema central de la reunión fue el impacto ambiental de la agricultura y las estrategias para su manejo sostenible. Durante los dos días de sesiones, se discutieron temas como el uso de pesticidas, la erosión del suelo y el manejo de los recursos hídricos. La reunión concluyó con un documento final que establece las prioridades de cooperación entre los países participantes.

■ In January, newspapers throughout the hemisphere reported on the high-level seminar-workshop "Natural Resources and Environmental Management in an Interdependent World," held at IICA Headquarters.

Newspapers such as *La Nación* and *La República* of Costa Rica; *Hoy* of the Dominican Republic and *Correio Braziliense* of Brazil, as well as specialized magazines such as *Panorama Internacional* and the *OAS News Bulletin* among others, highlighted the results of this meeting, which brought together some 100 representatives of

agencies and organizations from around the hemisphere.

Argentina and El Salvador

La Argentina discute ahora la conversión de deuda externa por naturaleza

Comenzó el debate ecológico



El debate ecológico comenzó en Buenos Aires, Argentina, el 15 de diciembre. El tema central de la reunión fue el impacto ambiental de la agricultura y las estrategias para su manejo sostenible. Durante los dos días de sesiones, se discutieron temas como el uso de pesticidas, la erosión del suelo y el manejo de los recursos hídricos. La reunión concluyó con un documento final que establece las prioridades de cooperación entre los países participantes.

■ An international seminar held in December in Buenos Aires, Argentina, to analyze the impact of agricultural subsidies on the environment was given extensive coverage by newspapers in Argentina and Central America.

During the meeting, it was emphasized that the trade protectionism practiced by the developed countries is not ecologically viable. The meeting was organized by Argentina's Ministry

of Foreign Relations, Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, and National Agricultural Technology Institute (INTA), and IICA. (*El Cronista Comercial*, *La Prensa*, *La Nación* and *Ambito Financiero* Argentina; *La Prensa Gráfica*, *El Salvador*, and the *IPS* news agency).

Uruguay, Paraguay

Tercera Reunión de Conasur

Se reafirmó la voluntad de integración regional



La integración regional fue el tema central de la tercera reunión del Consejo de Cooperación Agrícola de los Países del Sur (CONASUR), que se celebró en Piriápolis, Uruguay, el 15 y 16 de diciembre. Durante la reunión, se reafirmó la voluntad de los países miembros de avanzar en la integración regional y de fortalecer la cooperación agrícola entre ellos. Se discutieron temas como el comercio agrícola, el desarrollo rural y el manejo sostenible de los recursos naturales. La reunión concluyó con un documento final que establece las prioridades de cooperación entre los países participantes.

■ Newspapers in South America highlighted the third meeting of the Advisory Council for Agricultural Cooperation in the Countries of the Southern Area (CONASUR), held in December in Piriápolis, Uruguay.

Upcoming Activities

Meeting of Representatives. March 30 - April 3, 1992. IICA Headquarters.

IICA Representatives will meet with the Directorate of Programming and Evaluation (DIPROE), the Directors of Operations and the Program Directors to re-define the scope of the technical cooperation offered to IICA's member countries through its hemispheric, multinational and national projects during the last biennium of the current administration. The meeting has been called in order to put into action the policy, strategy and management

mandates issued during the Tenth ICMA. Channels of communication will be improved between the different units at Headquarters and the Offices in the countries, in an effort to bolster IICA's action at the subregional level and in each country.

Meeting on Econometrics and Social Protection. April 22 - 24, 1992. IICA Headquarters

After 31 meetings in Europe and North America, the Association of Applied Econometrics will hold its first interna-

tional colloquium in the Latin American and Caribbean region, sponsored by IICA and other international agencies. The purpose of the meeting, which will bring together some 150 specialists from around the world, is to identify, explain and interpret - through scientific measurement of information - social policies and economic phenomena of our society, including the evaluation and funding of unemployment, health, retirement and family protection benefits, at both the national and international levels.

IICA



NEWS

March-April 1992, Year IX, No. 48



The President of El Salvador, Alfredo Cristiani, presided over the first celebration of IICA's fiftieth anniversary. During the ceremony, he presented the Inter-American Agricultural Award for Young Professionals to Ramon E. Servellon. President Cristiani underscored the important role agriculture will play in the reconstruction of his country and thanked IICA for its support.

- IICA Participates in Universal Exposition in Seville
- En Route to Rio 92

50
1942-1992
anniversary

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NEWS

News magazine on activities of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, IICA. Published monthly, in separate Spanish, English and France editions, by IICA's Communications Division, Public Information Unit. Address: Apdo 55-2200 Coronado, San José, Costa Rica. Cable: IICA San José. Telex: 2144 IICA. Fax: 29.47.41. Telephone: 29.02.22. Editor in Chief: Patricia León. Editors: Silvia Castillo, Rodrigo Calvo and Danilo Jiménez. English translation and editing: Paul Murphy, Barbara Cohen and Susana Raine. Director of External Relations: Jorge Werthein.

The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) is headquartered in San José, Costa Rica. It is the specialized agency for agriculture of the inter-American system. It was founded by the governments of the hemisphere in 1942 to encourage, promote and support the efforts made by its Member States for agricultural development and rural well-being. It has 32 member countries and 14 permanent observer.

Countries of Central America and the Caribbean to Continue Talks on Banana Trade



Photo/R. Escobar

Ministers responsible for banana trade in several CARICOM countries participated in the Central American-Caribbean meeting. With the Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñeiro (third from left), are the Ministers of Agriculture and Foreign Trade of Costa Rica, Juan Rafael Lizano and Roberto Rojas, respectively.

Central American and Caribbean ministers of agriculture and ministers responsible for banana trade policy agreed to continue talks in an effort to overcome their different views on the future of the banana trade with the European Economic Community (EEC), once the European Single Market goes into effect in 1993.

IICA was the site of the first meeting of banana-producing countries. At that event, participants agreed to promote technological cooperation and, to that end, they charged IICA with drawing up a project to support reciprocal technical exchanges. The purpose of these exchanges will be to increase the efficiency of banana production and marketing, and, at the same time, to cooperate in identifying and developing opportunities and differentiated products.

To this end, it was recommended that existing ties with the International Network for Banana and Plantain Im-

provement (INIBAP) be used to a maximum, and that bilateral cooperation be promoted among national research institutions. IICA already has a project aimed at strengthening Latin American and Caribbean linkages for agricultural development, one of the components of which focuses on technology transfer.

Participants included the ministers of agriculture from Belize, Michael Spat; Jamaica, Seymour Mullings; Grenada, Phinsley St. Louis; St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Chielton Allan Cruickshank; Suriname, Setroredjo Saeratro; and representatives from Nicaragua, St. Lucia, Panama, Honduras, Costa Rica and Guatemala.

Originally conceived of as a way to promote cooperation between Central America and the Caribbean, the meeting provided a forum for an informal exchange of the two regions' positions on the international banana trade, which, in 1990, generated ap-

proximately US\$887.5 million in export earnings for Central America and almost US\$206.3 million for the Caribbean.

In his opening address, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica, Bernd Niehaus, acknowledged that the two regions had different views on the issue, but stressed the value of talks where no conditions are set, where discussion is frank, because they can produce positive results. IICA's Director General, Martin E. Piñeiro, saw the meeting as innovative and important because it reflected the interest of two regions to discuss common problems in a constantly changing world.

USEFUL CONTACTS

Although no date was set for subsequent meetings, the representatives from Central America and the Caribbean stressed the usefulness of this type of meeting since they help clarify positions and provide an opportunity for learning more about the options for international banana trade.

In summarizing the outcome of the meeting, the Minister of Foreign Trade of Costa Rica, Roberto Rojas and the Minister of Agriculture of Jamaica, Seymour Mullings, agreed that, although neither region had changed its position, the gathering was an important step forward since it had provided an opportunity for open dialogue and for determining the course of future actions.

By the end of the meeting, although they had not reached agreement, the participants had identified three options for access to the Single European Market: a free market, trade with quotas, and trade with tariffs. The EC, which is the largest purchaser of bananas worldwide, buys some 38% of total annual production, estimated to be 9 million metric tons. It places restrictions on bananas from Latin America and gives preferential treatment to the countries of the Caribbean.

IICA to Participate in EXPO '92 in Seville

Agricultural modernization and the challenges faced by Latin America and the Caribbean as the twentieth century comes to a close and the twenty-first begins will be the theme of the IICA exhibit at the Universal Exposition (EXPO '92) in Seville, Spain. This event, which will be inaugurated on April 20, is part of the celebrations being carried out in connection with the Quincentennial of the Discovery of America: Encounter of Two Worlds.

IICA will exhibit together at the fair with the other key institutions of the inter-American system: the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (OAS), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO).

The exhibit, which includes films, slide presentations, photographs and display panels illustrating IICA's cooperation activities, will be located in a special pavilion in the "Plaza de las Americas," where the countries of the Americas have their exhibits.

Also, visitors will be able to see, on a large-screen TV, four one-minute videos on agricultural modernization and sustainability; democratic and equitable rural development; the environment, technology and research; and food security and the population challenge.

As part of the 25-week long region-wide exhibition, authorities from the Americas will celebrate the "Day of the Americas" on April 25, which will be dedicated to the inter-American system.

IICA'S MESSAGE

IICA's display will focus on the key concepts of the new view of agriculture endorsed at the Tenth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA), held last September in Madrid.

The first concerns the need to strengthen intersectoral relations, with a view to promoting comprehensive agricultural development as the basis for development strategies. It advocates leaving behind the traditional concept of agriculture as a mere supplier of raw materials, and promotes the image of an agricultural sector closely linked to other sectors of the economy.

The second concept is social in nature, and addresses the need to incorporate the poor rural into the production process, as a means of combating poverty and of strengthening the process of democratization under way in the region.

The third deals with the intertemporal dimension, and calls for natural resource conservation and sustainable development in order to ensure the well-being of future generations; it advocates making efficient use of the land and other production resources without

contaminating or destroying them.

This event, which will open the doors to the twenty-first century, is being held in Europe for the first time since 1958, when it was held in Brussels. The other two fairs of this series were held in Montreal in 1967 and in Osaka in 1970.



The main issues to be addressed by IICA in Seville, Spain, will be agricultural modernization to achieve sustainability; equitable rural development; environment, technology and research; food security and the population challenge.

IICA is carrying out numerous activities in preparation for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). Preparatory activities range from fine tuning ideas and methodologies to establishing an Inter-American Group on Sustainability.

En Route to Rio 92

The Institute will be represented at the meeting, scheduled to take place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from June 3-14 this year, by an official delegation headed by its Director General, Martin E. Piñeiro. Piñeiro will speak at the Conference to describe the actions being taken by IICA in connection with natural resources and sustainability.

The IICA Office in Brazil is preparing a stand where photographs, brochures, videos and books will be on display to illustrate the Institute's contribution to developing a modern agriculture that is, at the same time, respectful of natural resources.

Special attention will be given to the Cooperative Research and Technology Transfer Program for the South American Tropics (PROCITROPICOS), a program promoted by IICA. It joins the efforts of eight nations to ensure sustainable agricultural development in an area of some 1 billion hectares.

The work of the Advisory Council for Agricultural Cooperation in the Countries of the Southern Area (CONASUR) will also be highlighted. This sectoral forum, which brings together the ministers of agriculture of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Uruguay and Paraguay, is currently chaired by Brazil. Created at IICA's initiative two years ago, the Council's work focuses on agricultural integration: it also supports efforts to develop sustainable agriculture.

KEY TO MODERNIZATION

As the specialized agency for agriculture of the inter-American system, IICA considers the issue of natural resource conservation to be a key aspect of agricultural modernization. In 1990, the Institute officially incorporated the

topic into its technical cooperation activities for its 32 member countries.

IICA is fully committed to promoting initiatives that will help re-establish the balance between man and nature. To accomplish this, a comprehensive and innovative approach must be taken to change fundamental aspects of social behavior and the technological paradigm of present-day agriculture in order to bring to a halt the deterioration of the natural resource base.

With support from the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ), IICA has made considerable progress in developing the issue of sustainable agriculture, and has promoted multinational projects in different fragile ecological areas of Latin America. These include: the Trifinio Project, in the border area shared by Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras; a project to promote conservation practices on hillside farms in Central America; and the PROCITROPICOS program mentioned above, covering the Amazon region.

Under the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC), IICA is also promoting a hemisphere-wide program to upgrade the conservation and management of genetic resources. This initiative will operate through sub-regional networks in the Central Area (Mexico, Central America and the Dominican Republic), the Andean Area and the countries of the Amazon Basin.

Aware of the fact that sustainable development is a dynamic concept involving interplay between actual conditions, strategies, policies and actions, IICA recognizes the importance of establishing fora where new ideas can be discussed and follow-up provided on actions taken.

To this end, it is advocating the creation of an Inter-American Study Group on Sustainability, to be made up of a multidisciplinary group of professionals who will bring the regional perspective, as well as proposals, to the forum for discussion.

In addition to the above, IICA is participating in several preparatory meetings for the UNCED. In a joint effort with other international agencies, IICA will contribute to the publication of a newsletter that will circulate during the meeting. This activity is being coordinated by the Inter Press Service (IPS).



Photo: Carlos Echeto, Uruguay

IICA's participation in the upcoming UNCED, scheduled to take place in Rio de Janeiro this June, will focus on agricultural modernization, within the context of the judicious use of natural resources.

Headquarters

IICA Coordinates Efforts for Complying with Mandates of Tenth ICMA

In order to effectively coordinate the actions to be taken to comply with the mandates issued by the ministers of agriculture of the hemisphere, IICA's Representatives in its member countries recently attended a 5-day meeting at Headquarters.

These policy, strategy and management mandates were issued during the Tenth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA) and the Sixth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), held concurrently in Spain last September.

IICA will adapt its technical cooperation actions to respond to these mandates, promoting a new view of the sector



Photo/R. Escobar

The goal of the meeting of Representatives at Headquarters was to improve coordination of actions so as to better comply with the mandates of the Tenth ICMA.

which calls for comprehensive and sustainable modernization.

IICA's priorities for the coming years include helping the countries to secure

their place on competitive international markets, incorporating the rural population into the production process, and promoting the judicious use of natural resources.

During an official visit to the United States in March, the Director General of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), Martin E. Piñeiro, attended a meeting of the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States (OAS) where he indicated that the agricultural sector can play a key role in making the 1990s a decade of growth in Latin America and the Caribbean.

In a report on IICA's activities during 1991 and on the outcome of the Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA) -held in Madrid last year- Piñeiro was optimistic, noting that progress is being made in solving fundamental problems, through structural adjustment and rescheduling the debt, for example.

During his visit to Washington, the Director General met with the Deputy Secretary for Agriculture, Anne Veneman, congressmen and senior State Department officials. He also met with the President of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Enrique Iglesias, as well as World Bank authorities.

Piñeiro visited the Woodrow Wilson Center, where he addressed ambassadors and scholars on the topics of agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean, interna-

Director General at OAS: Agricultural Sector will Boost Regional Growth

tional agricultural trade and integrating the concept of sustainability into agricultural modernization.

During his trip, Piñeiro also visited New York, where he participated in a Preparatory Meeting of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), which will be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, this June.

Piñeiro also visited the Rockefeller Foundation, where he met with the president, Peter Goldmark. They discussed the possibility of establishing new forms of cooperation to support the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean in their efforts to modernize the agricultural sector.

The Director General also met with senior officials of the United Nations to review cooperation activities carried out by IICA in collaboration with agencies of the United Nations system, such as UNIFEM, UNDP and the World Population Fund.

First Ladies of Central America to Support Women



Photo: R. Escobar

The Office for Coordination and Support of the First Ladies of Central America is preparing a meeting for the near future.

On March 12, delegates from the subregion and the Office for Cooperation and Support for the First Ladies of Central America held a meeting at IICA Headquarters. During the meeting, they indicated that the principal activity of the First Ladies this year would be to ensure that women are able to take advantage of the eco-

nomie and social benefits of sustainable development, in both urban and rural areas.

This initiative, which comes under the Regional Program for Women, Environment and Development, will be discussed at the Twelfth Summit Meeting of Central American Presidents, to be

held in Nicaragua, from June 4-5. The Program was created last November through an initiative of the First Ladies of Central America and will be headquartered in Managua, Nicaragua. One of the Program's objectives is to boost the income of poor women in rural and urban areas through actions that take environmental, economic and social considerations into account.

Through educational activities, the Program aims to help create an environmental perspective consistent with efforts to bring about change in the region to improve the quality of life of women and their families. IICA will provide ongoing technical cooperation to the Program.

The resolutions approved during the meeting will be ratified by the First Ladies, who will meet at IICA Headquarters in late May to officially inaugurate the Office for Cooperation and Support, said Dina Krauskopf, coordinator of the Office.

The First Ladies met for the first time in September 1987, in Guatemala. Since then, they have discussed issues relative to enhancing the participation of women in development, analyzing the living conditions of Central American families and achieving the goals proposed during the World Summit for Children.

Romanian Minister Praises IICA's Experience

During a visit to IICA Headquarters in February, the Minister of Industry of Romania, Dan Anghel Constantinescu, said that IICA's experience in technical cooperation and agricultural development could be of great value to his country.

As head of the official delegation, the minister met with IICA officials, explaining that his country attaches great importance to agriculture. This can be seen in the application of measures to promote private enterprise, distribute lands and improve credit conditions.



Photo: R. Escobar

The Minister of Industry of Romania, Dan Anghel Constantinescu (center), accompanied by Augustin Berindean, the Romanian ambassador to several Central American countries and stationed in Costa Rica, visited IICA recently. In the photo they meet with Manuel Otero, acting Director General at the time.

Thirty months after being approved and implemented, the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC) is making an important contribution to agricultural and economic integration in this region.

Given the changing economic and political contexts, both the conceptual and operational concepts of the PLANLAC have undergone change to ensure its continued validity as a guide for agricultural development and economic reactivation.

Through multinational programs and projects, this hemisphere-wide initiative advocates a concept of modernization that will expand agriculture into an agri-food sector. Its objectives also include incorporating the poorest rural sectors into the production process, making judicious use of natural resources and promoting environmental protection.

PLANLAC Spurs Integration in the Region

Reflecting the specific priorities and needs of the different subregional sectoral fora, new ideas and proposals have been incorporated since PLANLAC was launched two and a half years ago. For example, the Regional Council for Agricultural Cooperation in Central America, Mexico, Panama and the Dominican Republic (CORECA) has given priority to initiatives concerning policy harmonization, boosting food supply and increasing intra-regional trade.

The ministers of the Advisory Council for Agricultural Cooperation in the Countries of the Southern Area (CONASUR) and their counterparts in the Andean Area have requested support in connection with the following: agricultural health, with a view to facilitating intra-and inter-regional trade;

policy harmonization, to support sub-regional economic integration; and international trade negotiations, in order to strengthen their ministries and information services.

The ministers of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) have given priority to furthering efforts on policy harmonization, technology, agricultural health and support for nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and farmer associations.

Thus, 1992 will be a year of special importance for the PLANLAC. Based on a series of agricultural sector assessments, subregional strategies will be updated, and more dynamic relations will be fostered between the Institute's Programs and its Offices in the countries.

In June of this year, IICA's Executive Committee, at its Twelfth Regular Meeting, will be informed of progress made in executing the PLANLAC and of changes that have been made in it to reflect requests from the subregional fora.

Today, two thirds (or 58) of the programs and projects originally identified and approved for the PLANLAC are under way. Of these, 14 are in the planning stage, 36 are fully operative and feasibility studies are being conducted for the remaining eight.



During the next regular meeting of the Executive Committee, scheduled for this June, government representatives will learn of progress made in executing the strategy to modernize agriculture in the region.

Programs on the March

Finland Supports Border Development in El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras



The Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñero, signs the extension of the technical cooperation agreement for the Trifinio Plan. With him are Rodolfo Martínez, of IICA; Gregorio Contreras, Director of the OAS in Costa Rica; and Patricio Chellew, Director of the OAS Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

Finland signed a technical cooperation agreement with the Organization of American States (OAS) aimed at conserving and promoting the judicious use of natural resources in the border region shared by El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras.

The agreement was drawn up to complement the Trifinio Plan, an ambitious regional development effort undertaken by the three Central American countries in November 1986 with technical support from the OAS and IICA.

The government of Finland will provide US\$1 million for a project promoting efficient energy use and environmental protection, to be implemented by the OAS.

The program was launched this January and addresses two of the principal obstacles to economic development in the subregion: the lack of an efficient and reliable energy supply and the relentless degradation of forests and soil resources.

New Definition of Agriculture Takes Hold

The countries of Latin America are striving to build a new agriculture that is strongly linked to industry. Their aim is to leave behind the traditional view of the sector as a mere provider of raw materials and replace it with what is being called the agri-food sector.

In this effort, the region is receiving support from Spain, which, through an agreement with IICA, is promoting the establishment of an information system that will make it easier to analyze and design policies aimed at fostering this new view of agriculture.

In a series of subregional workshops for technical personnel from the Central American, Andean and Southern Areas and which were held between February and April of this year, more progress was made in arriving at a new definition of agriculture, as an agri-food sector involved in the production of raw

materials, agroindustry and services.

On the basis of the proposals made in the workshops, IICA will begin to produce information

and develop statistical indicators relevant to the agri-food sector. The goal is to learn more about the structure and operation of this sector, in order to facilitate the design, analysis and evaluation of policies to promote its development.

The meetings were organized by IICA, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries



With support from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAPA) of Spain, IICA is fine tuning the concept of an agri-food sector, which leaves behind the outdated view of agriculture as a primary sector.

and Food (MAPA) of Spain and the Spanish International Cooperation Agency (AECI). Julio Hernandez, IICA specialist and coordinator of the events, pointed out that Brazil, Mexico and Chile have already made considerable headway with regard to this new view of agriculture.

Economic Advancement of Women Advocated

During a high-level meeting held in Geneva, Switzerland to discuss the current situation of rural women, Manuel Chiriboga, Director of IICA's Program on Organization and Management for Rural Development, stated that the economic advancement of rural women will bring about greater progress and strengthen democracies in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Chiriboga and Dina Krauskopf, Coordinator of the Office for Cooperation and Support of the First Ladies of Central America, represented IICA at the meeting sponsored by Queen Fabiola of Belgium and the First Ladies of Colombia, Egypt, Senegal, Turkey, Malaysia and Nigeria.

In his presentation, Chiriboga warned that the stability of democracy and development will be put at risk if the economic contribution of women is underestimated, and if women are



kept out of the decision-making process.

The meeting, which was entitled "Economic Advancement of Rural Women," took place from February 25-26. The spouses of forty Heads of State and Heads of Government attending the event presented a declaration as well as proposals for concrete action in support of efforts to raise the standard of living for rural women.

Chiriboga called for greater coordination of economic and social policies as a means of improving the situation of women food producers, and underscored the importance of not overlooking the real disadvantages they face.

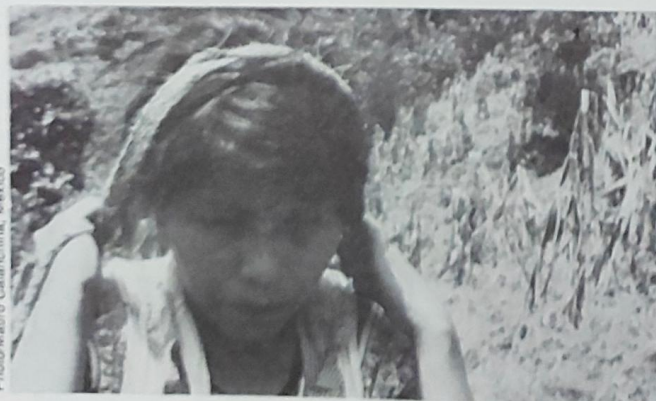
In his opinion, this means not only eliminating laws, regulations and administrative decisions that discriminate against women, but also fostering actions in the public and private sectors to strengthen the role of women; for these initiatives to be effective, policy makers must be made aware of the problem and receive training on the issue of gender.

The meeting, which was co-sponsored by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), was also attended by delegates and representatives of international organizations and cooperation agencies.

Agricultural Integration Moves Ahead

Sustainability and the conservation of natural resources are topics that will be dealt with for the first time in initiatives currently under way

in Central America and the Dominican Republic to change agricultural legislation and promote rural development, within the integration process.



Agrarian reform authorities of Central America and the Dominican Republic learned details of the historic reforms to Mexico's agrarian legislation, which were recently approved.

In support of this decision, the Board of Directors of the Training and Study Program on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development for the Central American Isthmus and the Dominican Republic (PRACA) will draw up a strategy to promote develop-

ment on rural settlements that does not harm the environment, said the Executive Secretary of PRACA, Francisco Barea.

During a seminar held at IICA Headquarters from March 5-6, PRACA Board members agreed to promote the Project to Strengthen and Consolidate Rural Enterprises and to seek funding for it from the international community and from cooperation agencies.

The project includes training, credit and technical assistance components, as well as a component on sustainable development and natural resource conservation. It will benefit 32,800 families living in 729 rural settlements, and has an estimated cost of US\$118.8 million.

Agriculture: Strength and Future of the Americas

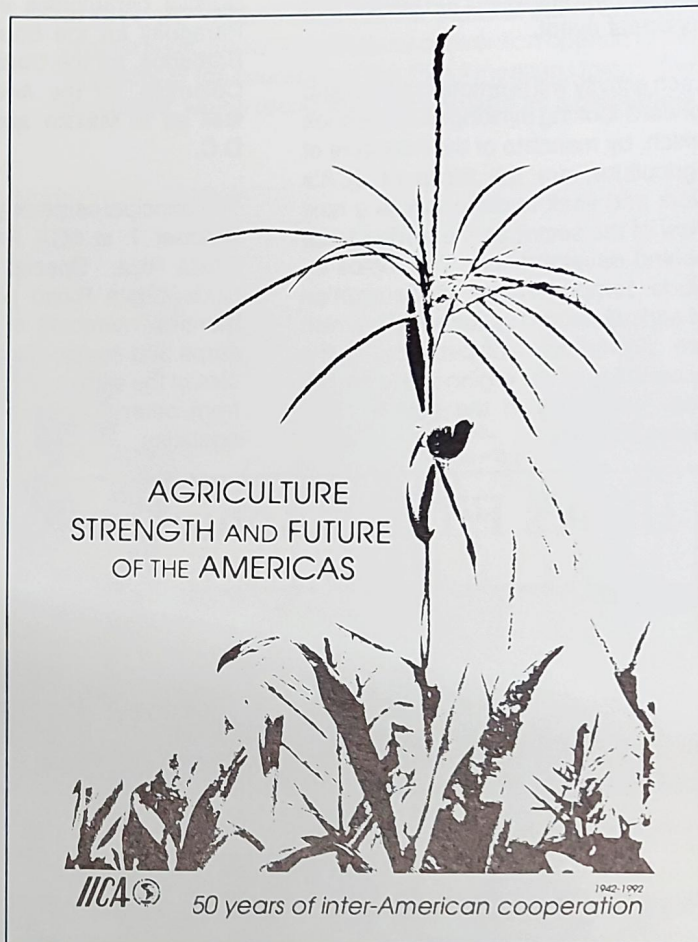
To celebrate its fiftieth anniversary this year, IICA has selected the slogan "Agriculture: Strength and Future of the Americas," which highlights the strategic role played by the sector in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Although at present agriculture is of vital importance to the region, in coming decades it will have to further strengthen its position as the driving force behind a new type of development which aims, within the framework of social equity, to ensure the well-being of the population, and, through judicious care of the natural resource base, to guarantee the future for coming generations.

Today, one third of the population in the region -some 130 million people- live and work in the countryside. Agriculture accounts for more than one fourth of gross domestic product in many of the Latin American and Caribbean countries. Thirty per cent of total exports from these countries originate in the agricultural sector.

Tomorrow, agriculture must continue to generate employment, wealth and well-being, and one of the greatest challenges will lie in achieving a balance between economic development and social equity. Furthermore, more effort must be placed on tapping all possible opportunities for placing commodities on foreign markets, and on making full use of the human and natural resources of the region, so as to be able to respond to new international demands. IICA is working side by side with its Member States to build this new agriculture, providing technical assistance.

During the Tenth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (September 1991), the ministers of agriculture of the hemisphere indicated that by the year 2000 international cooperation through agriculture would play a decisive role in bringing peace, economic progress and democracy to the region.



IICA cooperates with its member countries to enhance the development of the agricultural sector as a source of economic growth, emphasizing its dual role as supplier of foodstuffs for domestic consumption and as the principal source of foreign exchange.

Through its cooperation, IICA also promotes modernization of the agricultural sector and improved production efficiency. The Institute gives considerable attention also to efforts to consolidate integration as a means of ensuring increased participation for the countries on world economic and trade markets.

Over the next few months, IICA's fiftieth anniversary will be celebrated in all of its 32 Member States; furthermore, all the activities scheduled for 1992 will reflect the spirit of this important event.

Each activity will promote creative and forward-looking thinking on key issues which, by mandate of the ministers of agriculture, are the focus of IICA's work and seek to disseminate a new view of the sector as the driving force behind development. The topics include comprehensive modernization of agriculture and sustainability, which are viewed as indispensable if the economies of the region are to participate effectively in the new international context.

A Celebration Throughout the Americas

Special ceremonies will be held in Paraguay for the Southern Area; in Barbados, for the Caribbean Area; in Colombia, for the Andean Area; as well as in Mexico and Washington, D.C.

The principal ceremony will be held on October 7 at IICA Headquarters in Costa Rica. Special guests will include Costa Rican government authorities, members of the diplomatic corps and senior officials from agencies of the inter-American system and from other cooperation and funding agencies.

Some of the activities are of regional scope, such as the 1992 IICA Press Award, which is open to journalists of the written press and from international press agencies. (See separate article.)

Also, a book on the history of IICA's first fifty years of institutional life, requiring considerable research, is being written by Mr. Carlos Molestina.

IICA's Fiftieth Anniversary Celebrated in El Salvador



IICA Representative in El Salvador, Mariano Olazabal, speaking during the first celebration of IICA's fiftieth anniversary in one of the Institute's Member States. The event was presided over by President Alfredo Cristiani.

The first event to celebrate IICA's fiftieth anniversary at the national level took place in El Salvador, with the participation of the President of the Republic, Alfredo Cristiani, and the Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñero.

The event was held on February 14 and also commemorated the twentieth anniversary of the opening of IICA's Office in El Salvador. Also in attendance were the First Lady of El Salvador, Margarita de Cristiani; the Minister

of Agriculture, Antonio Cabrales, and representatives of the government, diplomatic corps and the private sector.

President Cristiani stated that true peace would come to his country when food security and well-being were ensured for all Salvadorans. In order to accomplish this goal, he said, the agricultural sector would have to play a major role. He thanked IICA for its cooperation over the years, and, in particular, for its offer to support the government in executing the National Reconstruction Plan.

During the ceremony, Ramon Eduardo Servellon received the Inter-American Agricultural Award for Young Professionals, granted by the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA). Also, Mario Reni Roldan received a certificate of honorable mention for the photograph he submitted to the contest sponsored by IICA and the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ).

Half a Century of History

More than 60 years ago, IICA began to take shape in the minds of a group of pioneers who envisioned the development of an agency to support agricultural and rural development in a region endowed with a wealth of natural and human resources.

The idea of creating an inter-American institute for tropical agriculture was mentioned officially for the first time in 1930, in a resolution of the First Inter-American Conference on Agriculture, held in Washington, D.C.

A decade later, the initiative was taken up again by the United States Secretary of Agriculture, Henry A. Wallace, in support of the notion that national problems should be solved through inter-American cooperation and mutual support. Ernesto Molestina Ordeñada, of Ecuador, submitted a resolution to that effect to the Eighth American Scientific Congress, held in Washington, D.C. in 1940, which was approved.

An Organizing Committee was set up by the Congress, which appointed a technical committee to visit eleven countries in the region to choose a site for the headquarters of the new institute. The subtropical surroundings of Turrialba, 70 kilometers east of San Jose, Costa Rica, were seen as the ideal location.

On June 18, 1942, the Institute was established as a non-profit organization, authorized under the laws of the District of Colombia, United States of America. On October 7 of that year, and by recommendation of the Organizing Committee, the Governing Board of the Pan American Union approved the creation of the Institute and named Earl N. Bressman, of the United States of America, as Director. The objective of the new institution was "to stimulate and promote the development of the agricultural sciences in the American republics."

Mr. Bressman and the Secretary of Agriculture of Costa Rica, Mariano Montealegre, signed an agreement that later became a law of the republic, in which the Institute was established in Turrialba and through which the Government

of Costa Rica donated, in perpetuity, 1,000 hectares of land for the site of what is now the Tropical Agriculture Research and Training Center (CATIE).

In 1944, the Institute acquired the status of inter-American organization, under a multilateral convention opened to the signature of the countries of the Pan American Union. The document, which recognized the Institute as a permanent



The first group of IICA staff, at Headquarters in Turrialba. In the front row (seated) is the Director General, Ralph Allee.

institution and gave it full legal capacity, was signed by the representatives of Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Panama and the United States of America, entering into force on December 1 of that year.

In a brief review of IICA's history, another date stands out. On March 19, 1943, the President of Costa Rica, Rafael Angel Calderón Guardia -father of the current president- and the Vice President of the United States of America, Henry Wallace, laid the cornerstone of the buildings in Turrialba.

Research began immediately in the following fields: agricultural engineering, animal science, entomology, plant science and soils, with rural welfare and agricultural economics being added subsequently.

In 1946, the Institute's pioneering post-graduate program was officially launched. This master's degree program has

graduated numerous generations of professionals who are working today in national and international institutions and in the private sector.

Several years later, on February 16, 1949, the Council of the Organization of American States (OAS), in accordance with its Charter, recognized the Institute as a specialized agency of the inter-American system.

IICA's General Directorate was moved from Turrialba to San Jose in 1960, but it was not until 1976 that IICA's new Headquarters were inaugurated in San Isidro de Coronado, on the outskirts of San Jose.

Since it was founded as an agricultural research and training center, the Institute has gradually extended the scope of its programs and activities, and adjusted its structure to better serve the governments of its Member States with technical cooperation to promote agricultural development and improve life in rural areas.

EMPHASIS ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT

During its first decade of operation, the Institute's action was strapped by a lack of funding. By the early 1950s, however, and after securing its first US\$1 million in external resources, IICA launched successful programs to promote rural development and agrarian reform in countries such as Uruguay, Chile, Colombia and Paraguay.

The 1950s also saw the establishment of IICA's Regional Directorates: in Cuba, and later in Guatemala for the Northern Zone; in Peru for the Andean Zone, and in Uruguay for the Southern Zone. After the Directorates, Offices were established in each member country, and which now serve as the backbone of the Institute's action.

In the 1970s, a new infusion of resources enabled IICA to continue its rural development activities in the region, as well as its research and post-graduate training actions. A US\$10 million grant from the Government of Venezuela was used to establish the Simon Bolivar Fund, which financed rural development activities in more than 20 countries.

A NEW CONVENTION

As a result of the continued growth of the Institute, it became necessary to amend the Convention signed in 1944. A new Convention on the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture was opened to the signature of the Member States of the OAS on March 6, 1979, going into effect on December 8, 1980.

Pursuant to the terms of the new Convention, the Institute was reorganized and its purposes were consolidated and expanded.

Award for Journalists from the Americas

Journalists from IICA's Member States are invited to participate in the 1992 Inter-American Press Award, being held in connection with IICA's fiftieth anniversary celebrations.

The theme of the contest is "The Role of Agriculture in the New International Setting," which can be approached from different perspectives. The contest is open to journalists of the written press and from international press agencies.

An international jury, meeting in Costa Rica in September, will award the first and second prizes (US\$3,000 and US\$1,500, respectively). In each country, a national jury will select the entries to be submitted to the international contest.

Articles to be judged in the contest must have been published between January 1 and July 31, 1992, and the deadline for delivery of entries to an IICA Office is August 7. Contest rules and registration forms are available at the Offices.

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IICA

IICA
INTER-AMERICAN
PRESS AWARD
1992



Cooperation with Permanent Observers

France Supports Agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean

The agricultural sector in Latin America and the Caribbean is one of the main priorities for the technical and scientific assistance of the government of France, and IICA is the key to its agricultural cooperation with the Americas.

Relations were established with France even before that country became a Permanent Observer of the Institute in 1975. According to Phillipe Cujó, Regional Delegate of French Cooperation, and who is headquartered in Costa Rica, informal relations date back to 1973, becoming formalized in 1978.

French cooperation in the hemisphere is managed administratively, through IICA, by the Ministry of Foreign Relations. IICA also has agreements with agencies including the Center for International Cooperation in Agricultural Research for Development (CIRAD) and the French Office of Overseas Scientific and Technical Research (ORSTOM). Close ties also exist with nongovernmental agencies such as SOLAGRAL.

Cujó stated, "IICA is our main partner for channelling assistance to the agricultural sector. We work closer with IICA than with any other agency."

French experts, stationed in many countries, are working on IICA projects, while students from Latin America and the Caribbean have been awarded scholarships from the French government for advanced agricultural studies.

Initiatives aimed at boosting coffee, banana, fruit and cotton productivity have benefitted from French support, as have others related to rural agroindustry and conservation in the Amazon tropics.

Approximately 70% of the funds the French government allocates through its Regional Cooperation Office (and other

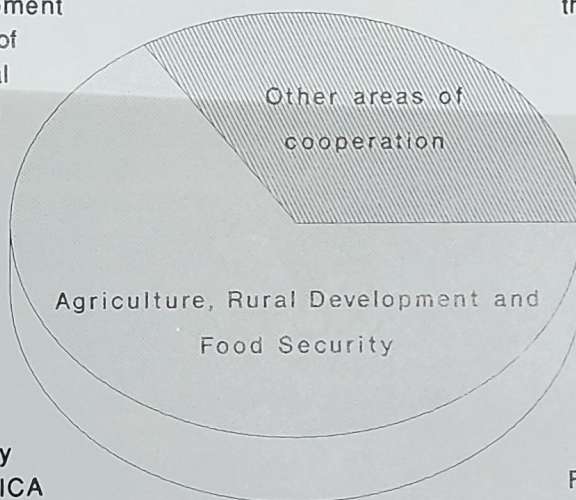
public institutions such as CIRAD) is earmarked for the agricultural sector. Furthermore, funds for agriculture were increased by 10% for the 1992-1994 period.

The Director General of IICA, Martin E. Pifeiro, noted that this increase in aid is evidence of the interest



Photo/R. Escobar

Phillipe Cujó, Delegate for Regional Cooperation, Government of France.



The Regional Office for Coordination of the Government of France channels most of its resources to the agricultural sector.

that exists in improving an already "fruitful and broad" relationship, and an illustration of the closer ties developing between Europe and the agricultural sector of Latin America and the Caribbean.

In his judgement, European, and especially French, cooperation strengthens economic and cultural ties between the two continents, and is important in developing trade relations.

For Cujó, the most important thing is to continue and increase support, with a view to enhancing the impact of existing programs on agriculture, agroindustry, rural development,

natural resources, agro-forestry development, apiculture, food security, agrarian reform, as well as the productivity of key crops in the region.

He also referred to the recent regional focus given to cooperation in light of the relative decline in bilateral aid. The goal, he said, is to contribute to regional and subregional integration, and to support the move toward democracy under way in the hemisphere.

Support for Rural Agroindustry

In a joint effort with IICA, France has been successful in promoting rural agroindustry in Latin America and the Caribbean through an ambitious cooperative information, training and research program aimed at enhancing the economic impact of small-farm agriculture.

This is an important goal, given the fact that small farmers produce 40% of all foodstuffs consumed and generate some 30% of exports in the region. Nearly 100 million people work in small-farm agriculture, using 36% of the land under cultivation and operating

75% of the farms in the region.

French technical cooperation with IICA in agro-industrial development began in 1986, and was formalized in 1988 with the creation of Rural Agroindustrial Development Program (PRODAR), a program that brings together international organizations, regional and sub-regional agencies, and national institutions.

The key objective of the program is to increase the effectiveness of agro-industrial programs and policies. It is one of the initiatives included in the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC), being coordinated by IICA, which seeks to consolidate an agricultural sector that is modern, technologically advanced and fully integrated with industry.

PRODAR carries out activities in 10 countries, where it uses rural agroindustry as a means of helping small farmers and rural communities improve their standard of living, increase their incomes and be more competitive on the market. It is funded by the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

According to Francois Boucher, specialist from France's Regional Office for Cooperation and Executive Director of PRODAR, with assistance from Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC), the program has promoted the establishment of national networks in Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador and Guatemala.

Studies of rural agroindustry conducted in eight countries of the region will be used to identify new projects. In addition, small farmers and technical personnel have benefitted from several training activities on agroindustrial policy.

PRODAR, which is attached to IICA's Program III: Organization and Management for Rural Development, plans to put three regional networks into operation in 1993; in the Southern Cone, the Andean Area and the Central American Isthmus. It will also promote activities to support rural women, spur technological innovation, and study the impact of liberalization policies and the sustainable use of natural resources (in conjunction with a joint initiative between IICA and the German Technical Cooperation Agency (GTZ)).

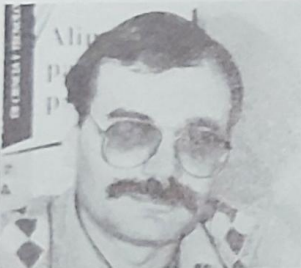


Photo: R. Escobar
Francois Boucher, Executive Director of PRODAR

Caribbean Fruit Production Benefits from French Support

France provides support for a project designed to improve tropical fruit production in nine Caribbean countries, benefitting producers there.

The initiative, which began three years ago, is under way in Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago.

The project comes under the agricultural diversification programme promoted by CARICOM's Standing Committee of Ministers Responsible for Agriculture, and is one of the activities of IICA's Program II: Technology Generation and Transfer, whose Director is Eduardo Trigo.

French support comes from the Caribbean Inter-Ministerial Fund (FIC), which includes the participation of the

MAE, the Ministry of Cooperation and the Ministry of Overseas Departments and Territories (DOM). It links cooperation with research centers in Guadeloupe and Martinique (INRA, IRFA/CIRAD, ORSTOM).



Photo: James R. Rudin, Grenada

Farmers in nine Caribbean nations benefit from a project that, with assistance from France, promotes improved fruit production.

IICA and CIRAD: Partners Working for Agriculture

France's interest in forging closer ties with Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) led one of its principal research centers, CIRAD, to set up its office for LAC at IICA Headquarters.

IICA and the Center for International Cooperation in Agricultural Research for Development (CIRAD), an agency specializing in tropical and subtropical agronomy, signed a general technical cooperation agreement in 1989. Relations with CIRAD, however, go back almost a decade, and its present Director General is Henri Carsalade.

Jean Laboucheix, head of the LAC office, recognizes IICA as "a serious organization with long and successful experience in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean." He added that "it is important to CIRAD to maintain strong ties with IICA, in order to ensure maximum complementarity of each others' capabilities."

During a recent visit to Costa Rica for the purpose of analyzing new types of



Photo/R. Escobar

CIRAD experts will work together with IICA's Program I.

support with IICA's Program I (Agricultural Policy Analysis and Planning), Michel Griffon, in charge of CIRAD's Economic Section, indicated that he shared this view of IICA. For Griffon, IICA is CIRAD's "most important partner."

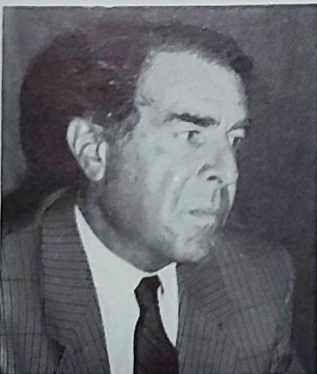
Laboucheix announced that a CIRAD specialist funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of France will join Program I in August, where he will be involved in efforts to improve the role of the countries in competitive international markets, within the framework of regional and subregional integration.

The longest-standing actions of IICA/CIRAD cooperation have been with IICA's Program II: Technology Generation and Transfer. "We are very involved in PROMECAFE, for example, with support from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Two CIRAD experts are in Guatemala, one in Nicaragua and two in Costa Rica," said Laboucheix. The Cooperative Program for the Modernization and Protection of Coffee Cultivation in Mexico, Central

America, Panama and the Dominican Republic (PROMECAFE) works intensely to develop new technologies for increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of coffee production in member countries.

Soon, PROMECAFE will receive additional support from the French Office of Overseas Scientific and Technical Research (ORSTOM).

Laboucheix also mentioned CIRAD's participation in PROCITROPICOS (see separate article), a program of great interest to that organization, evidenced by the fact that CIRAD recently assigned a French scientist to collaborate with the Program. Laboucheix concluded by saying that IICA and CIRAD are already cooperating in many fields, which illustrates their mutual interest in maintaining and nurturing this relationship.



Photo/R. Escobar

Jean Laboucheix, Head of CIRAD's Regional Office

Sustainable Development for the South American Tropics

France has joined an initiative undertaken by a group of countries from South America and the Caribbean and IICA to promote sustainable agricultural development in the humid tropics.

The countries participating in the Cooperative Program on Research and Technology Transfer for the South American Tropics (PROCITROPICOS) are Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela.

With the collaboration of France and other countries, these eight countries -which have different degrees of technological, physical infrastructure and human resource capabilities- hope to multiply results through joint efforts.

The official representative of the Center for International Cooperation in Agricultural Research for Development (CIRAD), Jean Laboucheix, stated that the PROCITROPICOS program had generated interest in France well before it was launched in August 1991, adding that the project profile had been submitted to the consideration of CIRAD by IICA's Director General, Martin E. Pifeiro, during a visit to CIRAD's headquarters in Paris three years ago.

PROCITROPICOS operates under IICA's Program II, Technology Generation and Transfer.

Currently, René Billaz, a renowned CIRAD researcher, serves as the scientific advisor to PROCITROPICOS, providing support to the Executive Secretariat headquartered in Brazil.

THE PROGRAM

The aim of PROCITROPICOS is to promote and contribute to developing sustainable agriculture in the South American humid tropics and the surrounding ecosystems (savannahs and foothills) by making judicious use of renewable natural resources and, at the same time, by providing a real alternative for economic reactivation, based on the productivity of the biophysical environment.

Participating countries have assigned priority to four subprograms: integrated soil management, sustainable production

systems, management and conservation of genetic resources, and agricultural and tropical forestry informatics.

TROPICS

The subregions to benefit from this Program represent a large portion of this hemisphere. They offer great agricultural and forestry potential, as well as a wealth and

diversity of flora and fauna, climate, water and soils. The problem is that these resources are not properly used or managed.

The three ecosystems together cover some 1 billion hectares, with the humid tropics of the Amazon being the largest (73.5%). Overexploitation and resource mining are predominant there.

Between 1968 and 1985, total forest area fell from 1 billion to 970 million hectares.

It is estimated that the full, intensive and judicious use of these subregions could produce 200 million tons of grain, 8 million tons of meat and 600 million cubic meters of wood over a fifty year period, which would represent several times current production levels.



Photo: João de Paula, Brasil

René Billaz, a French expert, serves as scientific advisor to PROCITROPICOS, an initiative fostering sustainable development in the humid tropics.

IICA to Support Reconstruction in El Salvador

On February 13-14, IICA's Director General, Martin E. Piñero, visited El Salvador to offer the Institute's support in that country's reconstruction efforts. During his stay, he met with the President, Alfredo Cristiani; the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Jose Manuel Pacas; and the Minister of Agriculture and Livestock, Antonio Cabrales.

Piñero presented government authorities with concrete proposals for collaboration on efforts to reactivate and develop agriculture in areas covered by the National Reconstruction Plan, which was prepared by the Ministry of Planning.



The Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of El Salvador, Antonio Cabrales, addressing the mandate of the agreement signed by IICA and the Central American Commission on Environment and Development, which he chairs.

One of the Institute's proposals is to provide technical training for personnel in nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) working with communities covered by the Plan. The objective is to strengthen such organizations and equip them to organize agricultural assistance services.

The Government of El Salvador considers the participation of NGOs to be vital in new development efforts, inasmuch as they complement the state's action. Some 180 NGOs operate in El Salvador, of

which 24 deal with the agricultural sector.

Protected Areas and Agriculture

In a speech presented to the Fourth World Congress of Parks and Protected Areas, held in Caracas, Venezuela, which concluded on February 21, the Director General of IICA stated that the future of protected areas depends on the existence of an efficient and competitive agricultural sector.

Martin E. Piñero presented a paper on agricultural modernization and natural resource conservation. The meeting, which brought together hundreds of experts from around the world, was organized by several Venezuelan and international agencies, including the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources -World Conservation Union- (IUCN).

Piñero stated that the expansion and successful maintenance of protected areas will be closely linked to the development of an efficient, productive and technologically advanced agricultural sector that can provide the sustenance required to permit society to think about the future.

During his address to the Committee of Representatives of the Latin American Integration Association (ALADI), held in Montevideo, Uruguay last February, IICA's Director General, Martin E. Piñero, stated that Latin America is the only region in the developing world that has made progress in terms of integration.

According to Piñero, the challenge now lies in finding a way to tap the enormous wealth these different in-

Latin America:

Integration Advances Cited

tegration efforts represent in the region. He called attention to the importance of making ordinary citizens aware of what the economic and social impact of integration will mean to them.

During his speech, the Director General referred to the negotiations cur-

rently under way in the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), stating that the negotiations may end with concessions by the industrialized countries, but which would be far less than needed in the region.

Director General of IICA Meets with the President of Paraguay

The President of Paraguay, General Andres Rodriguez, and IICA's Director General, Martin E. Piñeiro, met in Asuncion in March, during which they discussed the role of agriculture in new development strategies, changes taking place on the international scene and renewed efforts toward integration in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The meeting was held at the Government Palace, at which time Rodriguez and Piñeiro also discussed IICA's technical assistance to Paraguay through national projects dealing with agricultural exports, the development of agricultural trade, and agroindustrial and rural development.

During the two-day official visit, Piñeiro also met with ambassadors, senators, government authorities, farmers, representatives of international agencies and representatives from the ministries of integration, treasury, industry, trade and agriculture. They exchanged views on the need to bring cooperation into line with agricultural and rural policies and priorities.

IICA supports the ministry of agriculture's actions on rural development, agricultural economics, foreign trade, integration and animal and plant



The President of Paraguay, General Andres Rodriguez, and IICA's Director General, Martin E. Piñeiro discuss IICA cooperation. With them (center) is Luiz Carlos Pannunzio, the IICA Representative in Paraguay.

health. In this regard, during 1991, the Institute carried out exchanges and training activities within the scope of the Cooperative Program for the Development of Agricultural Technology in the Southern Cone (PROCISUR).

The government of Paraguay continues to consolidate its development efforts based on a market economy. This involves making internal structural adjustments and establishing laws to encourage investments and exports,

with a view to opening up the economy to world trade.

During his visit, Piñeiro presented the minister of agriculture, Raul Torres Segovia, with a report presenting a strategy for developing the small-farm sector, which was prepared by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) in collaboration with IICA. The report is one of a series of inter-institutional studies on strategies to mitigate rural poverty in the hemisphere.

Sustainable Development Pursued in the Dominican Republic

IICA will undertake efforts in the Dominican Republic to promote development of a type of agriculture that protects the natural resource base and the environment, through a project that will initially target valleys, hillsides and mountainous areas in the southern part of the country.

The initiative, drawn up by IICA and funded by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), is called the Sustainable Agricultural Development Project (PRODAS). An important component is that it will work to upgrade small farmer organizations.

More specifically, it will promote forestry and agro-forestry development, as well as vegetable, fruit and basic grain production in the watershed basin of the southern province of San Juan de Maguana. Project funding totals US\$500,000, and project results are expected to serve as the basis for similar initiatives in five other agricultural regions of the country.

IICA's Director General, Martin E. Piñeiro, was informed of the status of the project during a visit to Santo Domingo, where he met with Dominican President Joaquin Balaguer, and the Minister of Agriculture, Nicolas Concepcion, to discuss the technical cooperation provided by the Institute.

The ministers of agriculture of the Central American isthmus, Mexico and the Dominican Republic will meet this May in Mexico City to define mechanisms for streamlining intraregional agricultural trade with the United States and Canada.

This order of business was set by the ministers who met at IICA Headquarters from March 12-13 as the Executive Committee of the Regional Council for Agricultural Cooperation in Central America, Mexico, Panama and the Dominican Republic (CORECA).

The upcoming ministerial meeting, scheduled for March 26-28, will be convened jointly by CORECA and the International Regional Organization for Agricultural Health (OIRSA).

Central America, Mexico and the Dominican Republic: Agricultural Trade to be Streamlined

Another topic to be discussed at the Mexico meeting is the reduction of sanitary controls. A balance is being sought that prevents them from becoming barriers to the trade of goods and services, while at the same time providing protection against pests of quarantine importance.

The vice ministers agreed that subregional integration will be strengthened as a result of the resolutions adopted and the outcome of the upcoming meeting. The Vice Minister of Agriculture of Costa Rica, Jose Joaquin Acuña, stated that the talks were very

positive and that they gave continuity to the efforts of the countries to harmonize their policies and open up trade at the intra-regional level.

These efforts include creation of an agricultural commodity exchange in each country, harmonization of plant and animal health regulations, and a price band mechanism for four staple grains (corn, rice, beans and sorghum), as part of the region-wide process to liberalize trade, which will begin this July.

Agricultural Commodity Exchange Initiates Activities

The Agricultural Commodity Exchange of Costa Rica (BOLPRO) initiated its activities with a series of simulations on the following products: coffee for domestic consumption, yel-

low corn and potatoes. The trials were held at IICA Headquarters between February 15-29.

This innovative marketing system, which will establish and regulate the prices of agricultural commodities, will benefit farmers, industrialists and dealers by reorganizing the market and providing vital information for all participants.

BOLPRO receives funding from the National Stock Exchange, and collaboration from the IICA Office in Costa Rica as well as public and private agencies. Once operating within the context of an open market, BOLPRO will serve as a mechanism for transacting agricultural commodities, on the basis of quantity, quality and origin of the products.

IICA specialists explained that the system will allow buyers and sellers to negotiate their products through brokers at the different exchange pits located at the National Food Supply Center (CENADA), where BOLPRO will operate.

Other commodities will be included in the Exchange in the future. Some of these are: onions, rice, beans, white corn, molasses, sorghum, cut flowers, lumber and meat. Consideration is also being given to establishing a similar network for Latin America, in support of free trade in the region.



Photo/R. Escobar

IICA hosted simulations of the Agricultural Commodity Exchange of Costa Rica. This experience will be repeated in other countries.

CONASUR to Train Human Resources

One of the major tasks to be undertaken by Advisory Council for Agricultural Cooperation in the Countries of the Southern Area (CONASUR) will be the training of human resources in both the public and private sectors.

This statement was made by Victor E. Machinea, Secretary for Coordination of CONASUR, in the first issue of the bulletin CONASUR Informa, published by the IICA Office in Brazil. He added that several initiatives will be launched to boost the participation of the private sector in orienting agriculture, within the context of efforts to bring about effective subregional integration.

Other activities planned include the compilation of regulations governing the trade of livestock, embryos, semen and fertilized ovules, and the definition of a common sanitary strategy for agricultural commodities on markets outside the region.

With regard to trade, efforts will focus on defining common criteria for programs to promote nontraditional exports, such as fruits and vegetables. Also, a work group was set up to study integration problems in MERCOSUR.



IICA to Participate in International Fair

IICA will participate in the International Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Food Fair (FIAGA '92), to be held in May at the ATLAPA Convention Center in Panama.

The event will be inaugurated by L. Harlan Davis, IICA's Deputy Director General, on May 20, and will run through May 24. It is being organized by the Rural Youth Association and the World Trade Center of Panama, co-sponsored by the Ministry of Agricultural Development.

During the technical sessions of the fair, IICA specialists will speak on biotechnology, tariff restrictions and other barriers to agricultural exports, as well as economic liberalization worldwide and its effect on the agri-food sector.

Agricultural Trade Promoted

The most recent letter of understanding signed by the Permanent Secretariat of the General Treaty on Central American Economic Integration (SIECA) and IICA calls for joint efforts between the two organizations to foster trade increases from Central America to the United States and Europe. SIECA's Secretary General, Marco A. Villamar (center), signed the document on that organization's behalf.



IICA, 1991 Annual Report



IICA Editorial Services

The 1991 Annual Report describes the intense activity carried out by IICA within a regional and international context characterized by profound socioeconomic and political changes.

The highlight of 1991 were the Tenth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA) and the Sixth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), held concurrently in Madrid, Spain from September 23-27; it was the first time these meetings had ever been held outside the Americas.

In the introduction, IICA's Director General, Martin E. Piñeiro, draws attention to the consensus achieved among the ministers and heads of delegations to promote agricultural modernization that reaches small farmers, strengthens

intersectoral relations and contributes to conserving natural resources for future generations.

Chapter 1 is divided into two sections. The first describes the origin, background, structure and goals of IICA. The second provides general information on the Institute's human resources and financial standing.

Chapter 2 describes the strategic guidelines and progress of the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Re-activation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC) at both the hemispheric and sub-regional levels; the orientation, activities and achievements of IICA's five Programs, as concerns the guidelines established in that Plan; and the principal actions of the Center for Programs and Investment Projects (CEPPI), as well as of the Inter-American Agricultural Documentation and Information Center (CIDIA).

Chapter 3 offers a brief analysis of IICA's action in its member countries, and lists the national, multinational and hemispheric technical cooperation projects carried out in each of the countries during 1991.

Chapter 4 discusses IICA's strategy for securing funding and the cooperation agreements it has signed to obtain extra-quota resources for executing priority programs and projects identified by the countries.

Chapter 5 summarizes the principal agreements and resolutions of the Tenth ICMA and the Sixth IABA, which will shape the plans of the Institute in the future.

Hacia una Estrategia de Desarrollo Campesino en el Paraguay



Ruy de Villalobos and
Gary Howe
IICA/IICA Series No. 2
IICA Editorial Service

The book is based on a study conducted by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and published by IICA. It was written by specialists Ruy de Villalobos and Gary Howe and is part of the series of inter-institutional publications which aim to define "strategies to mitigate rural poverty in Latin America and the Caribbean."

The book concludes that, in Paraguay, possibilities are exceptionally good for promoting a strong small- and medium-scale farmer sector with the technological and

production tools necessary to increase profits and further development.

It also indicates that in Paraguay, unlike other countries of the hemisphere, there is a surplus of land and natural resources, as well as a strong tradition of small-scale farming. There is a dynamic of change taking place in the rural area and an efficient strata of small-scale farmers is developing in several regions.

The IFAD special mission report also indicates that the success of any economic and social development strategy depends heavily on the agricultural policy adopted.

According to IFAD President Idriss Jazairy, in order to take advantage of these conditions certain changes will be required in the orientation of the institutional system, especially as concerns the organization of credit and marketing. He added that if these changes are made, they will have a decisive influence on the performance of the small-farm economy in Paraguay.

These publications can be obtained at IICA Headquarters or in IICA's Offices in the Member Countries

IICA in the News

El Salvador, Uruguay, Venezuela and Paraguay

Director del IICA vendrá al país para evaluar asistencia



The local press gave wide coverage to the recent visits of the Director General of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), Martin E. Piñero, to El Salvador, Uruguay, Venezuela and Paraguay.

In El Salvador, Piñero offered IICA's support to efforts to reconstruct the country. In Uruguay he spoke before the committee of ALADI representatives, where he highlighted progress made in regional integration. In a speech to the Fourth World Congress of Parks and Protected Areas, held in Caracas, Venezuela, the Director General spoke in defense of sustainable agriculture. During a meeting with the president

of Paraguay, General Andres Rodriguez, Piñero discussed agriculture and integration in Latin America, among other topics. (*La Prensa Gráfica*, El Salvador; *La Mañana*, La República, El País, Uruguay; *ABC*, *Ultima Hora* and *Hoy* Paraguay).

Costa Rica, Panama and Jamaica

Países bananeros C.A. y Caribe se reúnen en IICA

The First Meeting of Banana-Producing Countries of Central America and the Caribbean, which met at IICA Headquarters in March, was given wide coverage by the press of both subregions. During the meeting, the ministers of agriculture or their representatives agreed to continue conversations with a view to overcoming their differences on banana trade with the European Community (EC), once the Single European Market goes into effect in 1993. (IPS, AFP, ACAN/EFE, DPA,

NOTIMEX, AP, *La Nación*, *La República*, *La Prensa Libre*, *Revista Panorama* Costa Rica; *La Prensa*, Panama; *The Daily Gleaner* Jamaica, and others).

Central America

Destinarán US\$ 230,000 a las mujeres rurales

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) provided funding for IICA to draw up a program to support women food producers in Central America and Panama. Articles on the matter appeared in newspapers in Paraguay, Uruguay, El Salvador and Costa Rica.

The initiative, which includes preparation of country-level assessments of the situation of rural women, was launched in February. The news was covered in the daily newspapers *La*

Nación, of Costa Rica; *La República* of Uruguay; *La Prensa Gráfica* of El Salvador; and *Patria* of Paraguay.

Honduras, El Salvador, Panama

Pondrán en funcionamiento oficina de cooperación de las primeras damas

Over the past few weeks, newspapers in Central America reported on the opening of the Office for Cooperation and Support for the Regional Commission on Social Affairs of First Ladies, established through an agreement between IICA and the First Ladies of the Central American countries. The Office will implement social programs with advisory support of a technical committee. (*La Estrella de Panamá*, Panama; *La Prensa Gráfica*, El Salvador; *El Herald* Honduras).

Upcoming Activities

* Fourth Meeting of the Advisory Council for Agricultural Cooperation in the Countries of the Southern Area (CONASUR), May 26-29, 1992. Asuncion, Paraguay.

* Twelfth Regular Meeting of CORECAMinisters, May 26-28, 1992. Mexico, D.F.

* Twelfth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee of IICA, June 22-25, 1992. IICA Headquarters.

May - June 1992, Year IX, No. 49



The ministers of agriculture of Southern Cone countries met from May 28-29, in Asuncion, Paraguay, where they took concrete steps to harmonize and integrate their sectoral policies. Participants in the inaugural session include (from left to right) Alvaro Ramos, Uruguay; Antonio Cabrera, Brazil; Raul Torres, Paraguay; Maximiliano Cox, Undersecretary of Agriculture of Chile; and the Representative of the Secretary of Agriculture of Argentina, Hector Figoni. They are accompanied (far left) by the Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñero.

■ IICA at the Earth Summit

■ Inter-American System Promotes Development at EXPO'92.

50
1942-1992
anniversary

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The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) is headquartered in San José, Costa Rica. It is the specialized agency for agriculture of the inter-American system. It was founded by the governments of the hemisphere in 1942 to encourage, promote and support the efforts made by its Member States for agricultural development and rural well-being. It has 32 member countries and 14 permanent observers.

IICA at the Earth Summit



Photo/ Maria Machado, Brazil

At UNCED, IICA stated that environmental deterioration and pollution are the result of a rigid and inequitable economic model.

In an address delivered at the Earth Summit, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, between June 3-14, the Director General of IICA stated that "the challenge of sustainable development must be seen as a challenge to defeat poverty."

Martin E. Piñeiro's message was delivered to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) by the Director of IICA's Technology Generation and Transfer Program, Eduardo Trigo. Piñeiro attended the meeting from June 11 to 14.

In Piñeiro's judgement, the decision to attach priority to defeating poverty should not lead to the false conclusion that the poor are the only ones responsible for resource deterioration, "nor must it be interpreted that the behavior of other sectors of society is condoned."

"On the other side of the development equation," he said, "we have excessive consumption, energy waste and unsustainable lifestyles, which the distortions of the capitalist model and rampant consumerism give rise to in rich countries and in the more privileged sectors of developing countries."

The Director General's reference to such excesses came shortly after his statement that environmental deterioration and pollution are the product of the rigid, inequitable economic model still prevailing in the world today.

In another part of the address, he indicated that it is time for international cooperation to change. "Our multilateral agencies are, in many cases, part and parcel of systems that we now recognize as no longer valid because of circumstances, and which must be rethought in light of this new, interdependent world with mutual interests and common needs."

He also informed the delegates from 170 countries of the key position agriculture holds for the environment and development in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC).

The abundance and diversity of natural resources in LAC gives agriculture a clear comparative advantage; thus, agriculture must hold a privileged position in whatever economic reactivation strategy is chosen.

He also warned that problems associated with agricultural development and natural resource conservation must not be considered strictly of a regional nature. "Rather," he said, "they should be seen as part of the broader worldwide concern for the preservation of our human habitat. This is also why conservation and, if possible, recovery of some resources already on the verge of extinction should be viewed as a global responsibility."

Further on, he referred to the conceptual framework of the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean, which is promoted by IICA. He emphasized the multidisciplinary nature of the initiatives carried out under this strategy as well as its multilateral approach, "which sums up our view of what the new role of international cooperation should be in contributing to bringing about sustainable development."

With support from the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ), IICA has advanced considerably in developing a conceptual framework for sustainable agriculture: At the same time, it has been promoting multinational projects in a number of fragile ecosystems of Latin America.

One of these is the Cooperative Program for Research and Technology Transfer for the South American Tropics (PROCITROPICOS), which pools the efforts of eight countries (Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela) in their search for sustainable agricultural development in a territory covering about one billion hectares.

Piñero's address to the plenary session of the UNCED underscored the importance of the meeting, especially given the consensus that has been mounting as to the magnitude of the problems at hand and the urgent need to confront them resolutely.

In it he stated, "The fact that (this consensus) has been achieved for such a complex and controversial topic is, without doubt, an encouraging sign, especially in light of the skepticism surrounding the ability of multilateral efforts to achieve concrete results. In some ways, this can be considered a turning point in the current course of events."

Rio de Janeiro was the capital of the planet from June 3 to 14, when representatives of 170 countries, most of them heads of government or of state, participated in the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), also known as the Earth Summit. IICA's message calling for a style of development that is not harmful to natural resources and the environment, thus safeguarding the well-being of this and future generations, was heard at the Conference.

IICA set up a temporary office on the outskirts of Rio to receive visitors from different parts of the world. Visitors to

the office were able to browse through or purchase books and other docu-

IICA's Message at Rio'92

ments published by the Institute's Editorial Service. While in the office, they were able to view the video "Agriculture: Road to the Future," prepared by the Inter-American Information and Documentation Center (CIDIA), and other videos prepared for exhibition at EXPO'92 in Seville, Spain.

Each head of delegation received a copy of the book "Agriculture and the Environment," which contains photographs selected in the 1991 IICA/German Technical Cooperation Agency (GTZ) Photography Contest and was published with support of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

The winning photographs of the contest were reproduced and used to decorate the office.

Among the distinguished guests visiting the office was Oscar Arias Sanchez, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate and former president of Costa Rica.

Inter-American System Promotes Development at Universal Exposition in Seville

Celebrating the "Day of the Americas," the four specialized organizations of the inter-American system launched their participation in the Universal Exposition (EXPO '92), in Seville, Spain. Their joint message promotes democracy, equity and economic and social development.

The guests of honor at the inauguration, held on April 25, were the senior-most authorities of the four agencies: Joao Clemente Baena Soares, of the Organization of American States (OAS); Martin E. Piñeiro, of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA); Enrique Iglesias, of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and Carlyle Guerra de Macedo, of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO). They were welcomed to the Royal Pavilion by the General Commissioner of EXPO '92, Emilio Casisnello, and the Spanish Minister of Public Administration, Manuel Eguiagaray.

In his address, the Director General of IICA underscored the historic opportu-

nity provided by EXPO '92 to show the world the work carried out by these four organizations.

THE CHALLENGES

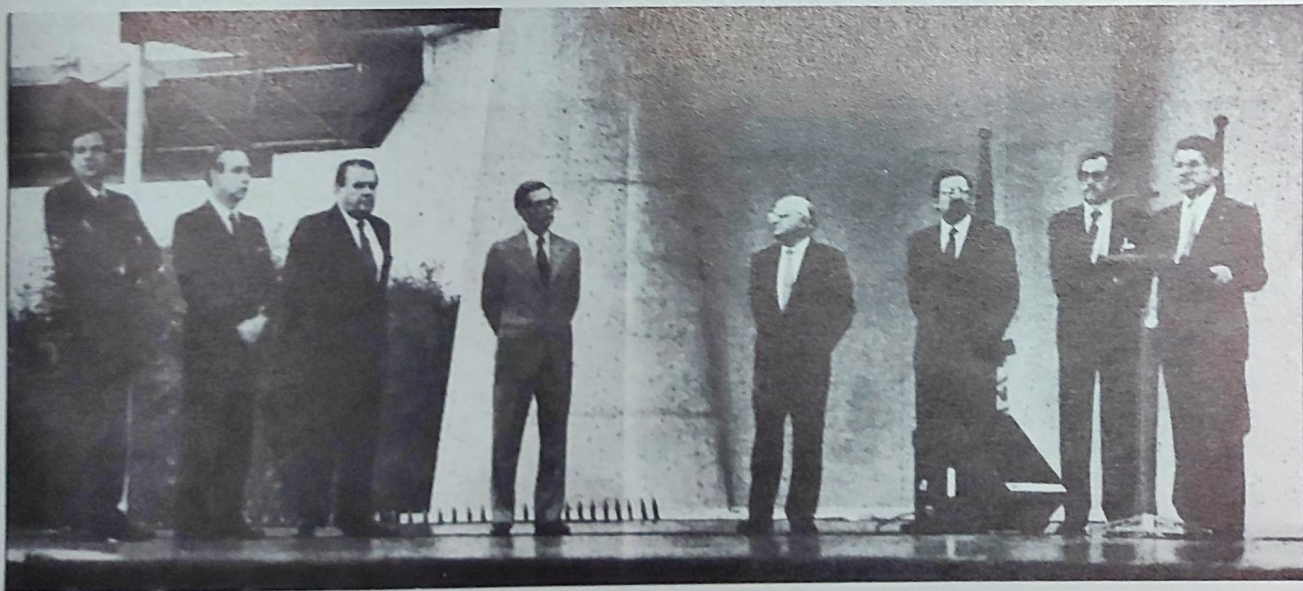
The "Challenge of the Americas" pavilion, with displays referring to native, geographic and cultural aspects of the 32 member countries of the inter-American system, offers daily programs using modern video technology and graphic arts. The pavilion is located in the "Plaza de las Américas," where 16 Latin American countries have their exhibits.

The joint presentation by the agencies of the inter-American system focuses on issues that are common to their efforts to meet the challenges of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean: democracy and development, universal access to medical attention, socioeconomic development and food security.

The OAS exhibit depicts the challenges faced by its Member States in

strengthening the democratic process, protecting human rights and promoting free and democratic elections, responding to the special needs and interests of women, children and indigenous peoples, guaranteeing universal access to quality education, and eradicating the illicit use and trafficking of drugs.

Agricultural modernization, and the challenges faced by the region at the end of this century and the beginning of the next, are the focus of IICA's presentation. In addition to slides, photographs and illustrative panels on Institute activities, four videos can be seen on the following topics: sustainable agricultural modernization; democratic and equitable rural development; environment, technology and research; and food security and the population challenge.



Senior officials of the inter-American system participated in events to celebrate the "Day of the Americas."

Headquarters

OAS General Assembly: Foreign Ministers of the Americas Support IICA

During the Twenty-third General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS), the foreign ministers of the Americas gave their unanimous support to the efforts carried out by IICA to promote agricultural modernization in the region.

Meeting in Nassau, The Bahamas from May 18-23, the ministers of foreign re-

economic growth in Latin America and the Caribbean, thanks to the modernization of production undertaken as part of structural adjustment in the economies.

In referring to the outcome of the Tenth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA), held last year in Madrid, Spain, the Director

regional and United Nations agencies, and with the governments and institutions of observer countries.

The Costa Rican Minister of Foreign Affairs, Bernd Niehaus, stated in his speech that IICA could play a key role in activities to promote environmental protection throughout the Americas. IICA, he said, has fulfilled its objectives for half a century, and its area of competence can be expanded to include environmental conservation.

In his opinion, the inter-American system must take on its share of responsibility in relation to environmental conservation because "... it is becoming impossible to breathe the air in our capitals, our rivers are polluted and are drying up, our forests are being leveled and our flora and fauna are dying off."

In addition to IICA's potential contributions, the Minister of Foreign Relations of Costa Rica proposed that an inter-American environmental conservation force be set up to deal with environmental catastrophes. The team's work would be coordinated by an agency of the OAS.

IICA considers natural resource conservation as one of the key components of agricultural modernization. Since 1990, it has been explicitly incorporating work on this topic into the technical cooperation activities it carries out in its 32 member countries.



Photo: Mauro Paes, Brazil

Costa Rica's Minister of Foreign Affairs has proposed the creation of an inter-American environmental conservation force.

lations and ambassadors from 34 countries of the hemisphere also approved unanimously the report submitted by IICA's Director General, Martín E. Piñeiro, which was presented originally to the Permanent Council of the OAS in April.

In his address, which was well-received by the delegations, Piñeiro underscored the key role played by the agricultural sector in bringing about

General spoke optimistically about the future of the region and indicated that basic problems such as adjustment and the rescheduling of debt were being overcome.

For their part, the ministers stated that IICA, in its 50 years of institutional life, has taken effective steps to strengthen cooperation with the institutions, bodies and specialized agencies of the inter-American system, with other sub-

At the inaugural session of the second consultative meeting of European non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working in Latin America, the Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñeiro, stated that the greater relative importance of agriculture in most developing countries is what differentiates them from developed countries in terms of their approach to natural resource conservation and environmental protection.

Also attending the meeting in Paris were the President of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Enrique Iglesias and the President of the Development Centre of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Louis Emmerij.

IICA's Director General indicated that the close relationship between the people of Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) and agriculture makes the judicious use of natural resources a key item on the region's agenda for the future. Agriculture, he noted, is the basis of survival of a huge number of low-income families who exploit, and in some cases are obliged to overexploit, marginal lands. Thirty percent of the population of Latin America and the Caribbean live in rural areas, 60% in absolute poverty.

According to Piñeiro, in an interdependent world, the challenges of develop-

Relative Importance of Agriculture Conditions Approach to Environmental Protection



Photo/Adriana Mosquera, Bolivia

ment are shared by all and responsibility for same must also be shared. The concept of a "global village," he stated, means much more than just physical proximity. It means sharing benefits and costs and also sharing responsibilities, including financial.

In this regard, Piñeiro indicated that the necessary reduction of trade barriers will have a positive impact on natural resources throughout the world. The cost of the protectionist policies of the developed countries is almost twice the

US\$125 billion dollars needed to set up an environmental fund, he affirmed.

While in Paris, Piñeiro met with the president of the Center for International Cooperation in Agricultural Research for Development (CIRAD), Henri Carsalade, to discuss the scope of inter-institutional cooperation and the development of new joint activities to benefit the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Research is the Key to Agricultural Competitiveness

During a recent visit to IICA Headquarters, Hubert Manichon, Scientific Director of the Center for International Cooperation in Agricultural Research for Development (CIRAD), stated that high-quality research and the use of appropriate technology are required in order to produce efficiently and competitively

while at the same time protecting natural resources and the environment.

He added that Latin America and the Caribbean can use slightly different approaches to modernize their agricultural sectors and achieve a level of competitiveness that will enable them to compete on international markets. To accomplish this, he explained, it will be necessary to ensure that research reflects a better understanding of the needs of farmers and their physical surroundings.

Specifically, he recommended conducting further studies on cropping systems, promoting diversified agriculture and proposing alternatives to single crop farming, which usually gives rise to "a certain degree of fragility" in agricultural ecosystems.

According to Manichon, this will help to identify problems and to design corrective policies, and will contribute to eliminating practices that are harmful to the environment, such as the excessive use of agrochemicals.

Cooperation with Permanent Observers

The historical and cultural ties that link Spain and the Americas are the reason for Spain's growing cooperation with the region in recent years.

Spanish authorities have given agriculture and rural development top pri-

Spain's support and multiplying its impact. The Institute, he added, is the main channel for agricultural support in the region; it has Offices in all the countries, broad experience in the field and a better understanding of current needs.

Spain and the Americas: Working Together for Agricultural and Rural Development

ority, and they wish to contribute to regional efforts to modernize agriculture.

According to Jose Alvarez, Counsellor of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAPA) of Spain for Central America, IICA has played a very important part in multiplying the effects of Spanish support in the agricultural sector.

Spain and IICA signed a general cooperation agreement in 1977 which paved the way for later cooperation. Since then, assistance has been channelled through MAPA, the Ibero-American Cooperation Institute (ICI) and the Spanish International Cooperation Agency (AECI).

Also, closer relations were developed between Spain and the American hemisphere with the creation of an Agricultural Office for Central America.

Agricultural and economic research, documentation, extension services and training for farmers, education and specialization for technical personnel, agrarian reform and development, marketing, rural development and agroindustry are some of the areas in which Spain will promote agricultural development in Latin America.

According to Alvarez, IICA's participation has been the key to formalizing

In the judgement of the Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñeiro, this Spanish cooperation has reaffirmed the important economic, cultural and commercial ties between the two continents, and at the same time, has highlighted Spain's role as a bridge between the Americas and Europe.

BROAD COOPERATION

Initially, Spain's support for agriculture through IICA took the form of irrigation projects and support for construction in rural areas in certain countries of the Americas. With time, however, Spain's support has broadened.

For example, emphasis has been placed on human resource training. Every year almost 300 professionals from Latin America attend courses in Spain to study new technologies and gain new know-how in connection with the agri-food sector, irrigation, agricultural research, natural resource management and food planning. Directors and specialists from IICA's Programs have also lectured at these events.

Also, Spanish experts have collaborated directly with IICA projects in the countries. Several joint seminars and workshops were the product of IICA-MAPA cooperation: "European Common Agricultural Policy and Cooperation for Development" (IICA Head-

quarters, 1988), "International Course on Seed Technology" (IICA Headquarters, 1989), and "Hispano-American Meetings on Agriculture and Rural Development in Latin America and the Caribbean" (Spain and Costa Rica, 1990-1991).

This last event provided officials and experts with a forum to discuss agricultural policies and problems from both the European and Latin American points of view, and served as preparation for discussion of these topics during the Tenth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (IICA).

Other joint activities included: "International Seminar on the Incorporation of Youth into Agriculture" (IICA Headquarters, 1990), "Seminar on the Management of Statistical Information" (IICA Headquarters, 1990) and "Seminar on the Management of Agricultural Documentation and Information in Spanish-speaking Countries" (IICA Headquarters, 1991).

Spain also collaborated in drawing up the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC). Spain's interest in promoting a modern, competitive



Photo R. Escobar

Jose Alvarez, Counsellor of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food of Spain for Central America.

agricultural sector was expressed in the document "Demand and Marketing Channels for new Latin American Products in the European Market."

Alvarez added that Spain's participation in formulating the PLANLAC led to our supporting Latin American integration.

IICA and Spain have also worked together on cultural matters. In 1991, the Commission of the Fifth Centennial of the Discovery of America and IICA organized a hemisphere-wide art contest on the subject of rural life. Some 650 entries were received from 21 countries.

A NEW AGRICULTURE

At the generous invitation of the Spanish government, Madrid was the site in September 1991 of the Tenth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA) and the Sixth Regular Meeting of Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) - IICA's highest governing body.

During these meetings, which brought together the ministers of agriculture of the Americas, European authorities and representatives from the European Community (EC) as well as of international agencies, emphasis was placed on promoting a modern and competitive agricultural sector capable of putting Latin America and the Caribbean on a new path to development in the context of profound changes taking place worldwide.

The definition of this new, expanded agriculture includes strengthened intersectoral relations to link agriculture to the rest of the economy, involvement of poor small farmers in the production continuum, and promotion of natural resource conservation and sustainable development as a means of safeguarding the well-being of future generations.

This was the first time the ICMA ever met outside the Americas, and the decision to hold the meeting in Madrid



The Tenth ICMA, held in Madrid in 1991, highlighted the important role Spain plays in the region.

was in recognition of Spain's contributions in the region. Also, it was seen as a prelude to the celebrations to be held in 1992 to commemorate the fifth centennial of the discovery of America, "The Meeting of Two Worlds."

Also as part of the Tenth ICMA, and at Spain's initiative, the ministers of agriculture of the Americas met with their European counterparts and officials from the EC for a "frank and open" round table discussion of political and trade issues of interest to the agri-food sectors in both parts of the world.

In summarizing his view of the agricultural summit in Madrid, Alvarez said that it gave an added boost to cooperative relations between Europe and Spain and the Americas, and also provided an opportunity for fruitful dialog between the two regions.

FUTURE ACTIONS

Latin America attaches great importance to consolidating its agri-food sector. Through IICA, the Spanish government provides considerable support to that sector. Also, it is one of the sectors that will benefit from new cooperation and friendship treaties signed by Spain and several countries of the region, including Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Mexico and Venezuela.

Specifically on the topic of agri-food systems, Spain recently sponsored three subregional training seminars for technical personnel from Central America and the Andean and Southern Areas. The seminars dealt with the generation of statistical information and indicators and were held in Costa Rica, Ecuador and Uruguay, in the framework of the joint cooperation agreement signed in 1990 by IICA and the AECI.

Furthermore, and as part of the celebrations associated with the Fifth Centennial of the Discovery of America, IICA is participating in the Universal Exposition (EXPO '92) in Seville, where it has a display together with the other three key institutions of the inter-American system (Organization of American States (OAS), Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and Pan American Health Organization (PAHO).

Further evidence of the scope of Spain's cooperation in support of agriculture in the region is the recent approval of the Fifth Centennial Plan.

Under this initiative, financial aid to the region has been increased, through increased funding of the ICI, cooperation treaties and the IDB/Fifth Centennial Fund. The agri-food and fisheries sectors will be the focus of investments under this plan.

Support for the Agri-food Sector

Spain supports the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean in their efforts to expand agriculture into a veritable agri-food sector, which will set these countries on a new path to development.

The Spanish government provides its support to this new view of agriculture through a specific cooperation agreement signed by IICA, AECL and MAPA in 1990, the purpose of which is to promote the two-year project entitled Policy Information and Analysis for the Agri-food System.

The experience of the MAPA and the Statistical Unit of Madrid's Higher Technical School of Agricultural Engineers will be tapped to train personnel from the region how to generate information on the structure, organization and performance of the agri-food sector.

This new view of agriculture replaces the traditional concept of the sector as a mere supplier of raw materials, as it includes agroindustry and services.

Julio Hernandez, an IICA specialist in agricultural policy analysis and planning and chief of the aforementioned project, stated that information is the key to the decision-making process.

He highlighted the importance of the following indicators: agriculture's share in the gross domestic product (GDP), the contribution of agriculture and agroindustry to the overall economy, the portion of the economically active population involved in agriculture, and the value added generated by agriculture and agri-food industries as a whole.

Hernandez stated that Spain's contribution can be very useful given that country's experience in developing and managing information systems for the agri-food sector which are currently in use in the countries of the European Community.

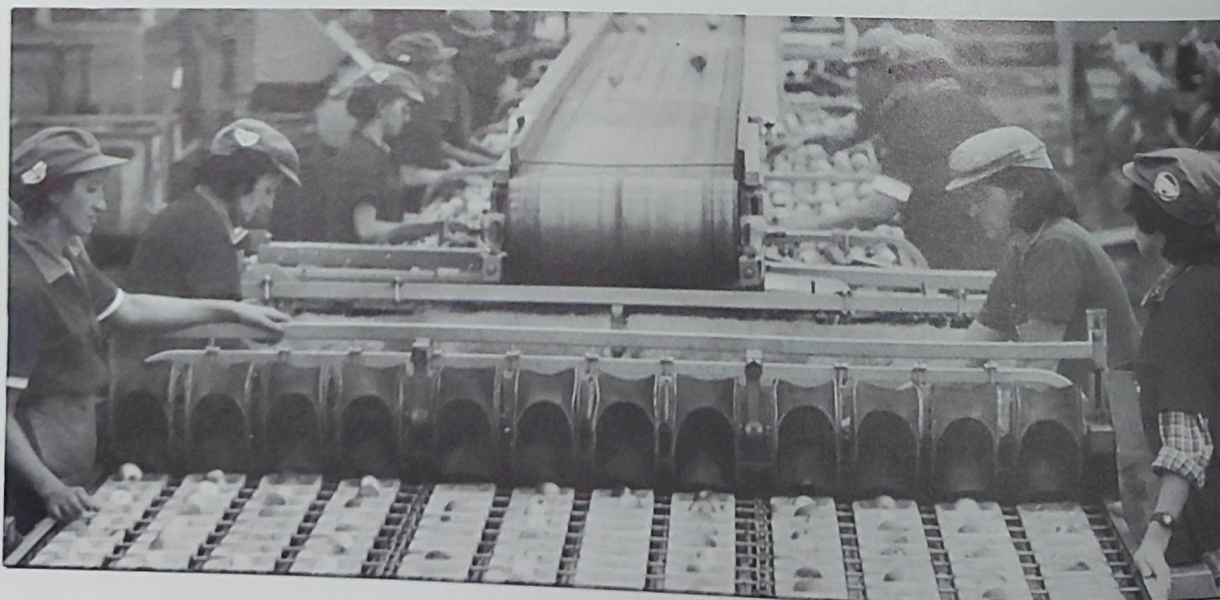
In evaluating the future of cooperation between Spain and IICA, Jose Alvarez, Counsellor of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAPA) of Spain for Central America, noted that as the countries of the region are moving forward to open up their economies, appropriate support for integration would be promotion of a common policy on information.

In his judgement, an information system will help in analyzing and designing policies to promote this new view of agriculture.

Under the project, three regional seminars were held between February and June to further deliberate on the conceptual base of the sector and to study the experience of Spain in this field. As a result of these activities, mechanisms were implemented to gather information that will help the countries study the structure, dimension and evolution of the agri-food sector.

The first seminar, for Central America, was held in Costa Rica. The others took place in Montevideo, Uruguay, for specialists from the countries of the Southern Cone; and Quito, Ecuador, for representatives of the Andean Area countries.

In June, a workshop was held in Madrid to evaluate project results and to propose a long-term cooperation project. In the next stage of the process, to begin in July, work will continue in Central America, "an area which needs support" in training and institutional and statistical organization, said Hernandez.



Spain supports regional efforts to build agriculture into a true agri-food sector.



Official Visit

The Spanish Ambassador to the Organization of American States (OAS), Miguel Angel Carriedo (right), paid an official visit to IICA Headquarters in April. During the visit, he met with Institute officials to discuss the cooperation activities between his country and IICA.

Environmentally-sound Development Proposed

In a recent visit to IICA Headquarters, Francisco Velasquez, Director General of Services at the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAPA) of Spain, stated that strategies to boost agricultural output will be more successful if economic development takes environmental protection and natural resource conservation into account.

He noted that this is a key concern for agricultural development planners. "We have to come up with innovative responses that will enable us to satisfy production and economic development while sustaining natural conditions and protecting ecosystems," he said.

In reviewing IICA-Spain cooperation, Velasquez stated that the Institute's

growth in recent years had provided his country with greater opportunities for cooperation, resulting in increased participation of Spanish missions and specialists in different projects.

Two radio programs on the contribution and traditions of native American agriculture and food adopted by the rest of the world, and vice versa, are being prepared by the IICA, the Radio Nederland Training Centre (RNTC) and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food of Spain (MAPA), to commemorate five centuries of shared history.

The programs are part of a series entitled "Cuando el mundo se completó" (When the World Was Completed). The first was disseminated last year and discusses certain crops and foods that originated in America, such as corn, tomatoes, cocoa, potatoes, cassava, peanuts and peppers, as well as beans, pineapples, strawberries, avocado, sunflowers, medicinal plants, tobacco, rubber, maguay and chinchon bark.

The program was distributed by the Radio Nederland Transcription Services (RN) to 575 Spanish-language media affiliated with the world circuit of the Dutch broadcasting

From America, for the World

system. A first batch of 150 copies was distributed at the Tenth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA), held in Madrid last year. Other copies have been distributed to public and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in Latin America.

In September, the second of the series will be available. It highlights the benefits the New World received from European, Asian and African crops and livestock, including the wealth of genetic biodiversity and the vast variety of their food products. Each chapter lasts 15 minutes.

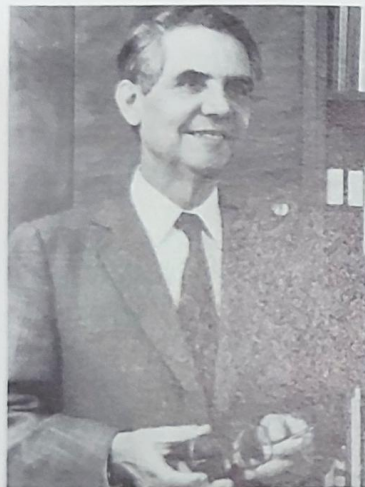
Some of the products discussed in this program are rice, oranges, lemons, apricots, plums, peaches, apples, grapes, mangoes, sugar cane, wheat, garlic, onions, chick peas, lettuce, asparagus, spinach, bananas, plantains, forestry products, horses and cows.

Technical Cooperation, Agricultural Development and Poverty

Martin E. Piñeiro*

International technical cooperation has played a much greater role in the development of the agricultural sector than in any other production sector. Taking into consideration the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) -the largest agency of the United Nations system-, the network of international centers -thirteen throughout the world-, and the existence of a number of regional agencies, such as IICA, one gets an idea of the dimensions of such cooperation.

Its magnitude is largely due to the importance of the agricultural sector in poor countries, to the connection between agriculture and poverty, to the tremendous importance of public sector services and to the State's role as the driving force for change in the agricultural sector.



The enormous changes taking place worldwide are affecting the agenda for international technical cooperation, inasmuch as they have a direct effect on the less-developed countries. Therefore, it has become necessary to re-think the type of cooperation provided by the most important technical cooperation agencies, and to re-define the main themes for such cooperation. The countries have new and different needs. The public agricultural sector has undergone radical change, reflecting the new political and ideological search for a smaller State, as well as the privatization under way in most of our countries. This must necessarily have a major impact on the way we provide technical cooperation.

The decade of the 1980s was a time of crisis which had a profound effect on the agricultural sector. Various studies

show that the number of rural poor in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) has been on the rise since 1970. According to FAO, almost two thirds of the rural LAC population, or 130 million people, live in poverty. This situation, repeated in Africa and Asia, aggravates the grave consequences of uncontrolled urbanization and environmental degradation that have characterized the last two decades.

Since the mid-1980s, our countries have moved quickly from pursuing an import-substitution strategy to striving to open up their economies, promoting the growth of sectors that offer real comparative advantages at the international level.

In this process of liberalization, greater importance and a new role is being given to agriculture, primarily because of the comparative advantages offered by the wealth of our natural resources and the relatively advanced development of scientific and technological institutions for agriculture operating in the region. Given this base, the LAC countries are in a position to generate dynamic surplus-generating centers by modernizing their agriculture.

This new strategic view of agriculture extends the traditional concept of the sector as simply a supplier of raw materials to a broader concept of an expanded sector having strong inter-sectoral linkages. To gain these new parameters for the sector, it will be necessary to accelerate the process of modernization of production and institutions already under way throughout the hemisphere.

Modernization must not bypass small farmers and rural laborers who are condemned to produce at subsistence levels. Modernization must be all-embracing and make room for the most disadvantaged strata of the rural population. To accomplish this, policies must be adopted that envisage rural areas as more than just physical space, but rather as the home of social groups that can play a key role in transforming the sector.

To bring about these changes, it will first be necessary to design and implement policies aimed at decentralizing and strengthening farmers' organizations, which will make it possible for them to channel their proposals and participate

* Director General of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture.

Southern Cone Celebrates IICA's Fiftieth Anniversary



Asunción, capital of Paraguay, was the scene of a special celebration for the Southern Area, in commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of IICA.

One of the special regional celebrations to be held during 1992 in commemoration of IICA's fiftieth anniversary took place recently in Asunción, Paraguay. The activity was attended by the members of the Advisory Council for Agricultural Cooperation in the Countries of the Southern Area (CONASUR).

The ceremony took place in association with the Fourth Regular Meeting of CONASUR, which was attended by Secretary of Agriculture Marcelo Regúnaga of Argentina and Ministers of Agriculture Antonio Cabrera of Brazil, Raul Torres Segovia of Paraguay, Alvaro Ramos of Uruguay, and Undersecretary of Agriculture Maximiliano Cox of Chile.

It was also attended by representatives of farmers' associations of the subregion, diplomats and government authorities. IICA's delegation was headed by the Director General, Martín E. Piñeiro.

As Chairman of CONASUR, the Brazilian minister lauded IICA's support for agricultural integration. In his judgement, the most significant progress in that connection was occurring in the livestock and agriculture subsectors.

"These advances represent the results of not only the express will of the countries, but also of IICA's efforts" stated Cabrera, who later reminded participants that the Institute had supported creation of this ministerial-level forum from the very outset.

For his part, the Minister of Paraguay stated that IICA has kept up with the times and has been very influential in conceptualizing and supporting agricultural modernization in the Americas.

Torres went on to say that through its ongoing process to evaluate its objectives and programs, the Institute had been able to adjust its action to the changing interests and needs of its member countries.

The Director General gave a brief review of the Institute's history, focusing on its cooperation with Paraguay and the other countries of the Southern Cone. He then spoke of the challenges facing agriculture today, stating "Now that the crisis of the lost decade is over and the process of macroeconomic adjustment is under way, our thoughts must turn to growth. In this situation, the key is to be competitive and efficient in terms of output, resource management and trade negotiations.

IICA at FIAGA '92

An exhibition on the activities of the Institute, being presented as part of the International Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Food Fair (FIAGA), was presented in Panama in May, as part of the activities to celebrate IICA's fiftieth anniversary, the theme of which is "Agriculture: Strength and Future of the Americas."

The exhibition at the ATLAPA Convention Center in Panama City displayed publications and photographs and used other media to illustrate the technical cooperation activities carried out by the Institute on behalf of its member countries.

In an area especially set up for the occasion, videos were shown on the topics of sustainable agricultural modernization; democratic and equitable rural development; the environment, technology and research; food security and the population challenge.

FIAGA '92 was organized by the Panamanian Office for Rural Youth, the World Trade Center of Panama, the Ministry of Agricultural Development, the National Association of Cattle Ranchers and IICA. The exhibition was inaugurated by the Director General of IICA, Martín E. Piñero.

In his speech, Piñero called for a modern agriculture that is "not agrochemical-intensive," but rather is judicious in its use of natural resources and environmentally sound. He added that, given worldwide efforts to liberalize trade, producers must become competitive and "incorporate technol-

ogy that pays good production dividends."

The Fair included a series of specialized technical meetings in which IICA officials and specialists analyzed issues relevant to international agricultural trade, ecology, marketing and technological development.

The Director of IICA's Agricultural Policy Analysis and Planning Program, Carlos Pomareda, addressed the issue of economic trade opening and agriculture.

The Director of IICA's Trade and Integration Program, Rodolfo Quiros, spoke on non-tariff trade barriers that affect trade, such as economic, finan-

cial, legislative, ecological and environmental barriers. Two other IICA specialists, Walter Jaffe and Luis Jose Lizarazo spoke on the future of biotechnology and agricultural commodity exchanges, respectively.

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The Vice President of Panama, Guillermo Ford, visited IICA's exhibition at FIAGA'92.

Wide Range of Activities Mark 50th Anniversary Celebration in Ecuador

The most important element of the celebrations will take place in September, when a seminar-workshop will be held on institutional systems for rural development in the context of agriculture's new role in Latin America.

The IICA Office in Ecuador has been celebrating IICA's 50 years of institutional life with courses, workshops, seminars and the signing of a cooperation agreement with the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock.

In March of this year, activities began with the Tenth Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Cooperative Agricultural Research and Technology Transfer Program for the Andean Subregion (PROCIANDINO), held in Guayaquil.

Since that time, the following activities were held in this context: courses on the management of technological innovations, in Quito and Guayaquil; a workshop on the agri-food system, focusing on a definition of the system and indicators of its structure, dimension and evolution; and a seminar to review animal health and plant protection legislation and to adapt and apply same to the Galapagos archipelago.

Scheduled for July are a seminar on administration and management of the Andean Animal Health Laboratory Network, and a workshop on bases, rules and recommendations for national training programs in the rural sector.

Also within the framework of the celebrations, the IICA Office in Ecuador and the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock of that country will sign a cooperation agreement in late July.

Furthermore, on August 17, an announcement will be made of the names of the journalists whose articles will compete in the 1992 IICA Inter-American Press Award.

The most important element of the celebrations will take place in September, when a seminar-workshop will be held on institutional systems for rural development in the context of agriculture's new role in Latin America.

IICA and the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock of Ecuador will sign a cooperation agreement.



Photo: Mauro Calanchina, Ecuador

In Ecuador, activities to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of IICA include courses, workshops and seminars on a variety of topics, including rural development.

Suriname joined the list of countries, organizations, specialized agencies and institutions that have been celebrating this year IICA's fifty years of institutional life.

In a message of congratulations to the Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñeiro, the Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries of Suriname, S. Setroredjo, praised the technical cooperation IICA provides to Latin America and the Caribbean.

He indicated that the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC), execution of which is coordinated by IICA, can help achieve the priority objectives of the national agricultural sector: increase food production, identify incentives to expand and diversify exports, prepare investment projects and eradicate plant protection problems.

IICA has provided support to the agricultural sector of Suriname since it became a member country in 1982. At present, some of the actions receiving

Institute support are: identification of alternatives which will help establish a style of agriculture that makes judicious use of natural resources, devel-

opment of livestock production systems, and eradication of tropical fruit flies.

Suriname Joins IICA Celebrations



Boosting food production is one of the principal objectives of the agricultural sector of Suriname.

A Stamp to Commemorate IICA's Fiftieth Anniversary

The Philatelic Board of Costa Rica has joined in the activities to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of IICA's founding, creating a stamp depicting the poster designed by the Institute to celebrate this event.

The stamp shows the tip of a corn plant and the slogan "Agriculture: Strength and Future of the Americas." According to the historical overview in the bulletin prepared by the Philatelic Board, this slogan sums up the hope of the Americas and reflects its geographic, cultural and agricultural diversity.

Twice before, the Philatelic Board of Costa Rica has created stamps to celebrate special moments in IICA's history: on the occasion of its twenty-fifth and thirtieth anniversaries.



in decision making. In this context, the education and participation of women becomes a key item on the agenda for agricultural development in the countries of LAC, Asia and Africa.

Finally, efforts to modernize agriculture and bring about equitable development must take into account the issue of natural resource conservation, which gives an inter-temporal dimension to the new view of agriculture by considering the needs of coming generations. Here, a sharp conflict arises between the needs of small farmers who are con-

demned to working in fragile ecosystems and the need to conserve our seriously threatened natural resources.

Technical cooperation agencies have an important role to play in helping the countries to come to grips with liberalization, in providing them with support in responding to the problems this entails, in identifying their priorities, and in coordinating these with the mandates and priorities of international funding agencies, which play an important role in economic development.

Action in the Countries

CONASUR Makes Considerable Progress

During a two-day meeting in Asuncion, Paraguay, the ministers of agriculture of the Southern Cone countries approved concrete proposals for moving forward in harmonizing and integrating sectoral policies.

In the meeting of the Advisory Council for Agricultural Cooperation in the Countries of the Southern Area (CONASUR), the ministers adopted several resolutions aimed, among other things, at facilitating the intraregional trade of livestock products and the marketing of veterinary products, and establishing regulations for the trade of dairy products.

They also announced that beginning in January 1993, phytosanitary control will be standardized in certain cities or points on the Argentinian, Brazilian, Paraguayan and Uruguayan borders.

They also agreed to facilitate the trade of dairy products, through the use of

harmonized technical norms. In the near future, the countries will have norms governing meat products and fish derivatives, as well as fruits and vegetables, similar to the Common Nomenclature on Quality adopted for use in connection with dairy products.

Participating in the meeting were Secretary of Agriculture Marcelo Regúnaga, of Argentina; Ministers Antonio Cabrera, of Brazil; Raul Torres Segovia, of Paraguay; Alvaro Ramos, of Uruguay; Undersecretary of Agriculture Maximiliano Cox, of Chile; Martin E. Piñeiro, Director General of IICA, and representatives of farmers' organizations.

TRADE

In the context of trade liberalization in the region, Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay approved a zoosanitary agreement governing the exchange of live animals, embryos, semen and

ovules. The text of the agreement may be amended in the next 90 days, however, based on suggestions made by farmers' organizations.

Participation by the private sector in CONASUR's deliberations is characteristic of the type of integration taking place in agriculture.

In their joint declaration, the participating ministers and business representatives called again upon the European Community (EC) and the United States of America to adopt a constructive approach in the Uruguay Round of GATT, regretting that the lengthy negotiations have failed to produce an accord for agriculture. They also criticized unfair trading practices in agricultural and agroindustrial products, and set a line of action for establishing norms and mechanisms of protection.

Antonio Cabrerías, Minister of Agriculture of Brazil and Chairman of the Council, confirmed that significant progress was being made by CONASUR because of the political



The Secretary of CONASUR, Eduardo Machinea (left), the host Minister, Raul Torres (center), and the IICA Representative in Paraguay, Luiz C. Pannunzio, during one of the work sessions.

determination of its member countries. During the inaugural address, he stated emphatically "Down with bureaucracy, up with work."

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CORECA Ministers Meet in Mexico

The ministers of agriculture of the Central American isthmus, Mexico and the Dominican Republic, meeting in Mexico City from May 27-29, approved a series of resolutions aimed at promoting free trade, competitiveness, cooperation and regional integration.

Attending the meeting were Ministers of Agriculture Carlos Hank Gonzalez, of Mexico; Adolfo Boppel Carrera, of Guatemala; Mario Nufio Gamero, of Honduras; Antonio Cabrales, of El Salvador; Roberto Rondon Sacasa, of Nicaragua; Juan Rafael Lizano, of Costa Rica; Nicolas Concepcion Garcia, of the Dominican Republic, and Pablo Moreno, National Director for Agricultural Health of the Ministry of Agricultural Development of Panama (MIDA).

Meeting as the Regional Council for Agricultural Cooperation (CORECA) - a sectoral fora linking these eight countries - the ministers accepted a Mexican proposal aimed at changing the production structure of the agricultural sector of the subregion, given the move toward trade liberalization.

The proposal, submitted by the President of CORECA, Carlos Hank Gonzalez of Mexico, will provide access to the funds of the Mexican Commission for Central American Cooperation. Its main objective is to strengthen the agricultural sector and equip it to deal with the economic globalization through a politically, socially and economically viable conversion plan tailored to the conditions and resources of each of the countries of the region.

According to CORECA's Secretary for Coordination, Roger Guillen, the proposed plan of action will mesh with the economic and trade components of the Enterprise for the Americas Initiative, announced in 1990 by United States President George Bush.

According to Guillen, the plan will contribute to determining the production potential and economic viability of areas and products, strengthening research in conjunction with farmers, updating technology generation and transfer programs, and establishing a modern and equitable marketing system, as well as marketing information

systems to provide direct support to the private sector.

He added that a draft of the proposal is under study in each of the countries and that once necessary changes have been introduced, implementation will begin.

During the meeting, the Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñeiro, stated that during its 12 years of existence, CORECA has proven to be a very useful instrument for supporting initiatives to promote integration and trade liberalization, two factors which will "lay the groundwork for modernizing agriculture, boosting competitiveness at the international level and improving the well-being of rural families."

The ministers also agreed to hold a seminar in Costa Rica in August, organized by Costa Rica's Minister of Agriculture, Juan Rafael Lizano, with support from IICA and the CORECA Secretariat. At the seminar, Mexican specialists will share with their Central American counterparts the experience they have gained in agricultural trade negotiations held in connection with



The Secretary of Agriculture and Water Resources of Mexico, Carlos Hank Gonzalez (right), inaugurates the Twelfth Regular Meeting of the CORECA Council of Ministers. The governing body of CIRSA, which is responsible for agricultural health, and the Council of Ministers of CATIE, met at the same time.

the free-trade agreement to be signed soon with the United States of America and Canada.

According to Guillen, CORECA's intention is to better exploit the operating capacity of specialized agencies to the benefit of the countries, work closer with the private sector in efforts to achieve integration and trade liberalization, and forge closer ties, through Mexico, with the Group of Three (G-3: Mexico, Venezuela and Colombia).

Finally, the ministers approved a proposal to strengthen sustainable agricultural development through the exchange of up-to-date information on the topic, and supported an initiative by the Dominican Republic for drawing up a master plan on sustainability which takes into account biophysical, socio-economic and institutional factors, as well as infrastructure.

The Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñeiro, made an official visit to Mexico from May 25-27, at which time he met with senior political and agricultural authorities.

Piñeiro was welcomed to Mexico City by the Undersecretary of Foreign Relations, Andres Rozental, Ambassador Rosario Green and the Director General of International Negotiations, Gerardo Lozano. Their discussions covered IICA-Mexico cooperation and the possibility of new joint efforts.

Later, in a meeting with the Secretary of Agriculture and Water Resources (SARH), Carlos Hank Gonzalez, the Director General discussed IICA's technical cooperation in that country, the agricultural modernization process and the international trade of agricultural commodities. They also examined the possibility of signing a new technical and administrative cooperation agreement. This would be a 12-year agreement to support national efforts to eradicate fruit flies.

Director General on Official Visit to Mexico

In 1991, among other activities, IICA supported Mexico in analyzing adjustments to the strategy proposed by the government for the rural area modernization program. It also collaborated in preparing the agricultural and forestry technology research and transfer project, and several initiatives on rural development, marketing and agricultural health.

Piñeiro also participated in the inaugural session of the meeting of the Regional Council for Agricultural Cooperation (CORECA), where he emphasized the importance of integration and greater competitiveness in the new international context.

The Caribbean:

Request for Rural Development Strategy

Participants in a regional seminar in Dominica asked IICA and a specialized Caribbean network to draw up an integrated rural development strategy.

This initiative, they explained, would help bring together the efforts of the public and private sectors and would provide a frame of reference for the rural development strategies of each nation.

It was their judgement that research should receive special attention in such a proposal, as should autochthonous

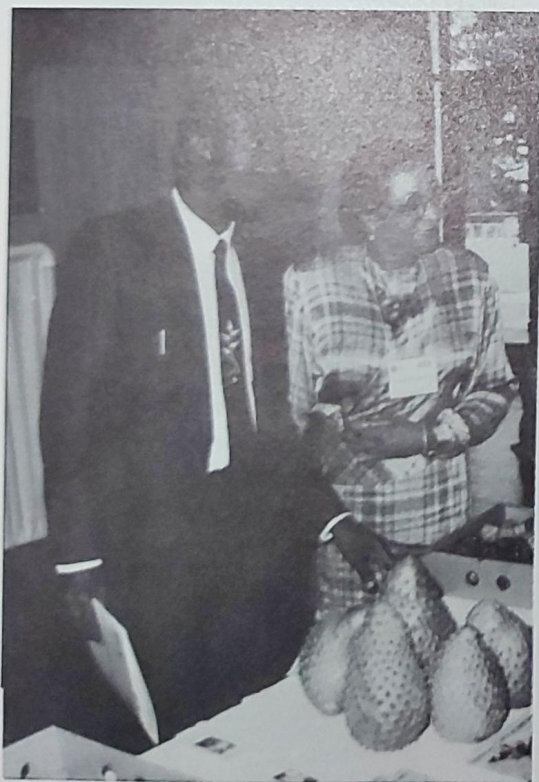
technology, women's issues, rural youth and the responsible use of natural resources and the environment.

These recommendations were formulated by the participants in the seminar "Strategies for Rural Development in the Caribbean," which brought together representatives of non-governmental organizations, public institutions and private organizations of ten Caribbean countries. The Minister of Agriculture of Dominica, Maynard Joseph; IICA's Deputy Director General, L. Harlan Davis; and the President of the Caribbean Network for Integrated

Rural Development (CNIRD), Patrick I. Gomes, spoke during the inaugural session.

The event was organized by IICA, CNIRD and the Ministry of Agriculture of Dominica. IICA and CNIRD have been working together since 1991 to promote rural development in the Caribbean.

During the meeting, several factors constraining development in rural societies of the Caribbean were identified: infrastructure in need of repair (roads and bridges), deficient public services, limited participation by the population in economic and political processes, and information and technology transfer systems in need of modernization.



The Minister of Agriculture of Trinidad and Tobago, Keith Rowley, participated in the inaugural session. With him is IICA Representative, Joan Wallace.

The Caribbean:

Agricultural Investment and Marketing Opportunities Identified

Participants in a regional seminar organized by IICA, the Caribbean Food Corporation and the Ministry of Agriculture of Trinidad and Tobago agreed that important opportunities exist for agricultural investment and marketing in the Caribbean.

Participants in the seminar "Regional Agricultural Marketing and Investment Opportunities" indicated that to fully tap this potential it will be necessary to design policies that attach priority to topics such as information management, transportation, quality control, tariffs.

The event brought together representatives of both the public and private sectors, who also underscored the need to be able to count on rapid and flexible funding.

The Director of IICA's Trade and Agroindustry Program, Rodolfo Quiros, presented a paper on joint ventures in which he discussed the possibilities of partnerships with United States and Canadian companies for the export of agroindustrial and nontraditional commodities.

On this same subject, other speakers focused on procedures and strategies, research, and legislation governing joint ventures in Trinidad and Tobago. Specialists from the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the United States of America, Canada and the European Community (EC) also addressed the group.

A mission from the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) visited the Dominican Republic in early June to identify, together with national authorities, areas to receive IICA technical support for strengthening sustainable agricultural development.

The group, which included IICA's Assistant Deputy Director for Operations, Alfonso Cebberos, and the Director of its Technology Generation and Transfer Program, Eduardo Trigo, met with members and technical personnel from the National Institute for Water Resources (INDHRI).

The initiative includes the planning of irrigation and sustainable development projects in the five principal agricultural regions of the Dominican Republic, similar to the one being implemented in the southern province of San Juan de

Cooperation Agenda Identified in the Dominican Republic

la Maguana, where agricultural production is being promoted in valleys, hillsides and mountainous areas of that zone.

IICA's proposal for sustainable agricultural development will promote production of agro-forestry, vegetable and fruit crops and staple grains without causing harm to the natural resource base. It will take into consideration biophysical and socioeconomic factors that will contribute to improving farmers' conditions.

Agricultural Information Network Established in Costa Rica

Representatives from the government and the private sector of Costa Rica established a national agricultural information network to support agricultural research units that promote agricultural development.

The mechanism, which will improve coordination among agricultural sector entities that produce and manage ag-

ricultural information, was designed in a seminar held at IICA Headquarters last May.

The goal is to contribute to economic advancement by transmitting timely, reliable information to the field, in accordance with the requirements of the national development plan. The network would operate at low cost, and

have four subnetworks: fisheries, agricultural economics, agronomy and natural resources.

The network will have hemispheric coverage as far as dissemination and services are concerned, as it will be complemented by local, regional and world information systems. It will also give farmers, investors, researchers and students access to national and international data bases.

Preparation of this new instrument came about as the result of a national survey of information services conducted by the National Agricultural Information Center (CENIA). It received technical support from the Commission on Agricultural Research and Technology Transfer (CONITTA), the IICA Office in Costa Rica and the Executive Secretariat for Agricultural Sectoral Planning (SEPSA), of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG).

This study identified the human resource, material, financial, bibliographical and informatics potential of some 36 information units, as well as how these units are organized and linked. The units operate out of universities, public and private institutions and international agencies.



The network will make timely and reliable information available to the rural populations of Costa Rica.

Latin America and the Caribbean:

Working Areas of Rural Agroindustry Expanded

Having assumed its place as a promising alternative for improving the standards of living and incomes of small farmers and small-farm communities, as of 1993 rural agroindustries in Latin America and the Caribbean will undertake new initiatives to support rural women, introduce technological innovations and promote the sustainable use of natural resources.

At the end of a series of high-level meetings held at IICA Headquarters, the leaders of the Hemispheric Cooperative Program on Rural Agroindustrial Development (PRODAR) indicated that these activities would be complemented with studies on the impact of liberalization policies.

The meetings, called to examine the impact of and design PRODAR actions in the region, concluded on May 14 with a series of sessions on rural agroindustry, during which it was announced that a consortium would be established between IICA, the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) of Canada, and the Center for International Cooperation in Agricultural Research for Development (CIRAD) of France.

Under this new instrument of inter-institutional cooperation, a fund will be created for agroindustry investment and promotion. Rural agroindustry enables farmers to generate value added for their products through post-harvest activities such as storage, milling, processing, canning, packaging, transportation and marketing. It also helps bring about improvements in small-farm communities by offering new sources of

income and contributing to the creation of infrastructure and the provision of services.

According to the Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñeiro, actions to stimulate rural agroindustry are part of the countries' efforts to modernize their agricultural sectors by linking them to agroindustry and other components of the food industry.

This issue is of particular importance in Latin America and the Caribbean, where at least three million small farms produce 8 million tons of agricultural products annually and employ some 10 million people.

The impact of rural agroindustry on economic and social development can be enormous, given that there are some 100 million small farmers in the region who produce 40% of the foodstuffs consumed and approximately 30% of total exports.

PRODAR is an ambitious cooperative program of information, training, research, promotion and management of agroindustrial enterprises which seeks to improve the standard of living of small farmers. It pools the efforts of international organizations, regional and subregional agencies as well as national institutions.



Photo/José L. Oviedo, Peru

During stage two, PRODAR will promote initiatives in support of rural women.

Technology Transfer between Latin America and the Caribbean to be Facilitated

In an effort to facilitate technology transfer between Latin America and the Caribbean, IICA is promoting a bold hemisphere-wide initiative to support the Caribbean countries in their efforts to modernize the agricultural sector.

This project is part of the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC), execution of which is being coordinated by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture.

The project, entitled "Facilitating Caribbean-Latin American Linkages and Transfer of Technology for Agricultural Development," will promote the use of Latin American technology in the Caribbean to help boost productivity, reduce imports, improve exports and create employment opportunities for their citizens.

Traditionally, the Caribbean countries have imported technology from the United States of America or Europe. Now, the goal is to tap Latin American technology, especially for purposes of adaptation.

The project calls for training activities and information exchange, proposals for reducing the cost of technology transfer, and for establishing linkages and instruments that ensure rapid access to technology. Some of the priority topics covered by this project are sustainability, macroeconomic policy, biotechnology, training, and fruit and seed technology.

In the first stage of the project, meetings and training seminars were held last year, and a directory was prepared listing and briefly describing Latin American institutions working in the field of technology transfer.



Photo/Krishna Majarah, Trinidad and Tobago

The aim is for Caribbean countries to use Latin American technologies for improving their productivity.

Role of NGOs in Rural Development Highlighted

IICA is working to forge closer ties with NGOs involved in rural development. The Esquel group provides support to the rural sector of the region through the services of rural development specialists.

In the opinion of Manuel Chiriboga, Director of IICA's Organization and Management for Rural Development Program, the workshop was very productive because it provided an opportunity to analyze the dimensions of rural poverty, the impact of adjustment policies and economic opening on

poverty and anti-poverty programs, the state and society, and strategies for joint action between IICA and the Esquel group.

In this regard, he said, it was suggested that a new theory on rural development be developed, that a project be designed on the subject, and that the two institutions sign a broad cooperation agreement. The work of IICA and the Esquel group are complementary as regards issues related to agricultural modernization, public policies and the role of NGOs in rural development.

According to participants in an international meeting, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) can make an important contribution to rural development and to designing projects to alleviate poverty.

The topic of the meeting was rural poverty and society, and was held in April in Embu, in the State of Sao Paulo, Brazil. It was organized by IICA and the Fundación Grupo Esquel, a regional network of Latin American NGOs headquartered in Maryland, U.S.A.

In response to a recommendation of the Tenth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA),

Bank Modernization Fund Proposed

IICA and the Latin America Association of Development Finance Institutions (ALIDE) are advocating the establishment of a fund to modernize agricultural development banks in Latin America.

Representatives of both institutions made a formal presentation of this proposal to the Twenty-second Annual Assembly of ALIDE, held from June 2-5 in Madrid, Spain, and attended by representatives of 200 financial institutions from the region and from some 50 European and Asian banks.

The fund would be used to finance institutional modernization projects -in other words, specific work programs- to equip banks in the region to adjust administratively and operationally to the processes of economic and financial liberalization and to state reforms.

The Director of IICA's Agricultural Policy Analysis and Planning Program, Carlos Pomareda, explained that another of the challenges facing agricultural development banks in the region is to provide funding in the near future for the modernization and sustainable development of agriculture.



Agricultural development banks must respond rapidly to requests for funding to modernize agriculture.

During a seminar held in Antigua, Guatemala in May, entrepreneurs and governmental representatives from Mexico, Central America and the Dominican Republic discussed with officials from the United States of America regulations governing acceptable levels of pesticides in agricultural products exported to that country.

At this time, the issue is of particular importance to the subregion, because the countries are working to boost agricultural exports to the United States. The rejection rate of their products is high, however, because of high pesticide levels, and this is threatening the economic stability of exporters and small farmers.

Although no official data exist on the matter, it is estimated that Mexico, Central America and the Dominican Republic lose tens of millions of dollars annually because of phytosanitary barriers (pesticides).

IICA officials underscored the importance of the meeting, stating that it gave representatives of the regulatory agencies of the United States the opportunity to explain to officials, farmers and entrepreneurs from the subregion procedures

and norms in effect concerning pesticide residues. From now on, dialogue between the different participants in the process would be promoted and facilitated.

The meeting also provided an opportunity to inform participations about pesticide registration procedures, and proper

application thereof for avoiding high levels of residues in agricultural commodities. Also, common ar-

eas in which the regulations of the different countries could be harmonized were identified, with a view to bringing them into line with the requirements of international trade.

The meeting, organized by IICA's Agricultural Health Program, received support from the Organization of American States (OAS), the National Agricultural Chemicals Association (NACA) and the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA). It was also co-sponsored by the International Trade Association of Manufacturers of Agrochemicals (GIFAP) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

New Regulations on Acceptable Levels of Pesticides in Agricultural Commodities Analyzed

Cocoa Production Favorable to Sustainable Agriculture

In the judgement of specialists attending a seminar at IICA Headquarters, cocoa is a crop that lends itself to a style of agriculture that does not harm natural resources and the environment.

This is of particular interest given the fact that a movement is under way in the countries of Central America to promote plantation management systems that encourage the use of natural practices and make use of agrochemicals.

This topic was discussed during a seminar on cocoa cultivation in sustainable agriculture, which brought together researchers, economists and farmers from Central America and the United States of America, as well as officials from national agencies of the



Natural practices and limited use of agrochemicals characterize the management of cocoa plantations in Central America.

member countries of the Regional Network for Cacao Technology Generation and Transfer (PROCACAO), which is administered and coordinated by IICA.

During the seminar, it was agreed that cocoa is a crop that can make a good contribution to sustainable agriculture. According to James Corven, an IICA specialist linked with PROCACAO, cocoa production can be converted into a sustainable system by implementing a region-wide strategy that takes advantage of available technology and good natural conditions.

The participants also underscored that sustainable agriculture on the basis of cocoa cultivation improves and conserves soils, generates income for small-farm families and uses cropping practices that do not harm natural resources.

In Central America, some 5,000 growers produce cocoa on 40,000 hectares. Honduras is the largest producer, at 3,400 metric tons (MT). Approximately 40% of the cocoa produced in the sub-region for local consumption is processed by local industry and artisanal farmers.

In Central America, some 5,000 growers produce cocoa on 40,000 hectares. Honduras is the largest producer, at 3,400 metric tons (MT).



Cocoa is a good crop for sustainable agricultural systems.

Training

Agricultural and Scientific Journalists Receive Training

In May and June, IICA co-sponsored two training seminars for Central American journalists specializing in agriculture, science and technology.

The first, which was held from May 4-8, brought together 18 agricultural communicators from Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Panama as part of the Central American Journalism Program (PROCEPER) of Florida International University -FIU- (United States of America).

Ruth Merino, a Chilean journalist, taught the course, at which presentations were also made by IICA specialists on various topics relevant to agriculture in the subregion, including trade, natural resources and competitiveness. The course gave the participants an opportunity to update their technical knowledge of journalistic genres and techniques.

Later, from June 1-5, an international course was held on scientific and technological journalism at IICA Headquarters, at which some 40 re-



Photo R. Escobar

Central American agricultural communicators updated their knowledge of journalistic genres and techniques.

porters received updated information on this area of specialization.

The course was organized by the Ministry of Science and Technology of Costa Rica, the National Council on Scientific and Technological Research (CONICIT), IICA and the Costa Rican Association of Scientific Journalism.

Included among the lecturers at the course were IICA specialists as well as highly qualified international speakers.

The latter included, Manuel Calvo Hernando, from Spain and President of the Ibero-American Association of Scientific Journalism; James Cornell, from the United States of America and Director of Publications of the Astrophysics Observatory of the Smithsonian Institute and President of the American Association of Scientific Journalists; and Sergio Prenafeta, President of the Chilean Association of Scientific Journalism.

As part of IICA's staff training activities, administrators from IICA's Offices in the Caribbean received specialized training in a course at IICA Headquarters in April.

During the course, Serge Ogranovitch, a specialist from New York University, addressed the topic of administrative management.

In addition, staff from the Directorates of Programming and Evaluation (DIPROE), Human Resources and Finance, as well as the Internal Auditor and the Assistant Deputy Director General for Operations, gave presentations on IICA's internal regulations and procedures.

Specialists from the Inter-American Agricultural Documentation and Information Center (CIDIA) -a specialized IICA

Administrators Update Skills

unit- indicated that a similar meeting was held last year for IICA staff from the Central (Central America, Mexico and Dominican Republic), Andean and Southern Areas.

This course was attended by administrators from the IICA Offices in Barbados, Dominica, Guyana, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, and Suriname. They agreed on the usefulness of the activity and suggested that topics such as management of external funds, documentary information and accounting systems be incorporated into course materials in the future.

Publications

Agriculture and the Environment



IICA Editorial Service
ACDI/GTZ

The book "Agriculture and the Environment" presents a collection of photographs from an international competition sponsored by the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ), which was published in collaboration with the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

The photographs were selected from a total of 388 entries considered to be the best graphic evidence of environmental conditions in the Americas. This book was presented for the first time at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED).

Each photograph is accompanied by a brief message emphasizing a given aspect of the environmental issue, for example, the importance of modernizing agriculture and contributing to economic growth without harming natural resources or the environment.

Some of the themes realistically depicted in the photographs are sustainable development, soil erosion, food production, the situation of women, and the environment.

In the foreword, the Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñeiro, states that the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean face the challenge of overcoming poverty, achieving growth and modernizing, while making judicious use of their natural resources. It also quotes Butros Butros Ghali, Secretary General of the United Nations, who stated that ecological catastrophes must be prevented if we are going to build a better world.

Armonización de Políticas y Modernización de la Agricultura en Centroamérica



Rafael A. Trejos
Carlos Pomareda
Danilo Herrera
Program Papers Series
IICA Editorial Service

The book, available only in Spanish, concerns policy harmonization and agricultural modernization in Central America. It analyzes the role of the agricultural sector as the basis for a new production structure in the region, and includes a proposal to support economic reactivation.

The proposal underscores the need to see agriculture as an agroindustrial complex, and not merely as a supplier of raw materials. It also states that political and technological changes will be required if the Central American countries are to form an economic and trading bloc.

The five-chapter book reflects the topics dealt with in the project to harmonize agricultural policy in the member countries of the Regional Council for Agricultural Cooperation (CORECA). The Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) also collaborated.

Compendio de Mercadeo de Productos Agropecuarios



Gilberto Mendoza
IICA Editorial Service

This book, available only in Spanish, is a compendium on the marketing of agricultural products. It applies the basic concepts of economic theory to the analysis and interpretation of the marketing of agricultural products in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Topics discussed in the book include markets, marketing and development, market analysis, organization for the market and marketing projects.

The book seeks to combine theory and practical application. It provides a series of tools for conducting market analyses for efficiency, and aims to contribute to identifying problems and solutions.

The work is part of IICA's Educational Texts Books and Materials Collection.

These publications can be obtained at IICA Headquarters or in IICA's Offices in the Member Countries

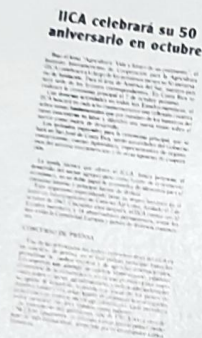
Spain, Paraguay, Uruguay



■ Newspapers in Spain, Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as international news agencies, reported on IICA's participation in the Universal Exposition (EXPO'92) in Seville, Spain, which was inaugurated on April 20 and will close on October 12. At the fair, the Institute is participating together with the other specialized agencies of the inter-American system. Specifically, the theme of IICA's exhibition is "Agri-

cultural Modernization and the Advantages of Latin America and the Caribbean at the Close of the Twentieth Century and the Beginning of the Twenty-first." (Hoy, of Paraguay; La Republica, of Uruguay; ABC, of Spain, and the France Press and IPS agencies).

Nicaragua, Peru, Suriname, Bolivia



■ El Nuevo Diario, of Nicaragua; El Peruano, of Peru; The Daily Newspaper of Ware Tijd, of Suriname, and Presencia, of Bolivia, are some of the newspapers that have re-

ported in recent weeks on the celebration of IICA's fiftieth anniversary, which is being commemorated this year through different activities in the member countries under the slogan "Agriculture: Strength and Future of the Americas."

In each commemorative event, the key issues of agriculture, such as modernization and sustainable management of natural resources, are discussed.

El Salvador, Panama, Argentina

IICA convoca a Premio Interamericano Prensa

San José, 14 de mayo. El Premio Interamericano de Prensa, que se otorga anualmente a los periodistas de los países de América Latina y el Caribe, convoca a los interesados a participar en la edición de este año. El premio se otorga a los periodistas que hayan publicado artículos de fondo sobre temas de agricultura, ganadería, pesca, silvicultura, desarrollo rural, etc., en los últimos seis meses. El premio se otorga a los periodistas que hayan publicado artículos de fondo sobre temas de agricultura, ganadería, pesca, silvicultura, desarrollo rural, etc., en los últimos seis meses. El premio se otorga a los periodistas que hayan publicado artículos de fondo sobre temas de agricultura, ganadería, pesca, silvicultura, desarrollo rural, etc., en los últimos seis meses.

■ As part of the activities to celebrate IICA's fiftieth anniversary, the "1992 Inter-American Press Award" has been announced, catching the attention of newspapers in the region. The contest is open to all journalists of the written press and international press agencies, and has as its theme "The Role of Agriculture in the New International Context," which may be approached from different points of view. (La Mañana, El Pais, El Observador Economico, of Uruguay; La Prensa Grafica, of El Salvador; El Panama America, of Panama, and La Nacion, among others.)

Upcoming Activities

* National Workshop on Women and Communications IICA/SIDA/RNTC. June 29-July 6, 1992, Honduras

The goal of this course is to train officials from governmental and non-governmental organizations in mass and group communications, with a focus on gender issues. It will be carried out under the Women and Communications Project sponsored by IICA and the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), and will receive support from Radio Nederlands International.

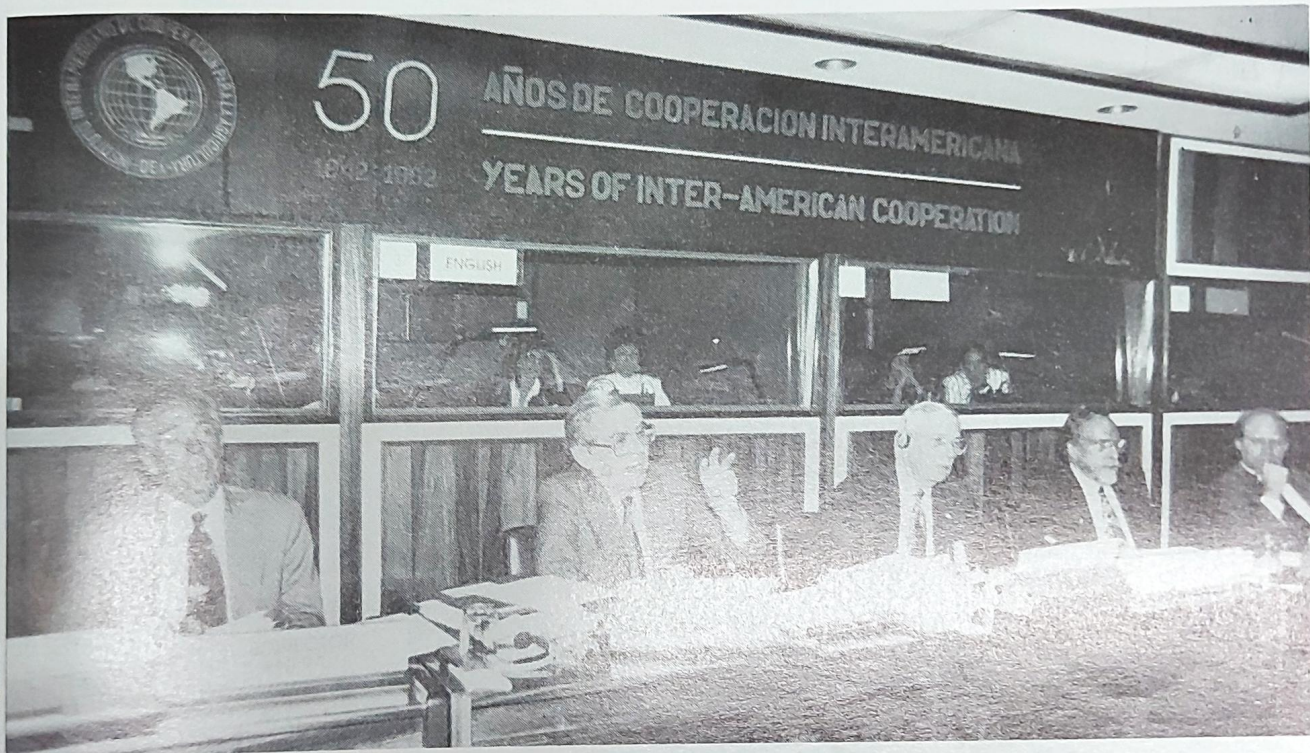
* Seminar "Rural Society in Latin America in the Twenty-first Century." July 15-17, 1992, Quito, Ecuador.

This seminar is being organized by IICA, the Center for Social Planning and Studies (CEPLAES), the Latin American Association of Rural Development Sociologists (ALASRU) and the Latin American Institute for Social Research (ILDIS). Target participants are Latin American specialists working in this field.

* Seminar "The Agri-food Sector of Latin America and the Caribbean and Free Trade Initiatives." July 16-17, 1992, Washington, D.C..

The objective of this seminar is to analyze research findings on recent changes in the agri-food sector. The presentations and discussions will focus on twelve case studies conducted by IICA in Latin America and the Caribbean. Also, overall agricultural trade flows in the Americas will be analyzed.

July - August, 1992, Year IX, No. 50



Photo/R. Escobar

The Executive Committee of IICA held its Twelfth Regular Meeting from June 22-24, at which time it recommended that cooperation be strengthened with the private sector of Latin America and the Caribbean. Delegates to the meeting also studied the progress made on compliance with the recommendations of the Tenth ICMA and the Sixth IABA, as well as various financial and administrative matters.

- IICA Director General Attends Ibero-American Summit
- Research Strategy Approved for Coordinating PLANLAC Action
- IICA and the Kingdom of the Netherlands:
Working Together to Strengthen Rural Development

50
1942-1992
anniversary

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Publications

IICA in the News

Upcoming Activities

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The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) is headquartered in San José, Costa Rica. It is the specialized agency for agriculture of the inter-American system. It was founded by the governments of the hemisphere in 1942 to encourage, promote and support the efforts made by its Member States for agricultural development and rural well-being. It has 32 member countries and 14 permanent observers.

Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee: Greater Cooperation with the Private Agricultural Sector Urged

Delegates from 12 countries of the hemisphere met as the Executive Committee of IICA from June 22-24 and charged the Institute with strengthening cooperation with the private sector in Latin America and the Caribbean.

This was one of the key issues discussed during the Twelfth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee, presided over by the delegate from the United States, Max Witcher.

The 1992 Executive Committee was made up of representatives from Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bolivia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Paraguay, St. Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, the United States, Uruguay and Venezuela, and the meeting was also attended by representatives from observer countries, local government officials and officials from international cooperation agencies.

The members of the Committee also urged the countries of the inter-American system to support Central America and the Caribbean in the final phase of the trade and agricultural negotiations of the Uruguay Round under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

They also reviewed the Institute's progress on compliance with the mandates issued during the Tenth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA) and the Sixth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), the governing body of IICA, both held in Madrid, Spain in 1991.

In line with the recommendations of the ICMA and the IABA, the Committee reiterated the need to support a new

type of agriculture which incorporates the concepts of modernization, equity and sustainability. The delegates also evaluated the future of international technical cooperation as well as issues concerning the financial and administrative management of the Institute.

According to the Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñero, "We have consolidated the mandates of Madrid and defined a new institution that advocates the modernization of the agri-food sector, integration and trade, sustainable agriculture, rural development and women; our task now is to prepare the Institute for the next 50 years."

THE AGREEMENTS

The delegates charged the Director General of IICA with presenting a document to the next meeting of the

Executive Committee -to be held in June 1993- that describes options for improving relations and cooperation with the private agricultural sector in the countries.

In this regard, they indicated that the structural reform under way in the region "places special importance on the role to be played by the private sector in efforts to bring about development and, in particular, in promoting an equitable and sustainable agricultural sector."

During the discussions, it was recalled that the Tenth ICMA had emphasized the need to include agriculture in state reforms, and to to expand support mechanisms that promote the organization of the private sector.

The delegates also asked the countries of the inter-American system to renew their efforts to bring about a prompt resolution to the Uruguay Round of negotiations under the GATT, "taking into account the needs of the developing countries, especially the most vulnerable ones in the Central American and Caribbean subregions."



Photo R. Escobar

In line with the recommendations of the Tenth ICMA and the Sixth IABA, the Committee reiterated the need to support a new type of agriculture based on modernization, equity and sustainability.



During the closing session, the Director General of IICA, Martín E. Piñeiro (left) presented to the delegate from the United States and Chairman of the Executive Committee, Max Witcher, a silver medallion commemorating IICA's fiftieth anniversary.

In this sense, they agreed that, once the GATT negotiations are concluded, four high-level subregional meetings will be organized to study the impact of the agreements and the outlook for international agricultural trade, and to propose strategies for dealing with the challenges of the coming years.

The Executive Committee also reviewed the progress made by IICA in complying with the recommendations of the Tenth ICMA and gave its support for the hemisphere-wide and multinational actions of IICA's Programs I and IV (Agricultural Policy Analysis and Planning, and Trade and Integra-

tion), which concern agricultural integration and economic liberalization, the agri-food sector, cooperation, sustainable development, trade and competitiveness. (See separate note.)

OTHER BUSINESS

The delegates praised the Institute's work in consolidating the Tropical Agriculture Research and Training Center (CATIE), headquartered in Turrialba, Costa Rica.

During the meeting, it was also officially announced that Belize had become a Member State of IICA.

With regard to administrative matters, amendments to the 1993-1994 Program Budget were approved in order to facilitate IICA's compliance with the recommendations of the ICMA in three priority areas: sustainability, competitiveness and rural women. Also adopted for subsequent approval by the IABA were certain amendments to the rules and regulations of the Institute.

Comments by Delegates to the Executive Committee

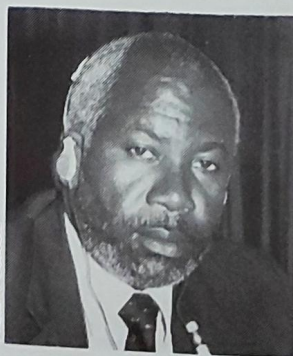
Delegates to the Twelfth Regular Meeting of IICA's Executive Committee, who travelled from the different subregions of the Americas to attend the meeting, commented on the progress being made in implementing the resolutions issued by the Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA) and the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA). They also discussed the link between agriculture and the environment and the events to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Institute.

Antigua and Barbuda: On the Right Path

According to Hilroy Humphreys, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries of Antigua and Barbuda and that country's delegate to the Executive Committee, the adjustments IICA has made to comply with the recommendations issued by the ICMA and the IABA indicate that the Institute is on the right path.

Humphreys considered the changes, including the establishment of the Strategy Development Committee, the new structure of hemispheric and multinational projects and coordinated efforts among IICA's Programs, to be very positive.

He praised the Institute's work in the Caribbean, especially its support for integration, indicating that this support will be especially important with regard to soil conservation and environmental protection.



Hilroy Humphreys

Argentina: Concrete Action

According to Eugenio Díaz Bonilla, one of the delegates from Argentina, the Twelfth Regular Meeting of the Executive

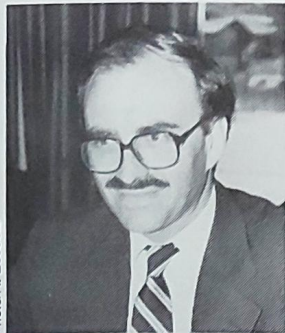


Photo R. Escobar

Eugenio Díaz Bonilla

Committee was a serious and successful effort to ensure that the promise of the agricultural summit held in Spain last year become a reality.

In his opinion, the recommendations of the ICMA and the IABA have been translated into concrete action and will enable IICA to provide timely support to the countries of the region, through programs and projects to modernize agriculture. Competitiveness, equity

and sustainability are the three principal considerations of these efforts.

With regard to sustainability, which was discussed in depth in Spain and today constitutes a spearhead of the international agenda, the Argentinian delegate stated that agricultural activity must be conducted in harmony with nature in order "to allow us to bequeath the Earth to our children, from whom we have borrowed it."

Bolivia: IICA is Complying Fully

Bolivia's delegate to the Executive Committee, Miguel Sauma Razuk, stated that IICA is effectively implementing the recommendations of the ICMA and the IABA by making internal adjustments.

In Spain, he said, the course was set for orienting development of the agricultural sector to the year 2000, and key issues were identified for joint action, such as sustainability and competitiveness, areas in which the Institute has already begun to work.

The delegate indicated his support for a common agenda for international cooperation and stressed the importance of joining efforts to modernize agriculture in such a way that it strikes a balance between productivity and the conservation of natural resources.

Sauma noted that in-depth studies must be undertaken in this area and added that the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of IICA provides a good opportunity to reflect on the make up of this new agriculture.

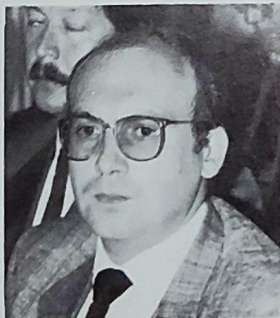


Photo R. Escobar

Miguel Sauma Razuk

United States: Equipped to Meet the Challenge

The United States delegate to the Executive Committee, Owen Lee, stated that IICA has demonstrated its ability to adapt to change, redefine its approach and adjust its objectives for technical cooperation to the new conditions of the agricultural sector.



Photo R. Escobar

Owen Lee

Lee indicated that the Tenth ICMA was a milestone in the history of the Americas, since it demonstrated unprecedented solidarity on the part of the countries in their interest to reach a successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round of the GATT.

As to the challenges involved in modernizing agriculture in the region, the delegate from the United States stressed the "strategic importance" of the link between equity and sustainability: the urgent need to find solutions that will foster development and gradually eradicate poverty, without harming the Earth.

Lee said that it was very positive that these issues had been touched on in all the activities organized to celebrate IICA's fiftieth anniversary.

Honduras: Course of Action

According to the Honduran delegate to the Executive Committee, Roberto Villeda Toledo, the Executive Committee established procedures for a course of action to comply with the recommendations issued by the ICMA and the IABA.

This is how the Central American delegate interpreted the actions taken by the Committee, including the amendments to the 1992-1993 Program Budget, which, in his opinion, will give IICA "...a clear framework for carrying out its actions to benefit producers and farmers throughout Latin America and the Caribbean."

Toledo indicated that the course of action approved by the Committee will give rise to programs and projects to modernize agriculture that take into account three indispensable components agreed upon in Madrid: equity, competitiveness and sustainability.

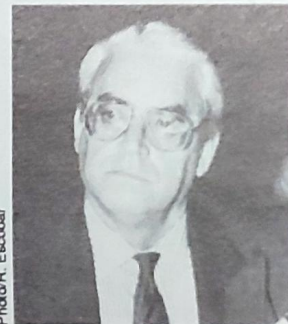


Photo R. Escobar

Roberto Villeda Toledo

Headquarters

Director General at Ibero-American Summit Meeting



Within the framework of the Ibero-American Summit Meeting, government leaders and special guests visited the Universal Exposition of Seville. In the photo are (left to right): Carlyle Guerra de Macedo, of PAHO; Enrique Iglesias, of the IDB; Joao Clemente Baena Soares, of the OAS; and Martin E. Piñeiro, of IICA.

A new grouping of countries with strong historical and cultural ties is taking shape at the Second Ibero-American Summit Meeting, and is expected to lay the foundation for coordinated action in international fora, and steady development of economic

cooperation, especially in view of widespread efforts to bring about integration in Latin American.

This appraisal was offered by the Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñeiro, who was invited to attend the

Summit Meeting in Madrid, Spain, on July 23-24.

These summit meetings will continue to meet on a regular basis. The first was held in Guadalajara, Mexico, in 1991, and the next is expected to take place in Brazil in 1993.

In Madrid, government leaders agreed to launch several cooperation programs dealing with education, health, telecommunications and development in indigenous communities.

Many of the speeches delivered by the heads of state and heads of government, however, were imbued with the subject of trade. Piñeiro stated that, given the severe constraints persisting in the region, the most viable alternative is foreign trade, which in the long term should provide the resources needed to expand the economic base of the countries. He added that if the region is to participate more fully in international trade, the industrialized countries will have to change their agricultural policies.

The Director General of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), Martin E. Piñeiro, participated as an observer in the recent Central American Summit Meeting, held in Managua (June 3-4), during which the presidents affirmed that integration is the principal challenge facing the Isthmus.

Integration is the Challenge

After reviewing the actions carried out in the so-called Esquipulas Process, initiated in May 1986 in Guatemala, the presidents issued a final declaration in which they stated that "the fate of Central America rests on its ability to face the challenges of peace, freedom and democracy together, as a region." As a specialized agency of the inter-American system, IICA supports actions to promote agri-

cultural integration and sustainable development in Central America. At the summit meeting, Piñeiro spoke at the meeting of the First Ladies, who examined the project "Women, Environment and Development," the goal of which is to boost incomes and improve the standard of living of rural inhabitants, through environmental, economic and social actions. They also reviewed the technical support which IICA has been providing since early 1992 to their Social Affairs Commission. Prior to the summit meeting, Piñeiro spent two days in Guatemala on the occasion of an official visit to that nation by President Carlos Menem of Argentina, and at the invitation of the Guatemalan government.

ICRAF and IICA Strengthen Cooperative Relations

Given its interest in the responsible management of natural resources, the International Center for Research in Agroforestry (ICRAF) recently expanded its cooperative relations with IICA, signing a letter of understanding in June to support the activities of PROCITROPICOS.

Under this letter of understanding, the Center, founded in 1978 and headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya, will support the Cooperative Research and Technology Transfer Program for the South American Tropics (PROCITROPICOS) through training aimed at developing agroforestry systems and improving soil use.

During an official visit to IICA Headquarters, at which time he met with In-

stitute authorities, the ICRAF Coordinator for Latin America and the Caribbean, Dale Brandy, underscored the importance of PROCITROPICOS, which brings together eight nations and promotes environmentally sound agricultural development in an area covering nearly 1 billion hectares.



Photo: R. Escobar

The ICRAF Coordinator for Latin America and the Caribbean, Dale Brandy (right), underscored the importance of joint cooperation to ensure sustainable development.

The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and the University of Vermont, in the United States, recently signed a five-year cooperation agreement to work on projects to benefit the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Initially, actions carried out under the agreement will emphasize training, research and technology transfer for the agricultural sector.

The agreement was signed at IICA Headquarters by the Dean of the Graduate School, Lynne A. Bond, and the Deputy Director General of IICA, Harlan Davis.

The two organizations have common objectives on technical cooperation for

IICA and the University of Vermont Sign Agreement

agricultural development in the region. The University of Vermont conducts a program which provides support to several institutions in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The agreement provides for, among other things, the preparation of studies and research; technical and financial cooperation for project preparation and implementation; training courses and seminars, and the exchange of information (books, bulletins, data banks and/or other means of communication).

Advanced Training For News Room Editors

A seminar on news room management was held at IICA Headquarters in July to provide advanced training to managing editors from Central American newspapers and magazines.

Participants in the meeting organized by the Central American Journalism Program (PROCEPER) and Florida International University (USA) included journalists from Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Panama. The instructor was Robert Giles, editor-in-chief of The Detroit News, Michigan.

In a meeting with the managing editors, the Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñeiro, urged the press of the region to place greater importance on news about agriculture, a strategic sector for the economies of the Isthmus.

The purpose would be, he said, to better inform average citizens and thus enable them to participate more fully in the profound changes needed to make agriculture in Central America a key player in the world economy and trade.

The seminar was held at IICA Headquarters under an IICA/PROCEPER agreement.

ICA's Strategy Development Committee approved a research strategy for coordinating actions related to competitiveness, sustainability and equity to be carried out at the hemispheric and subregional levels under the Joint Plan of Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC).

Research Strategy for Coordinating Actions Approved

This initiative marks the beginning of a new stage in the history of the Plan, in which the Institute's five Programs and specialized units such as the Center for Programs and Investment Projects (CEPPI) and the Inter-American Agricultural Documentation and Information Center (CIDIA) will join efforts.

The strategy will be pursued through four types of activities: research, both academic and institutional exchanges, and dissemination. The research component will include initiatives carried out in connection with ongoing IICA projects and actions, as well as projects with agencies and centers operating in the region. Academic exchanges will involve the organization

of workshops and seminars of both national and regional scope. The purpose of the institutional exchanges is to identify organizations and agencies conducting similar studies, with a view to giving them support and harmonizing the results of their work with that carried out in the context of the strategy.

The goal is to create a region-wide awareness of the problems of agriculture and, at the same time, to lay the groundwork for a research and exchange network that will promote interaction throughout the hemisphere. As regards dissemination, the key objective is to share findings with political and economic decision makers, incorporating the needs and requests of both sectors. Here, CIDIA will play a major role.

THE PLANLAC

The research strategy will rely on inter-Program action for dealing with the topics of competitiveness, sustainability and equity. The Tenth Inter-

American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA), held last year in Madrid, identified these issues as the pillars of the strategy to develop and modernize agriculture in the region.

Three coordination workshops involving the five Programs and the specialized units were held at IICA Headquarters in July and August. During the meetings, a preliminary analysis was made of these topics in order to study their development and plan future actions. Similar meetings will also take place at the regional level. The first, to focus on competitiveness, was held in Montevideo on August 6-7.

In the Southern Cone, the research strategy calls for the preparation of studies on competitiveness in the different countries. The coordinated efforts of the Programs and the specialized centers will serve to develop a work methodology, harmonize criteria, fine tune instruments for analysis, and generate experiences that will be of use to future efforts in the Andean, Central and Caribbean Areas.

Representatives of the Southern Cone countries participating in the First Meeting of the Permanent Working Group on Silvo-agricultural Health (GTPSSA), held in June in Curitiba, Brazil, agreed to work together to combat pests that affect the regional trade of forestry products.

During the meeting, sponsored by the project "Strengthening National Plant Protection Services to Facilitate the Trade of Agricultural Products in the Southern Area" and the IICA Office in Brazil, *Sirex noctilio* was identified as the pest that poses the greatest threat.

Specifically, they called attention to the danger of propagating the pest by exchanging seeds and plants, or parts thereof, and by marketing rough wood (timber from which the bark has not been removed).

Joint Action Planned Against Forest Pests

Joint actions include the preparation of a catalog of forest pests of interest nationally and regionally, the updating of phytosanitary regulations currently in effect, the design and implementation of a database to be used as support in operating a forest pest information service, and a regional pest control program which will emphasize the use of biological controls.

Cooperation with Permanent Observers

IICA and the Kingdom of the Netherlands:

Working Together to Strengthen Rural Development

Since 1987, IICA and the Kingdom of the Netherlands, through the Radio Nederland Training Centre (RNTC), have promoted a successful communications project which works to strengthen rural development.

organizations, mostly in Central America.

Some of the activities carried out through this joint initiative include workshops on multimedia, radio,

RNTC project conducts research on communications as an instrument for orienting actions and operating more effectively. Other activities include producing support materials for use directly in communications and by the media, through the training activities or in response to requests from international institutions or agencies.

THE NETHERLANDS AND COOPERATION

The Kingdom of the Netherlands formally joined the Institute as a Permanent Observer in 1987, which marks the beginning of a fruitful relationship.

For Holland, -a small, densely populated country (41,864 km² and approximately 15 million inhabitants)-development policies are an integral part of its foreign policy, in which peace and security, prosperity and justice are of the utmost importance.

Within the framework of the recent United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Rio de Janeiro, June 3-14), the Dutch Minister of Cooperation for Development, Jan Pronk, explained that his country earmarks more than 7% of its gross national product for assistance to overseas development, which places Holland ahead of many industrialized countries.

IICA/RNTC PROJECT

The principal goal of the IICA/RNTC Project is to convert communications into an effective tool for rural development.

RNTC serves as the executing agency for activities and projects related to educational communications. Its goal is to equip farmers and institutions in Latin America, Asia and Africa to use the media in development and edu-



IICA/RNTC Project facilities were inaugurated on March 7, 1988, with the participation of Jaap Swart, General Manager of RNTC; Jose Perez Sanchez, Head of the IICA/RNTC Project; Jan Wilhelm, Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands at that time; and Jorge Werthein, Director of External Relations at IICA.

The IICA/RNTC project is executed by IICA, through the Inter-American Agricultural Documentation and Information Center (CIDIA) and its Communications Division. Over the past five years, it has provided training to thousands of technicians from governmental and non-governmental

video, printed materials, planning for communications and message analysis, as well as the promotion and design of social campaigns and management techniques.

In addition to providing training for agents of social change, the IICA/

cation projects. In 1979, RNTC launched its activities in Latin America, through training programs in support of rural broadcasting stations, principally in Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador and Guatemala. Since then, its long-term objective has been to strengthen the region's infrastructure for training and production by supporting multiplier agents and centers in each country. From 1982 to 1986, RNTC provided support to the International Center for Higher Education in Communications for Latin America (CIESPAL, Ecuador) with a training project that offered the first in a long series of international courses on radio.

In order to expand the scope of its training activities, RNTC drew up a proposal for educational communications in collaboration with IICA and the Costa Rican Institute for Radio Education (ICER). The proposal was submitted to the Directorate of International Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Relations of the Kingdom of The Netherlands in late 1985, and to IICA in 1986.

The three-year project began on April 1, 1987. It is currently in its second phase, which runs through March 1993, and negotiations are under way with Dutch authorities for a new project.

During the first phase of the project, recording studios, classrooms and administrative offices were built at IICA Headquarters.

The countries making up IICA's Central Area, primarily the Central American countries and Panama, as well as Mexico and the Dominican Republic, benefit from the project. Technicians from Haiti and from countries of the Andean Area and the Southern Cone have also participated in several courses. In addition, special activities have also been held for the English-speaking countries of the Caribbean.

Some 2,500 people have benefited from hundreds of training activities carried out by the IICA/RNTC project since it was launched in 1987.

Participants in these activities - agronomists, extension agents, veterinarians, members of cooperatives, representatives of small-farmer organizations, technicians, etc. - usually come from governmental and non-governmental organizations that work in association with IICA. They have all received training under the same

methodology and now share a series of communications techniques.

Follow-up studies show that the trainees have been able to apply their new knowledge and skills in numerous areas: agriculture and livestock, pest control, ecology, sustainable development, cooperatives, human rights, women's affairs, bee keeping, coffee,

sugarcane and cocoa cultivation, integrated rural development, small rural business management, etc.

Agricultural journalists from Central America have also benefited from training which has enabled them to update their skills for producing radio news programs and informative radio interviews. This particular activity comes under an agreement between IICA and Florida International University (FIU).

The IICA/RNTC project has also provided support for specific initiatives such as the Women and Communications Project, a joint initiative between IICA and the Swedish International Development Authority (SIDA). Moreover, it has collaborated with the Organization of American States (OAS), the United Nations Latin American Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Delinquents (ILANUD), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM).

A Large Family



Some 2,500 people have received training in communications techniques.

An Important Contribution: The Learning Game

The key to the success of the training activities of the IICA/RNTC Rural Communications Project lies in the methods used. It is innovative in nature and offers a practical alternative, which the specialist Daniel Prieto describes as "an educational game."

The facilitators base their work on a basic consideration: they are working with adults who have a wealth of rich experiences and stories to tell. Work is intense; at times courses are ten weeks long, meeting for an average of nine hours a day with additional assignments that take up to at least two hours more. Such a system would not work in a traditional classroom situation. The IICA/RNTC system includes a strong dose of shared responsibility with the students, active participation and a leading role for students. The teacher serves more as a coordinator who offers ideas and techniques, and who helps translate theory into practice, motivating participation, creativity, research and team work. Gone are professor-actors, lengthy lectures and power exercised from behind a desk.

Photo: R. Escobar



The teaching methodology used in the courses encourages student participation.

Some of the features of the project's educational methods include limited lecture sessions; a few key ideas, but dealt with in detail; emphasis on the participants' experience; and reflexion on the value of ideas, methods and techniques.

But education is not just a question of subject matter. According to Prieto, if the subject matter is of importance, but we do not put it into practice with methods that are rich in expression and communication, we will get little mileage out of it. Text books, on the other hand, serve to support the work at hand, but do not educate in and of themselves. The content matter of text books is illuminated by the perspectives of people, added the expert. In other words, the idea is to enhance the text and not just simply accept it.

This alternative teaching method does not believe that education must be a "serious" matter, especially when seriousness is confused with a rigid presentation of pre-established theories, or a clear-cut set of data. Team work, on the other hand, produces clarity, "and the joy of building experiences and concepts." Learning to wait for others, respecting their learning pace, not forcing anyone, nor imposing concepts, methods or techniques, are some other characteristics of this method that seeks to boost participation and democratic values.

Prieto indicated that Simon Rodriguez, a Venezuelan, had said that all learning is inter-learning. The key is in sharing, in what can be learned by others. Inter-learning is impossible

if other persons are belittled. The educational game means working intensely, but without tension, without haste, in a favorable setting.

In describing the method promoted by the IICA/RNTC project, Prieto sustains that education is an act of freedom, a possibility for expression, communication and criticism. It is also an act of love. The rules of the educational

game, he added, did not arise out of a purely intellectual exercise, but rather through practice itself.

Many who have passed through the classrooms of the IICA/RNTC project will remember the words of the project coordinator, Jose Perez Sanchez, "Learning doesn't have to be boring." And this is the way the workshops function: from the moment the exercises begin, participants put theory into practice, regain freedom of expression and use the classroom to establish an environment conducive to education. According to Perez, the aim is for the students to view this technique as a model for their work back home. In fact, many have indicated their interest in developing participatory methods with their target clientele and that the workshops serve as a laboratory for their subsequent work.

Prolific Activity

The IICA/RNTC project produces three types of radio programs: international, national and those done in collaboration with former students. A total of 17 programs have been the result.

The international series consists of well-finished, professional programs (in Spanish) including "When the World was Completed," "Give a Hand to a Child," and another on children's rights (Del Derecho y el Revés). These are circulated in the countries, with the endorsement of Radio Nederland.

The first program deals with agricultural and food traditions which the Americas passed on to the rest of the world. The sound track includes autochthonous music, and dramatizations, stories and chronicles of the colonial period enhance the production.

The series on children's rights was prepared in collaboration with the Voice of Germany and UNICEF. The scripts were written by educators and specialists with broad experience in working with children. The format is radio-drama, and the program adroitly explores the relationship between a grandfather and his granddaughter. Simple, direct language is used, and

the imaginative program is filled with fantasy and good sound effects.

The national programs are used in the field by extension agents. They are designed to take advantage of the multiplier effects of the media, as their

stock of Costa Rica. The series narrates the trials and tribulations of "Lalo," a young agricultural technician from a rural community who strives to teach farmers and members of the community how to use agrochemicals properly.



Photo R. Escobar

Three types of radio programs are produced: international and national productions, as well as joint productions with former students.

quality makes mass dissemination possible.

An example of this is the program (in Spanish) "Eulalio Campos, experiences and suggestions of an agricultural technician", which was produced with support from IICA specialists and the Ministry of Agriculture and Live-

The final series is a group of joint productions made with former students, and which resulted from the practical work of the training courses they attended through the project. Some of these programs include "Plaguicidas: armas de doble filo" (Pesticides: A double-edged sword) and "Hay que ver para creer" (Seeing is believing).

Central America:

Radio to be Used for Training and Environmental Education Projects

During a three-day conference which concluded recently in Costa Rica, the Vice Ministers of Education and other Central American educational authorities agreed that the radio should be used as a teaching tool in providing support to two projects: one to train teachers, and another on environmental education.

The radio is being rediscovered as a teaching tool, and will be used to complement what children learn in the classroom on the topics of sus-

tainable development, environment and natural resource conservation. Later, broader sectors of the population will also be targeted.

The Vice Ministers proposed that multimedia be used for executing the projects. To this end, over the next five years, RNTC will provide training and produce thought-provoking educational materials that teachers can use to teach the importance of conserving natural resources.

According to the Chief of the RNTC Office for Central America, Jose Luis

Fernandez, the objective is to provide educators with training on these topics so that they in turn may pass their knowledge on to technical personnel in the ministries, students and the general population in their countries. He added that RNTC's mission was to make available to the countries the experience, methodology and technical capabilities gained over the last few years. To accomplish this, Fernandez indicated that Radio Nederland will transmit daily via satellite radio spots and segments aimed at the inhabitants of Central America.

International Technical Cooperation Must Change



Photo: R. Escobar

Speakers and participants alike agreed that international technical cooperation must change to reflect changes in the international context and to involve new players in the development process. In the photo are (left to right) Norman Collins, Representative of the Ford Foundation; Keith Benzanson, President of IDRC; Martin E. Piñero, Director General of IICA; and Elena Martinez, Chief of the Central American Division of the UNDP.

A round table entitled "International Technical Cooperation: Challenges of the 1990s" was held as part of the celebrations of the fiftieth anniversary of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), during the Twelfth Regular Meeting of its Executive Committee.

The activity provided government representatives and experts another opportunity to discuss the topic, which was raised previously at the Tenth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA), held in Madrid, Spain in September 1991. According to the Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñero, after five decades of providing technical cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Institute must now stimulate discussion to help define the Institute's actions for the next 50 years.

Speakers and participants alike agreed that international technical cooperation must be altered to reflect changes in the international context and to include the new players in the development process.

Speakers at the round table included Elena Martinez, Chief of the Central American Division of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); Keith Benzanson, President of the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and; Norman Collins, representative of the Ford Foundation for Mexico and Central America.

There was consensus that the changes taking place worldwide point up the need to examine the traditional cooperation

efforts of international agencies, as well as the prevailing development model. The specialists cautioned that economic and human development do not necessarily go hand in hand, and recommended promoting a balanced interaction of elements such as social investments, suitable incentives for production, as well as sound public and private institutions.

It was also stated that current changes in the role of the state made it necessary to find creative ways to work with two new participants in the development process: the private sector and nongovernmental organizations.

Keith Benzanson indicated that international agencies -acting as catalysts- should work together to secure dwindling financial resources available for development in Latin America and the Caribbean. He added that in times of transition, like the present, achieving sustainable growth of society requires that research, science and technology work together as in "times of war."

The round table was the opening event of the seminar "The Future of International Cooperation." It was jointly organized by the School of International Relations of the National Autonomous University of Costa Rica (UNA), the Multinational Project on Cultural Policy and Regional Studies of the Department of Cultural Affairs of the Organization of American States (OAS), the General Directorate of Foreign Policy of the Costa Rican Ministry of Foreign Relations, and IICA.

Peru Celebrates IICA Fiftieth Anniversary with Seminar on Agricultural Financing

On July 6, the IICA Office in Peru celebrated IICA's fiftieth anniversary with a seminar entitled

"Financing for Modern, Sustainable Agriculture."



The Vice Minister of Agriculture, Rodolfo Masuda, presided over the seminar organized by the IICA Office in Peru to celebrate the Institute's fiftieth anniversary.

Representatives from the ministries of agriculture, the economy and finance, from the banking sector and from farmers' associations discussed the type of credit system needed in Peru for a modern, sustainable agriculture.

Key topics of discussion included the needs for and sources of funding for sustainable modernization of an expanded agricultural sector; the roles of commercial banks, public development banks, producers' associations and informal credit; and financing for the 1992-1993 farm year.

The activity was sponsored by the ministry of agriculture, the National Agrarian Organization, the Agrarian Promotion Association and the IICA Office in Peru, represented by Martin

Impact of Policies on Agri-food Sector Analyzed

The first one-day seminar of a series of four was held on August 28 and brought together national and international experts, who examined the impact of economic policies on the sustainable development of the agri-food sector of Costa Rica.

The event, sponsored by the National Autonomous University of Costa Rica (UNA) and the IICA Office in Costa Rica, commemorated the fiftieth anniversary of IICA.

The objective of the seminar was to bring together producers, and representatives from the government and academic circles, to discuss the profound changes that are taking place in the agricultural sector of Costa Rica, resulting from structural adjustments and stabilization policies.

International speakers included Gert Rosenthal, Director of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC); James Boyce, of the University of Massachusetts; Ruben Guevara, Director of the Tropical Agriculture Research and Training Center (CATIE); and Eduardo Trigo, Director of IICA's Technology Generation and Transfer Program.

Other speakers and commentators from Costa Rica included, among others, the Ministers of Agriculture, Foreign Trade and Natural Resources, Juan Rafael Lizano, Roberto Rojas, and Herna Bravo, respectively. Costa Rican economists Eduardo Lizano, Carlos Manuel Castillo and Sylvia Saborío also addressed the participants.



A book containing a very succinct history of IICA (El IICA y su Historia) was written by the Inter-American Agricultural Documentation and Information Center (CIDIA).

In the introduction, IICA's Director General, Martin E. Piñero, states that during these 50 years of institutional life, IICA has been able to work side by side with the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean in supporting agricultural development. In his judgement, the desire to promote hemisphere-wide cooperation which led to the creation of the Institute is more significant now than ever before. He adds that the task of forging a common destiny is now of great urgency, and that agriculture has a key role to play in it. Convinced that agriculture has been, and continues to be, the strength and future of the Americas, Piñero adds that the experience gained by the Institute constitutes a valuable resource to be used in meeting new challenges.

STAGES IN IICA'S DEVELOPMENT

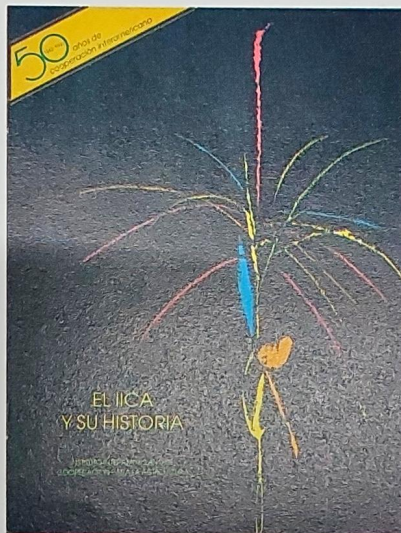
Certain important events in IICA's development as an institution can be seen as seven stages in the ongoing expansion and strengthening of its efforts throughout the Americas.

The first, naturally, was its **Foundation** (1942-1945). IICA began as a research and post-graduate training institution, under the guidance of Earl Bressman, a scientist from the United States of America and IICA's first Director General.

Once its foundations had been laid, IICA began a stage of **Consolidation** (1946-1949) to strengthen its work in the Americas. Ralph H. Allee, the second Director General, played a particularly important role in this stage, when the most significant progress was achieved in the fields of information, scientific research and rural sociology.

The History of IICA

The benefits and advantages gained during this stage allowed the Institute to show the countries its worth as a specialized agency of the inter-American system; the time was right to expand activities. Around 1950, IICA began the third stage of its evolution: geographic and functional **Decentralization** (1950-1959).



The poster commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of IICA, which appears on the cover of this edition of IICA News, was designed by the Costa Rican Olman Trigueros, a graphic artist with IICA's Editorial Service. It was also used for the commemorative postage stamp issued by the Government of Costa Rica, and for other publications referring to IICA's anniversary.

The fourth stage, known as the **New Dimension** (1960-1969), was launched by Armando Samper, a Director General from Colombia elected in 1960. New policy focused on institutional reorganization and review of strategies.

Beginning in 1970, the Institute began another stage, called **Hemispheric**

and Humanistic Projection (1970-1980), under the leadership of Director General Jose Emilio G. Araujo of Brazil. During this period, the philosophy was that human beings should be the subject and object of all efforts to bring about progress. The new strategy sought to strengthen national institutions and upgrade technical cooperation. At this time, IICA's research and training activities were separated from its hemispheric and global duties, leading to the creation of the Tropical Agriculture Research and Training Center (CATIE) in 1973. In 1980, the New Convention entered into force.

IICA then entered its sixth stage, **Reaching Agreement** (1981-1985). More than ever before, efforts focused on bringing greater justice to rural areas through development. The Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) met for the first time and, in accordance with the Convention, IICA adopted a new name: Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture. In 1982, Francisco Morillo, from Venezuela, took over as Director General and restructured relations with the Member States.

Against the backdrop of a deep crisis in the region, the Institute entered the seventh stage in its development: **Hemispheric Consolidation and Projection Worldwide** (1986-), under the leadership of Director General Martin E. Piñero of Argentina. In 1986, the IABA adopted a new strategy, set forth in the Medium Term Plan (MTP). It called for IICA to concentrate its efforts on strengthening and developing the agricultural sector, promoting technological modernization and production efficiency, and accelerating integration in the region. By mandate of the Ninth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA), held in Ottawa in 1987, IICA assumed responsibility for coordinating the process

to draw up a hemisphere-wide plan of action to reactivate the agricultural sector. Two years later (1989), the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC) was approved by the IABA in Costa Rica. In 1991, the Tenth ICMA and Sixth IABA were held concurrently in Spain. On that occasion, the ministers agreed that agri-

cultural modernization should take the following into consideration: strengthening of intersectoral linkages, incorporation of small farmers into production, and conservation of natural resources. In line with the above, IICA launched some 38 multinational projects and established cooperation agreements with donor countries and international agencies.

With 50 years of experience and positive growth through the aforementioned stages, IICA is today an organization serving the region, with a voice in international fora, and ready to respond to the dramatic changes taking place worldwide and to promote agricultural development in the hemisphere.

Inter-American Press Award: Winners to be Selected in September

In September, an international panel of judges will select the winners of the 1992 IICA Inter-American Press Award, one of the activities to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the Institute.

In addition to the first and second prizes (US\$3,000 and US\$1,500, respectively), the ten best works selected by the international panel of judges will be published. Also, a special US\$2,000 prize was established for journalists from IICA's Permanent Observers: Austria, Belgium, Egypt, European Communities, France, Germany, Israel,

Italy, Japan, Korea, the Netherlands, Portugal, Romania and Spain.

The contest, the theme of which is "The Role of Agriculture in the New International Setting," was opened in March to journalists of the written press and from press agencies in the Institute's 33 Member States.

Over the past few weeks, national juries in each of the countries chose the two best articles from their country to be judged in the final selection.

IICA on Bolivian Television

Over a span of several weeks, and as part of activities to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of IICA, the Institute transmitted institutional messages on Bolivian television stations.

According to the IICA Representative in Bolivia, Benjamin Jara, the IICA Office in that country sponsored a program on Bolivian agriculture on Channel 4 during the entire month of July, and a video on ecology on Channel 9.

Featured on both programs were the spots specially prepared for the International Exhibition of Seville (EXPO92) by the Communications Division of IICA, which is part of the Inter-American Agricultural Documentation and Information Center (CIDIA). These spots present the Institute's views on issues such as sustainable agriculture and modernization; democratic and equitable rural development; the environment, technology and research; and food security and the population challenge.

Gender, Woman and Development in Rural Areas: New Challenges

Fabiola Campillo (*)

Given the evidence that the economic growth and development achieved during previous decades had not benefitted men and women equally, and that poverty was on the rise, women attending the United Nations World Conference on Women and Development in Mexico in 1975 recommended the Equality and Development approach as their contribution to closing this gap. This approach calls for **Equality** of benefits, opportunities and access to and control of resources, focusing on the living conditions of women, along with a style of **Development** in which equity is paramount and participation one of its main expressions. This approach was translated into strategies to "integrate" women into development, which became the basis for actions undertaken throughout the world after the meeting.

Under this approach, research was conducted, policies and programs were designed, rural and indigenous women's groups were organized, and funding was provided for a wide range of income-generating projects for rural women in Latin America and the Caribbean. Nevertheless, results ten or fifteen years later showed that little or no progress had been made in achieving the proposed objectives: poor rural women continued to be the poorest of the poor, the number of households headed by women had increased, and programs and projects aimed at women were underfunded and had done little to improve their lives. This does not mean, however, that it was a lost decade. Women had become more aware of the discrimination they faced and of the subordinate role they were expected to play, the different development fora were giving more serious attention to the topic, and institutions had begun to study ways to systematically include the issue on the agenda for development.

The economic crisis of the 1980s and the unsustainable debt situation faced by the economies of Latin America raised serious questions about the development models followed up to that point. At the outset of the 1990s, the outlook for

women in development is not promising: the strategies carried out in the 1980s did not produce the desired results, and the interests and demands of women have not been effectively incorporated into these strategies. It is time to re-examine the situation.

Some new proposals grew out of the women's movement: it is necessary to change our outlook and view development from the perspective of gender, which involves accepting the fact that men



and women have different needs and requirements, and do not have equal shares of power, given their different roles in the historical, socioeconomic and political-cultural context in which they live. The goal, therefore, should not be to seek to address women's needs through programs designed exclusively for women, but rather to incorporate into mainstream development programs solutions that take into account the different and unequal participation of men and women. This new concept, considered more appropriate for ensuring equity, underscores the importance of empowering women so as to equip them to participate more fully, and to negotiate and administer resources within a new division of labor.

New directions will be necessary in agricultural development as well. Given the need to modernize agriculture and make it more competitive, we must analyze the role of the social players in rural areas, taking into consideration their different regional and socioeconomic interests. In working toward more comprehensive development, the dimension of gender can be an effective instrument in making the objective of social equity a reality. In addition to seeking equal opportunities for different socioeconomic groups, we must also seek equality for women and men.

The new challenge for institutions like IICA that wish to contribute to the work to achieve equity is to create some space and an atmosphere in which women can participate in formulating new approaches to development, and formulate strategies for incorporating the different demands of men and women into these new designs. Institutionalization of the

(*) The author is a specialist in women and rural development. She joined IICA in May and works with Program III: Organization and Management for Rural Development.

gender dimension in the planning and field activities of such institutions are the very least that can be done for meeting this challenge.

At the present time, IICA is discussing the possibility of adopting a series of technical guidelines that will guarantee: a) the use and application of the gender perspective in different aspects of the work carried out by IICA's Programs

and technical units, in the understanding that this topic is interdisciplinary in nature and affects all the Programs; b) application of this approach and targeting of the interests of rural women in projects and cooperation actions in the countries of the region; and c) active participation in international discussions on the best ways to meet these new challenges.

Programs on the march

Programs I and IV to Join Efforts

IICA's Program I (Agricultural Policy Analysis and Planning) and Program IV (Trade and Integration) will join efforts for the 1992-1993 biennium in order to comply with recommendations issued during the meetings of the Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA) and the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), held in Madrid last year.

Details on this inter-Program efforts were presented during the Twelfth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), held from June 22-24. In addition, progress reports were also given on the activities carried out by both Programs over the past two years.

Under the new scheme, Program I will transfer to Program IV multinational projects dealing with integration and the harmonization of policies among countries. Program IV will transfer to Program I initiatives on agroindustrial conversion. The two Programs will work together on further developing analytical capabilities for trade models.

The Director of Program I, Carlos Pomareda, informed delegates to the Executive Committee that, during the

next two years the Program will concentrate its activities on: i) the agri-food sector, ii) changes in the production structure and competitiveness and, iii) management of economic policy instruments to accompany modernization and sustainable development.

With regard to the agri-food sector, Pomareda stated that the first stage of a project carried out with support from the Spanish government had been completed. The activities included three region-wide seminars on the agri-food sector, which furnished more information on this sector and on agri-food chains, providing a rich field of work for future actions.

As to changes in the production structure, a project is being promoted to work with the countries in orienting and restructuring the production apparatus and pertinent public and private organizations. The third area focuses on the formulation of medium- and long-term financial mechanisms, which are being developed by the Latin American Association of Development Finance Institutions.

According to Rodolfo Quiros, Director of Program IV, that Program's areas of concentration include the analysis of political-trade and agricultural negotiations, specifically those related to multinational agreements and initiatives at the world and regional levels (Uruguay Round of the GATT, the Enterprise for the Americas Initiative

etc.). It also supports actions related to agricultural trade and integration.

With regard to the latter, special emphasis is placed on working with integration groups such as the Southern Cone Common Market (MERCOSUR), the Central American Common Market, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the Andean Group. All of the Program's technical cooperation actions with these groups are carried out under one hemispheric project and four multinational projects in the Andean, Central, Caribbean and Southern Areas.

The hemispheric project includes all trade negotiation initiatives as well as certain activities previously carried out independently. These include a program to access trade data banks and actions with the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), dealing with the exportation of nontraditional commodities and the identification of joint ventures.

Through the multinational projects, follow-up is provided on trade negotiations and support is given to efforts to promote subregional integration. Program IV also collaborates with several countries in establishing agricultural commodity exchanges. This activity has had a favorable impact in Central America and will soon be promoted in the Andean Area.

Recent changes in the agri-food sector of Latin America were analyzed during a high-level international seminar held in July in Washington, D.C., attended by representatives of cooperation and funding agencies, universities and private organizations in the United States.

The presentations and discussions at the event revolved around twelve studies prepared by IICA which, at the overall level, characterized agri-food trade flows in the hemisphere, and at the country level, assessed the scope of policy reforms and institutional changes being implemented to complement economic opening.

Topics discussed at the seminar included "Progress in subregional trade agree-

ments and challenges for the agri-food sector," "Institutional reforms in the public agricultural sector of Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC)," "Changes in organizations of the private agroindustrial sector" and "Agricultural and agroindustrial trade between the United States and LAC: Current status and outlook as a result of policy reforms."

In addition to IICA, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the World Bank, the seminar was attended by representatives of the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), the Overseas Development Council (ODC), Resources for the Future, the Departments of Agriculture and Commerce of the United States, as well as universities, foundations and private organizations.

Changes in the Agri-food Sector Analyzed

Analysis of the studies revealed several characteristics common to economic and trade policies in LAC. These include: i) a real exchange rate policy, with gradual adjustments, is commonly used in the region; ii) in most of the countries, monetary policies include real and positive interest rates; iii) high fiscal deficits were brought down through programs to reduce subsidies and the size of the public administration; iv) trade policy reforms have led to reductions in tariff protection levels; and v) trade negotiations have been characterized by dynamic activity on various fronts: GATT, subregional integra-

tion efforts, bilateral agreements, and the Enterprise for the Americas Initiative.

Also, according to data presented at the seminar, trade between the United States and LAC is dynamic and of key importance: the United States absorbs 34% of LAC exports, of which 17% are agricultural and agroindustrial products. The region enjoys an important and growing surplus in its agricultural trade with the United States, accounting for only 9.5% of that country's sales.

New Forms of Cooperation for Sustainable Development

The Cooperative Program for Research and Technology Transfer for the South American Tropics (PROCITROPICOS) is a good example of the type of initiative that should be strengthened in the wake of the Earth Summit, said the Executive Secretary of this multilateral initiative, Victor Palma.

Palma was a member of the IICA delegation, headed by the Director General, Martin E. Piñeiro, to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED).

Palma explained that several important agreements included in Agenda 21, the plan of action approved by the UNCED, call for the design of innovative cooperation strategies, and that

PROCITROPICOS qualifies as such on numerous counts. Now that the Earth Summit has concluded, no time should be lost in identifying mechanisms that will make it possible to implement its multilateral cooperation programs for sustainable development. He added that PROCITROPICOS has been a pioneer in this respect.

The Program was implemented in August 1991, through a cooperation agreement signed by the eight countries of the Amazon Basin (Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela) and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), which continues to support its operations. The principal goals of PROCITROPICOS include contribut-



Photo R. Escobar

Victor Palma, Executive Secretary of PROCITROPICOS.

ing to the sustainable development of agriculture and forests, eliminating duplication of scientific and technological efforts, and channeling external cooperation resources to research and technology transfer.

Funding for PROCIANDINO

In order to strengthen its position in supporting subregional integration, the Cooperative Agricultural Research and Technology Transfer Program for the Andean Subregion (PROCIANDINO) will set up a trust fund to finance its activities during the 1990s.

A recent issue of the bi-monthly PROCIANDINO news bulletin indicated that the fund will be set up with the Andean Development Corporation (CAF), and will begin operations with US\$2 million, obtained from contributions from its five member countries

(Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela).

Once the trust fund is put into effect, the Program will seek to secure other funding from donor agencies in order to enable it to provide ongoing financial support.

PROCIANDINO, a technical-political forum established to upgrade agricultural research in member countries, has been administered and coordinated by IICA since 1986. In 1991, the PROCIANDINO/IICA technical cooperation agreement was extended to 1996.

Action in the countries

Belize Joins IICA as Newest Member State

Upon signing the Convention that establishes the nature and purposes of the Institute, Belize became the thirty-third Member State of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA).

The document was signed in Washington, D.C. on June 9 by the Ambassador of Belize, James V. Hyde, in the presence of the Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS), Joao Baena Soares. During the activity, the Ambassador stated that "The signing of the IICA Convention represents another step towards full integration into the inter-American system."

Hyde explained that his government places great importance on agriculture in the new development plans being promoted in the region, and that joining IICA is therefore of special significance.

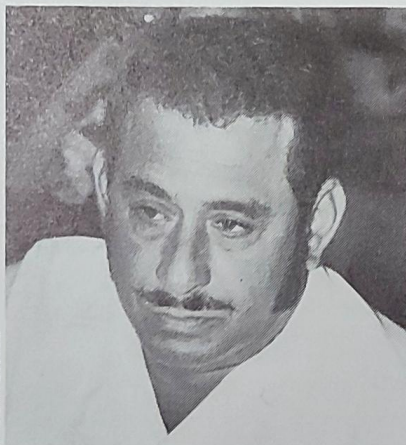


Photo R. Escobar

The Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries of Belize, Michael Espat, represented his country at the Twelfth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee.

"We realize that we must be more efficient in marketing our agricultural commodities," explained the Ambassador, who recognized the role IICA can play in attaining this objective.

Baena Soares pointed out that IICA has helped its member countries strengthen their activities to boost agricultural development as a means to

Successful Project With Rural Women Concludes

Two years after it was launched, a project to promote the participation of rural women in the development of northwestern Argentina was successfully completed. The experience gained from the project will be used as the basis for new initiatives.

The project was coordinated by the Undersecretariat of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (SSAGyP) and included actions to equip institutions in the provinces of Jujuy, Tucuman, Santiago del Estero, Catamarca and La Rioja to incorporate rural women into development activities. Also included was implementation of economically viable production microprojects.

The project was funded by the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), and received technical support from the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA).

At the request of the government of Argentina, the Institute helped systematize the experience gained in the project, with a view to establishing a conceptual and methodological framework to be used to orient new projects. This information will be published in a document to be prepared by the IICA Office in Argentina for dissemination to the countries of the Southern Cone belonging to the Cooperative Rural Development Program (PROCORDER).

achieving economic and social development.

The Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñero, officially announced Belize's membership in IICA during the Twelfth Regular Meeting of its Executive Committee, held from June 22-24.

World Bank Proposes that IICA Coordinate Research in the Caribbean

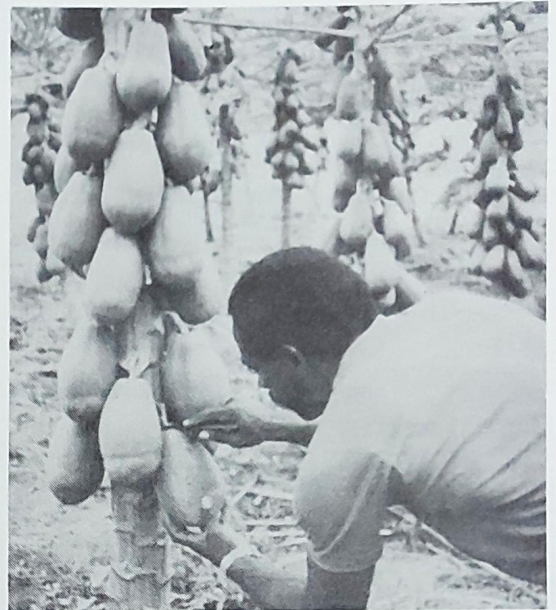
Last June, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (World Bank) proposed that IICA coordinate new activities to promote agricultural research and extension in the Caribbean.

The proposal was made during the Eleventh Biannual Meeting of the Support Group for Caribbean Economic Development, sponsored by the World Bank and held at the Bank's headquarters in Washington, D.C., from June 1-5. The meeting was attended by ministers and representatives from 25 countries of the hemisphere, and 19 international and regional development agencies.

The proposal is included in a project drawn up by the World Bank to reorient regional efforts in this area. The document, which was approved by the participants, proposes that IICA take on a leading role to make sure that research in the region is given the appropriate priority.

Participants in the conference included, among others, the prime ministers of Grenada, Nicholas Brathwaite; Dominica, Mary Eugenia Charles; St. Lucia, John Compton; Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, James F. Mitchell; and St. Kitts and Nevis, Kennedy Simmonds. Other participants included officials from the ministries of finance, planning and economy of these countries.

The World Bank study recommends that the ministries of agriculture adopt a more open approach toward the private sector and regional agricultural development. It also points out that IICA is in the best position to support the countries and agencies in establishing goals and properly planning activities for the agricultural sector.



The proposal suggests strengthening agricultural extension services.

The Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñeiro, participated in the most recent meeting of CARICOM's Standing Committee of Ministers Responsible for Agriculture, held in Barbados in June.

The ministers studied the progress of the agricultural and trade activities coordinated by CARICOM, as well as its relations with technical cooperation agencies. They also sought to define common positions for their participation in international fora such as the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, which was about to begin in Brazil.

In his presentation, Piñeiro suggested that the Caribbean nations give greater impetus to their integration movement, with a view to generating economies of scale that will enable them to participate more effectively in an increasingly competitive international context.

Piñeiro Calls for Increased Integration in Caribbean



The Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñeiro (right), greets Senator Harcourt Lewis, of Barbados.

CARDI Expresses Thanks

On behalf of the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI), the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries of Barbados, L.V.H. Lewis, thanked the Deputy Director General of IICA, Harlan Davis, for his work as chairman of CARDI's Donor Group.

The efforts which gave rise to this recognition included an external evaluation of the activities carried out by CARDI. Subject of the analysis were the purposes that orient the organization's activity, the efficiency of its research and technology program, and the impact of its projects in the subregion as a whole and in each individual country.

The governors thanked Davis for bringing together a group of experienced professionals to conduct the evaluation, the recommendations of which were "very well received." According to the governors, the recommendations are of strategic importance for the Institute, "especially now that CARDI is planning its program for the year 2000 and beyond."



Photo R. Escobar

Calixte George, Executive Director of CARDI, attended the Twelfth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee of IICA as an observer.

In a recently published document entitled "An Option for Caribbean Agriculture: Tropical Boutique Agriculture," the IICA Representative in Jamaica, Armando Reyes-Pacheco, indicated that nontraditional agricultural products provide new opportunities for the Caribbean countries to participate more fully in ever more open and competitive international markets.

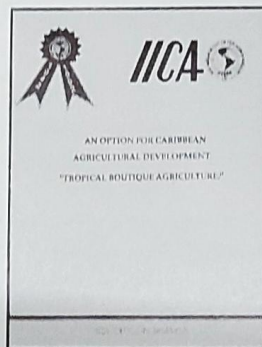
In addition to renewing efforts to boost the production of traditional crops (bananas, sugar, cocoa and cit-

rus fruits, among others), emphasis should be placed on fostering the development of agroindustrial initiatives to produce exotic flavors and fragrances, sauces, dried fruits, snacks and a wide range of fruit juices.

Nontraditional Products: An Alternative for the Caribbean

According to Reyes, these

new types of products will enable the Caribbean to take advantage of interesting options in specialized market niches and give it an advantage over other nations with tropical crops.



Venezuela Agreement

The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAC) of Venezuela and IICA signed an administrative services agreement designed to support the preinvestment activities of the MAC and to strengthen its Sectoral Planning Office.

Cooperation involves hiring and monitoring the work of national or interna-

tional consultants or consulting firms, and purchasing equipment to be used in achieving the established objectives.

The agreement was signed by Minister Johnathan Coles and the IICA Representative in Venezuela, Diego Londoño.

Vice Ministers of Central America: Advocate Unified Position in Uruguay Round

Vice ministers and officials of the ministries of agriculture and of the economy of Central America, as well as representatives of the private sector, recommended that a unified, coordinated position be taken in the last phase of the trade and agricultural negotiations of the Uruguay Round under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

This issue was discussed during an international seminar on agricultural integration and trade policy reforms in Central America, which took place at IICA Headquarters in June. The meeting was organized by the Regional Council for Agricultural Cooperation in Central America, Mexico, Panama and the Dominican Republic (CORECA), a sectoral forum made up of the ministers of agriculture.

According to Roger Guillen, Secretary for Coordination of CORECA, "The countries of the area must agree on

coordinated proposals to strengthen their negotiating position in the final phase of the Uruguay Round." He added that a new international framework of "clear and transparent rules" is required if the countries of the region are to take part in world agricultural trade.

During the meeting, it was also noted that there is a consensus among the countries of the Isthmus with regard to almost all of the common external tariffs to be applied to agricultural products and inputs imported from third markets, as well as to the schedules for tariff reductions, to reach a 20% maximum and a 5% minimum by January 1, 1993.

With regard to the price bands system, Guillen stated that it has already been established in El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua for corn, sorghum and rice, and will soon in use in Guatemala. At the same time, Central



Central America seeks "clear and transparent" regulations to govern its participation in world agricultural trade.

America has been gradually eliminating certain restrictions on trade and making progress in liberalizing prices for agricultural products and inputs in several countries.

A mission from the Republic of Korea visited Panama in June, where it met with local agroexporters to explore the possibilities of agricultural trade between the two countries.

According to the mission chief, Sam Mu Lee, Director General of the Office of Agricultural Policies of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Korea is interested in buying meat, coffee, bananas, melons, papaya and ornamental plants from Panama and the other countries of the subregion.

To this end, Lee and specialists Young Kum Shim and Kim Yeong-Man exchanged preliminary information with Panamanian businessmen on several key issues such as transportation costs and quality control. The meeting was held at the IICA Office in Panama.

Korea Hopeful of Initiating Trade with Panama



Before visiting Panama, the mission from the Republic of Korea attended the Twelfth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee of IICA.

Director General Attends Inauguration of President of Ecuador

The Director General of IICA, Martín E. Piñero, attended the inauguration of the new president of Ecuador, Sixto Duran-Ballen, which took place on August 10.

Accompanied by IICA's Director of External Relations, Jorge Werthein, Piñero took advantage of his visit to discuss with the new government officials the technical cooperation IICA offers to Ecuador, which has focused primarily on promoting rural development.

Most of IICA's efforts have sought to identify, formulate and implement integrated rural development projects, with funds from the World Bank. Other important activities have included efforts to strengthen technology generation and transfer institutions.

As a result of an evaluation of the technical cooperation carried out during the year, IICA gave new priority to the topics of natural resource conservation, irrigation administration and management, and trade and integration.



Courtesy La Nación, C.R.

The new President of Ecuador, Sixto Duran-Ballen, greets participants attending his inauguration at the Congress building in Quito.

Switzerland and IICA Promote Rural Development in Ecuador

IICA, using non-reimbursable funding from the Technical Cooperation Agency of the Swiss Government (COTESU), drew up a proposal to implement the second phase of the Penipe Rural Development Project in the central province of Chimborazo, Ecuador.

In this effort, the two organizations have joined efforts to support the Ministry of Social Welfare of Ecuador and the project's beneficiary rural population. A total of US\$600,000 was provided by COTESU to fund the first stage of the initiative, which was completed in July. Principal actions included support for infrastructure, especially irrigation, and the promotion of agricultural production.

IICA's participation in the preparation of the proposal for the second phase, which will include components on production, infrastructure and organizational development, was established in a letter of understanding signed in June by the IICA Representative in Ecuador, Alex Barril Garcia and his counterpart from COTESU in that country, Regis Avanthay.



Photo: Manuel Viera, Ecuador

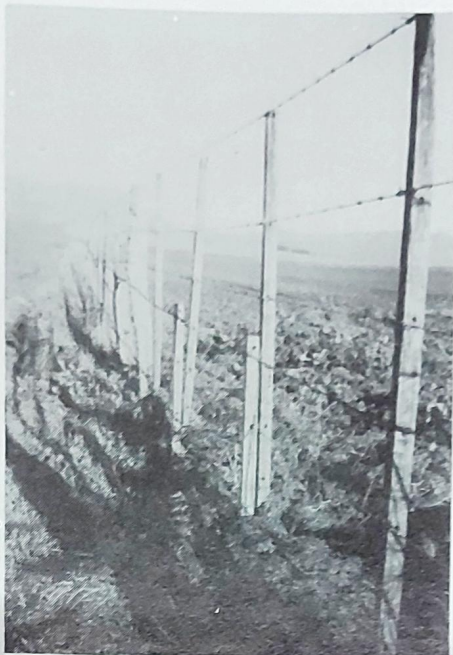
Project components deal with production and organizational development.

New Agrarian Legislation Promoted in Bolivia

Government agencies, private agricultural associations, trade union members, producers and businessmen from Bolivia established guidelines for formulating new agrarian legislation for this Andean nation, aiming to promote growth, strengthen the sector and encourage foreign investments.

The proposal was presented during the National Agricultural Forum, the theme of which was "Toward New Agrarian Legislation for Bolivia." The meeting, held recently in the city of Santa Cruz de la Sierra, was sponsored by IICA and organized by the Chamber of Agriculture of Western Bolivia (CAO).

During the meeting, participants reviewed similar reforms introduced in Mexico and Peru and underlined the importance of modernizing the agrarian structure to bring it into line with prevailing conditions and needs of the



Photo/Anibal Rodriguez

Several sectors stressed the need to modernize the agricultural model.

production sector. They also discussed the establishment of the National Lands Institute, which would administer agrarian property (paths, roads, lakes, and virgin forests, among others).

The meeting was the first of a series of three organized by the IICA Office in Bolivia to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the Institute. The second event will be a national seminar, to be held in Cochabamba, to analyze production systems in the highlands, valleys and the eastern part of the country. The third event, a Pan American Seminar on Seeds, will be held in Santa Cruz in October.

Book Presented

"Argentina: Agricultura, Integración y Crecimiento" (Argentina: Agriculture, Integration and Growth) is the title of a book written by Edith S. Obschatko (second from left to right) and published by the IICA Office in Argentina. The book was presented during a special ceremony held in Buenos Aires on June 30. Accompanying the author are Adolfo Sturzenegger; the IICA Representative in Argentina, Carlos Garramon, and the President of the National Institute of Agricultural Technology (INTA), Felix Cirio.



Colombia:

Agricultural Exports Promoted

Establishment of a "Colombian Foundation" -similar to those set up in Chile and Bolivia to promote agricultural exports- is receiving support from the IICA Office in Colombia, directed by IICA Representative Edgardo Moscardi.

In addressing a seminar held to discuss this initiative, the President of Colombia, Cesar Gaviria, expressed his satisfaction with the way in which the ministry of agriculture, with technical cooperation from IICA, was implementing a program to promote a private entity specializing in business management to foster agricultural exports from Colombia.

The seminar, which reviewed the objectives, achievements and orientations of the Foundation, was inaugurated by the Minister of Agriculture, Alfonso Lopez Caballero.



The Foundation will promote the production and exportation of new agricultural commodities with competitive advantages. In the photo are (from left to right) Edgardo Moscardi, IICA Representative; Alfonso Lopez Caballero, Minister of Agriculture; Jaime Cordoba, President of the Colombian Farmers' Association; and Carlos Gustavo Cano, Coordinator of the Fundación Colombia project.

The following working areas were initially identified for the efforts to promote the production and exportation of new agricultural commodities having clear comparative advantages: market intelligence and promotion, transfer and adoption of new technologies, technical assistance for market-

ing, promotion of businesses and management of investment funds, and support for rural development programs.

Librarians Learn to Use Microis Data Base



Microis is a bibliographic information program for microcomputers.

Librarians from throughout the region have received training in the use of the Microis data base, a bibliographic information program for microcomputers.

The courses were taught by specialists from the Inter-American Agricultural Documentation and Information Center (CIDIA) and IICA's Informatics Service. The first, held at IICA Headquarters, was attended also by librarians from Mozambique. The second took place in Ecuador at the request of the Cooperative Agricultural Research and Technology Transfer Program for the Andean Subregion (PROCIANDINO). It provided training for personnel from libraries associated with the agricultural sector in Ecuador.

New IICA Representatives

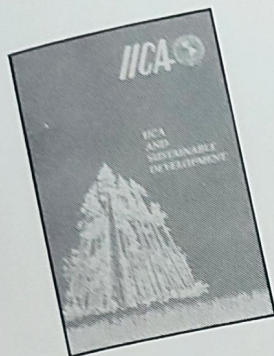
The Institute has new Representatives in Guatemala and Suriname.

Virgilio Paredes, from Honduras, was appointed as the new IICA Representative in Guatemala as of July 1.

Finn H. Damtoft, from Canada, was appointed as the new IICA Representative in Suriname as of May 6.

Publications

IICA and Sustainable Development



IICA Editorial Service

Published in Spanish and English, this booklet presents the conceptual framework and the strategy underlying IICA's technical cooperation actions in connection with sustainable development.

The conceptual framework points up the close relationship between poverty and environmental conservation, and underscores the need for development to include long-term objectives seeking social equity, with a view to bringing into development those sectors that have not benefited fully from growth. IICA will also promote initiatives aimed at conserving and increasing the ecological capital as a means of guaranteeing the well-being of future generations.

As far as strategy is concerned, the booklet notes that IICA attaches priority to actions that benefit groups of countries, and identifies various projects on sustainable development that the

Institute is carrying out with support from specialized agencies and cooperation organizations. These include the Cooperative Research and Technology Transfer Program for the South American Tropics (PROCITROPICOS) and an initiative to promote conservation practices on the hill-sides of Central America.

Informe Mujer Rural Volumes I, II and III



IICA Editorial Service IICA/SIDA Project

This three-volume collection describes the governmental and nongovernmental organizations in Central America that work with rural women and produce educational and communications materials.

It is published under the Women and Communications Project sponsored by the Swedish International Development Authority (SIDA) and IICA, through the Inter-American Agricultural Documentation and Information Center (CIDIA).

Volume I describes the purposes and objectives of

the organizations and includes an analysis of certain pre-selected variables: subject matter, materials produced, resources and equipment. Volume II is a directory, and Volume III is a bibliography of materials dealing with the issue of women, including videos and radio programs.

Modernización Democrática e Incluyente de la Agricultura en América Latina y el Caribe



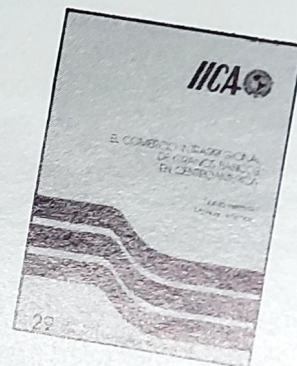
Fernando Calderón, Manuel Chiriboga, Diego Piñero Program Papers Series IICA Editorial Service

This book, available only in Spanish, analyzes the opportunities for democratic and comprehensive modernization of agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean, given the changes that have taken place in the international context. It proposes that this will be possible because of the strategic importance of the sector, provided that efforts to assume a more important role on the world market reflect a social and political

pact in which all players have participated and with which they all agree.

Key elements of that agreement must include promoting agroindustrialization, involving small farmers in development and fostering environmental sustainability. Divided into five chapters, the books offers new arguments for discussions on the link between agriculture, equity and democracy.

El Comercio Intrarregional de Granos Básicos en Centroamérica



Danilo Herrera, Manuel Jiménez Program Papers Series IICA Editorial Service

The purpose of this book is to serve as a practical instrument in efforts to draw up national and regional trade agreements on staple grains. It offers useful information on commodities such as beans, rice, white corn, yellow corn and sorghum.

IICA



NEWS

September - December 1992, Year IX, No. 51



- IICA Celebrates Fiftieth Anniversary

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The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) is headquartered in San José, Costa Rica. It is the specialized agency for agriculture of the inter-American system. It was founded by the governments of the hemisphere in 1942 to encourage, promote and support the efforts made by its Member States for agricultural development and rural well-being. It has 33 member countries and 14 permanent observers.

IICA Celebrates Fiftieth Anniversary



The ceremony celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Institute was presided over by the President of Costa Rica, Rafael Angel Calderon, and the First Lady, Gloria Bejarano (center). From left to right, they are accompanied by the Minister of Agriculture of that country, Juan Rafael Lizano; the Foreign Minister, Bernd Niehaus; the Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñeiro; the Chairman of the IABA, Ira d'Auvergne; the Secretary of Agriculture of Mexico, Carlos Hank Gonzalez; the Vice Minister of Agriculture of Spain, Juan Antonio Blanco; and the Representative of the OAS, Hugo Caminos.

The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), one of the oldest agencies in the Americas, celebrated a very special event on October 7, 1992: its fiftieth anniversary.

The President of Costa Rica, the Chairman of the Sixth Inter-American Board of Agriculture, the ministers of agriculture from Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua, and vice ministers of agriculture from Panama and Spain, were among the guests participating in the celebration at Headquarters.

Speaking on behalf of the Secretary General of the Organization of American States was Hugo Caminos, and the delegate speaking in representation of the government of the United States, the country which had presided over the last meeting of the Executive Committee, was John Miranda.

Other participating cabinet members of the Costa Rican government were the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Bernd Niehaus and the Minister of Agriculture, Juan Rafael Lizano.

Guests also included members of the diplomatic corps in Costa Rica, members of the legislature, representatives of international cooperation and lending agencies, Directors General emeritus of IICA and employees of the Institute, headed by the Director General, Martin E. Piñeiro.

Fifty Years Ago

Five decades ago a group of visionaries, fully committed to the inter-American ideal, decided to establish an agency to serve agriculture and small farmers.

In 1942, in Turrialba, the President of Costa Rica, Rafael Angel Calderon Guardia, laid the cornerstone for what was to serve as the headquarters of the Institute. He was accompanied by the then Vice President of the United States, Henry A. Wallace, another pioneer.

Fifty years later, the son of that Costa Rican president, today President of this Central American nation, Rafael Angel Calderon Fournier, headed the ceremony to celebrate the Institute's fiftieth anniversary.

As his father did fifty years ago, the President reaffirmed the government of Costa Rica's commitment to continue supporting the work carried out by the Institute, "whose prestige in the country and at the international level is fully justified in light of the enormous importance of its work to promote the development and the well-being of the peoples of the Americas."

The Director General thanked the President for his kind words and the support which dates back to "those distant days when another President Calderon laid the cornerstone for the original building."

In his address, President Calderon maintained that IICA "is our guarantee of continuing progress in agriculture in the Americas, in line with the challenges and changes of the new century." He affirmed that IICA's recent achievements "allow us to look forward to a brilliant and promising future for agriculture." "Just a little more than a year ago," he recalled, "the Tenth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture, which was held in Madrid, once again affirmed IICA's position as a leader in international cooperation for agriculture."



President Calderon inaugurates an annex to one of IICA's buildings.

According to President Calderon, the Declaration of Madrid "interprets absolutely correctly the great challenges of today," in setting the course for further progress in agriculture, through modernization of an expanded agri-food sector linked to other sectors of the economy, incorporation of the peasant farming sector into development, and promotion of sustainable agricultural development and environmental conservation.

On behalf of the Institute's 33 Member States, Ira d'Auvergne, Minister of Agriculture of St. Lucia, who presided over the Sixth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture, said that the celebration of IICA's fifty years of technical cooperation was an event of which everyone should be proud.

He also praised the outstanding leadership of Martin E. Piñeiro in conducting the affairs of the Institute and forging closer ties between the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. In emphasizing that the Caribbean countries are now fully integrated into the Institute, the Minister called special attention to the contributions IICA has made to CARICOM countries.

Juan Mata, of IICA's Editorial Service, received a medal from President Calderon, honoring him as the staff member with the most seniority at the Institute.



Photo: R. Escobar

Speaking on behalf of the Secretary General of the OAS, Hugo Caminos stated that the Director General of IICA "had shaped (the Institute) into a new type of international organization which serves as an example for the entire American community."

He went on to say that under Piñeiro's leadership, IICA "has been able to respond to the crisis faced by its member countries in these times of economic uncertainty. During his term, we witnessed the return of democracy in almost all of our countries and the revitalization of agriculture as the pivot of economic development in the countries of the region."

agriculture as the pivot of economic development in the countries of the region."

In addressing the audience, Martin Piñeiro, Director General of IICA, urged those present not to see the commemoration as simply an occasion to celebrate the founding of the Institute. He said that it should serve as a day to reflect on all the vital issues that must still be resolved in order to convert agriculture into the axis of a new style of development. According to Piñeiro, in a world where contrasts are getting more and more entrenched, "we must recover our unique identities and return to the values rooted in the rural sector, to follow our agricultural vocation and destiny. For this reason, we are convinced that agriculture will continue to be what it has been until the present: the strength and future of the Americas."

Countries and Organizations Congratulate the Institute

Senior officials from governments and international agencies from around the hemisphere gathered to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA).

Messages of praise and congratulations were received from the Organization of American States (OAS), the Chairman of the last meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture, the President and the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States, the Prime Minister and the Minister of Agriculture of Canada, ministers of agriculture from many countries and senior officials from multilateral agencies.

During the General Assembly of the OAS, held in the Bahamas in May, participants congratulated IICA for formulating economically and socially important agricultural programs over the fifty year period of 1942-1992, and high-

lighted the Institute's outstanding contributions to progress in the agricultural sectors of the region, and in upgrading the human and technical resources of its Member States.

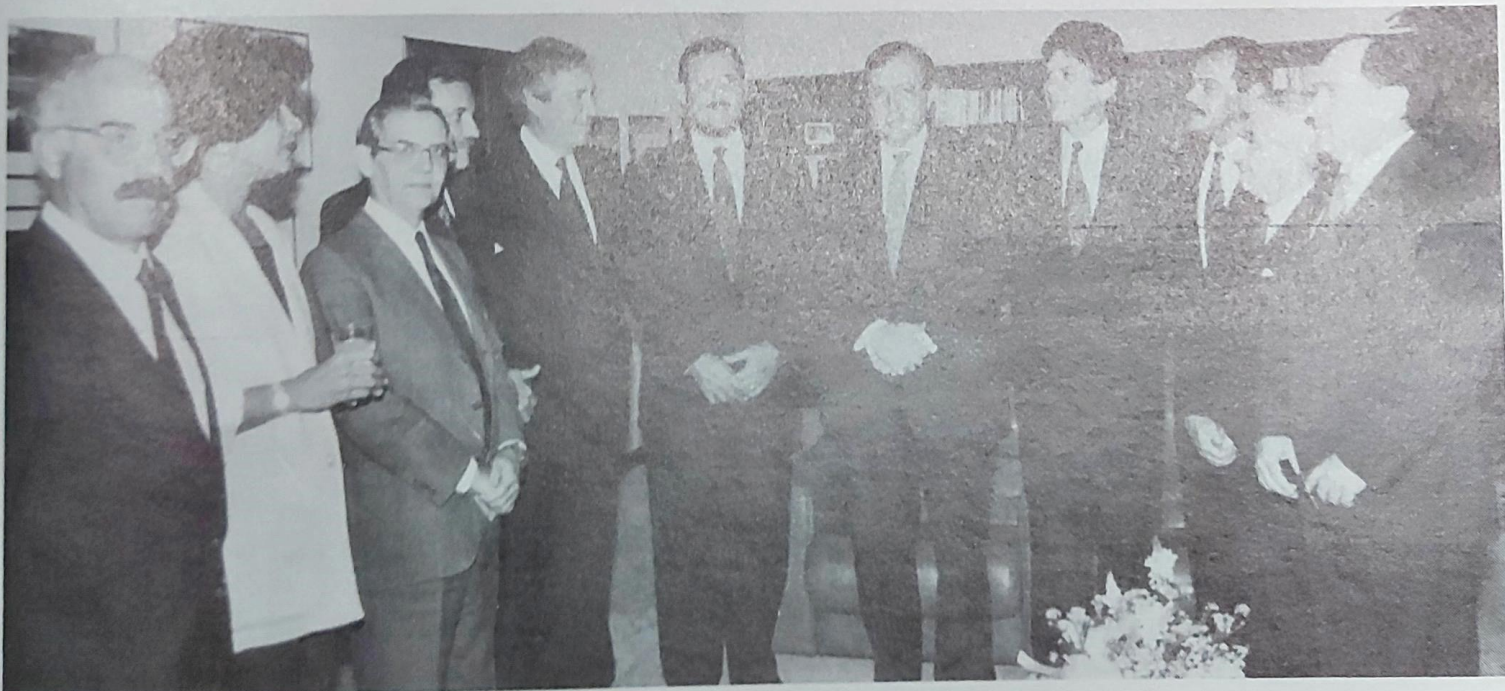
The OAS also recognized "IICA's effective coordination of activities with other agencies of the inter-American system and international organizations, and its search for excellence in agriculture for its Member States over these fifty years."

In a letter to the Director General, Martin E. Piñeiro, Ira d'Auvergne, Chairman of the last meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), the governing body of IICA, and minister of agriculture of St. Lucia, expressed the deepest gratitude of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean for fifty years of technical cooperation in support of regional and subregional agricultural development.

He added that "It is worth noting that you assumed the leadership of the Organization at a particularly critical time in its history. It was a time of diverse global changes, which demanded appropriate adjustments in our economic development strategies and thrust new roles upon the agricultural sector. IICA had to be responsive to those changes, and under your direction, the organisation not only survived but prospered."

The Institute has played a significant role in coordinating the progress that has been achieved in agriculture.
(OAS General Assembly)

The President of the United States, George Bush, affirmed that since its inception, the Institute had played a leading role in promoting agricultural and development throughout the Western Hemisphere.



Prior to the ceremony, important guests greeted the Director General, Martin E. Piñeiro (third from the left), in his office. From left to right, they are Vice Minister Blanco, of Spain; Vice Minister Gonzalez, of Panama; Foreign Minister Niehaus, of Costa Rica; Secretary of Agriculture Hank, of Mexico; Minister Rondon, of Nicaragua; President Calderon, of Costa Rica; Minister Boppel, of Guatemala; Vice Minister Acuña, of Costa Rica; Minister Nufio Gamero, of Honduras; and Minister Lizano, of Costa Rica.

In addition to pointing out the need for conserving the rich natural resources of the hemisphere, President Bush indicated that organizations such as IICA are tremendously important to promoting sustainable development in agriculture. Thanks to IICA's Programs, he added, small farmers now enjoy additional opportunities to learn about the latest advances in agricultural technology and techniques while also discovering how free enterprise and democracy help to ensure greater prosperity and progress for all peoples of the region.

The Secretary of Agriculture of the United States, Edward Madigan, stated that his country was proud to have been instrumental in the creation of IICA. He also praised the farsighted government of Costa Rica for donating the land for IICA to carry out agricultural research and training activities.

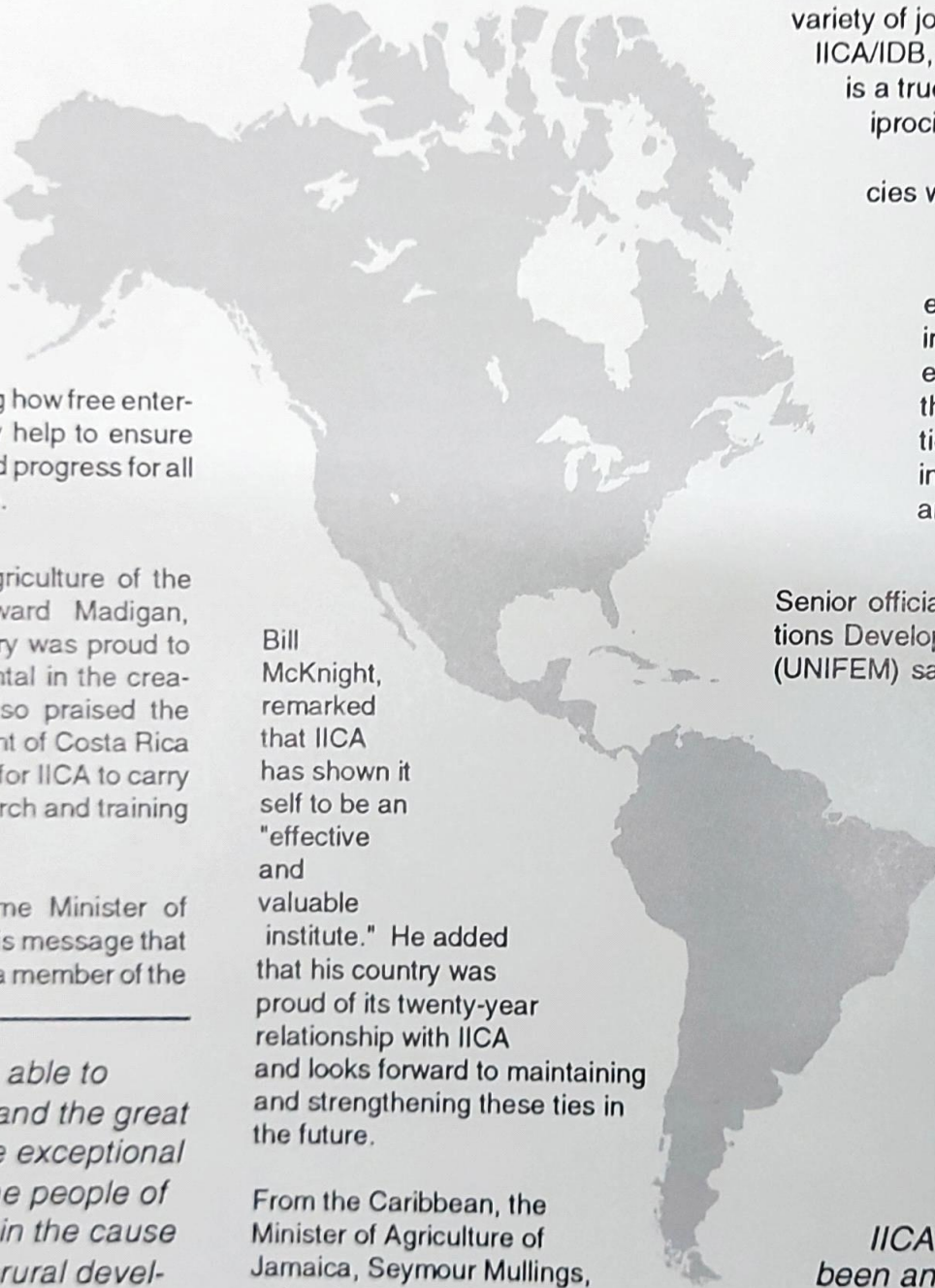
Brian Mulroney, Prime Minister of Canada, recalled in his message that his country has been a member of the

Canada has been able to observe "at first hand the great dedication and the exceptional effectiveness of the people of your organization in the cause of agriculture and rural development in Latin America and the Caribbean." (Brian Mulroney, Prime Minister).

Institute since 1972, and that this had enabled Canada to have "first-hand knowledge of the Institute's great dedication and exceptional efficiency

in working toward agricultural and rural development in Latin America and the Caribbean."

The Canadian Minister of Agriculture,



Bill McKnight, remarked that IICA has shown itself to be an "effective and valuable institute." He added that his country was proud of its twenty-year relationship with IICA and looks forward to maintaining and strengthening these ties in the future.

From the Caribbean, the Minister of Agriculture of Jamaica, Seymour Mullings, pointed out that IICA's contributions were an excellent example of benefits obtained through cooperation among the countries of the inter-American system.

Other international agencies also joined in the celebrations. The President of the Inter-American Develop-

ment Bank (IDB), Enrique Iglesias, stated that the IDB enjoys a friendly and productive association with the Institute. The working relationship between IICA and the IDB had grown considerably over recent years, he added, resulting in an effective integration of actions along lines of common interest. After describing the variety of joint actions carried out by IICA/IDB, Iglesias stated that there is a true sense of trust and reciprocity among the inter-American cooperation agencies working for development.

This should serve as an example to be continued in the search for ways to effectively complement the talents and capabilities available in the region, in technical and financial areas.

Senior officials from the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) said that they hoped that IICA would continue to make valuable contributions, as it has done since its inception.

IICA's contribution "has been an excellent example of the benefits of cooperation between countries of the inter-American system." (Seymour Mullings, Minister of Agriculture of Jamaica).

Mexico:

SARH and IICA Join Forces to Combat the Fruit Fly

The Secretary of Agriculture and Water Resources (SARH) of Mexico, Carlos Hank Gonzalez, and the Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñero, signed a cooperation agreement aimed at combatting fruit flies in that country.

the appropriations made by the Mexican authorities and the needs of the program.

According to Gonzalez, "IICA will be responsible for managing the program and for selecting the technical personnel

which causes millions of dollars in damage every year. To this end, emphasis will be placed on implementing an integrated pest management system, on releasing sterile insects in the most severely affected regions, and on designing and executing preventive measures aimed at halting the introduction and spread of exotic fruit fly varieties.



The cooperation agreement was signed in the Mexico Dining Room.

The signing took place during a special ceremony attended also by the President of Costa Rica, Rafael Angel Calderon, the First Lady of that country, Gloria Bejarano de Calderon, and the Ministers of Agriculture of Guatemala, Costa Rica, Honduras and Nicaragua.

Under the terms of the twelve-year agreement, IICA will provide SARH with technical and administrative support in developing a national fruit fly eradication program, with a view to helping fruit growers improve the quality of their produce and thus improve their competitiveness.

During the life of the agreement, IICA - through its Office in Mexico - will administer an average of US\$5 million in SARH resources annually, in line with

who will participate in the initiative, which is of the utmost importance for plant protection in Mexico."

This initiative complements other plant protection services and activities in Mexico which are being strengthened to meet the requirements of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), which President George Bush of the United States of America, President Carlos Salinas de Gortari, of the United States of Mexico, and the Prime Minister of Canada, Brian Mulroney have agreed to sign, once it has been ratified by the legislative bodies of each country.

The goal of this joint SARH-IICA action is to eradicate from Mexico the many different species of fruit fly, a pest

MEXICO DINING ROOM

Mexico's Secretary of Agriculture and Water Resources, Hank Gonzalez, who was in Costa Rica to participate in the celebration of IICA's fiftieth anniversary, also inaugurated the new Mexico Dining Room, whose interior is of Mexican style. The dining room, which is some 120 square meters in size, was designed by Mexican architect Jose Briseño Lopez, of SARH. The main dining room is spacious and can be adapted for use as a meeting room. One of the walls, built of wood, is reminiscent of Mexican artisanal woodwork. Another wall serves a more practical purpose, storing the folding panels used to divide the room. The dining room also has a movable piece of furniture for storing glassware, and which doubles as a serving area.

One of the more beautiful elements is the wall at the head of the dining room, covered with layers of tiles of volcanic rock from Tezontle. The coffered ceiling is covered with fabric. Adjustable lighting is provided by halogen lamps. The furniture in the room consists of traditional square tables, accompanied by specially designed chairs with brightly colored cushions.

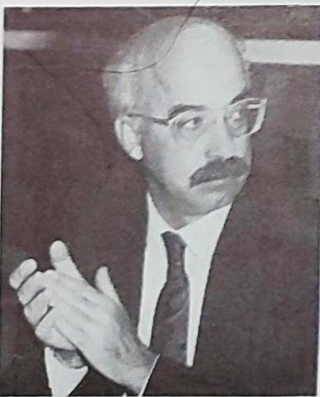
Guests Praise Contributions of Inter-American Cooperation

The Vice Minister of Agriculture of Spain, the Secretary of Agriculture and Water Resources of Mexico, and the Ministers of Agriculture of Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Saint Lucia discuss the significance of IICA's fifty years of inter-American cooperation.



Spain: Vitality and Flexibility

According to the Vice Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food of Spain, Juan Antonio Blanco, fifty years of institutional life is proof of the vitality of IICA, a dynamic agency that over the years has lived up to its responsibilities in addressing the problems faced by the agricultural sector in Latin America and the Caribbean.

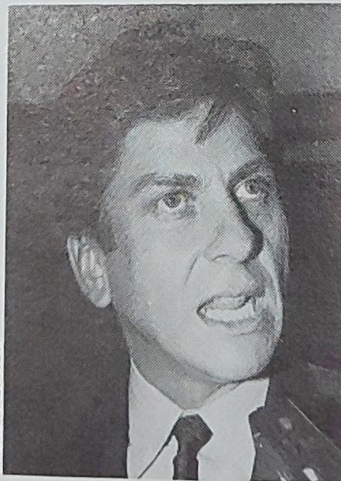


The Spanish official added that his country gives special consideration to IICA, as exemplified by their joint work in organizing the Tenth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA) and the Sixth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) -IICA's governing body-, held in 1991 in Madrid and which contrib-

uted to setting priorities for the sector in the twentieth century. In reiterating that the Americas will always receive special attention from Spain, Blanco noted that IICA has become a partner in implementing Spanish agricultural cooperation in the region. He stated, "The multinational action of the Institute is a valuable instrument in ensuring that our cooperation reaps sound dividends."

Guatemala: Fruitful and Timely Cooperation

The Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Food (MAGA) of Guatemala, Adolfo Boppel Carrera, stated that the cooperation IICA has provided for fifty years has been "fruitful and timely" for solving the most pressing agricultural problems of Latin America and the Caribbean.

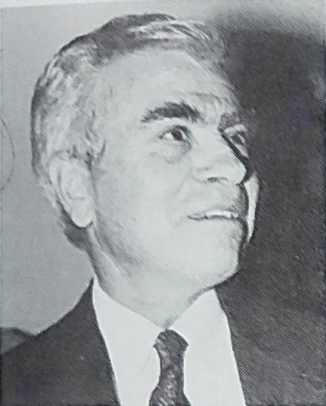


In his judgement, the Institute has made significant contributions to modernization in the region, since "today agriculture plays a strategic role in promoting development and protecting the natural resource base, which is necessary to ensure the well-being of future generations."

According to Minister Boppel, the technical personnel and consultants in the IICA Offices in the countries are "professional and well-trained." Accordingly, they have made valuable contributions to the economic and social growth of the agricultural sector of the Americas. In this regard, he praised IICA's cooperation in fields such as agricultural policy, agricultural cooperatives, agrarian reform and control of coffee pests, among others.

Honduras: Agriculture, Backbone of the Economy

According to the Minister of Natural Resources, Mario Nufio Gamero, the theme of IICA's fiftieth anniversary celebrations,



"Agriculture: Strength and Future of the Americas" is especially applicable to Central America and, in particular, to Honduras, where agriculture is the backbone of the economy.

Over these past five decades, he added, the Institute has played a prominent role in supporting regional agriculture.

The Minister highlighted IICA's cooperation in Honduras, where the government of President Rafael Leonardo Callejas promotes the modernization of the economy and of the agricultural sector, in particular. In noting that these are changes that come about in the medium and long term, since they involve "changing the way Hondurans think," the Minister stressed the vital importance of international cooperation.

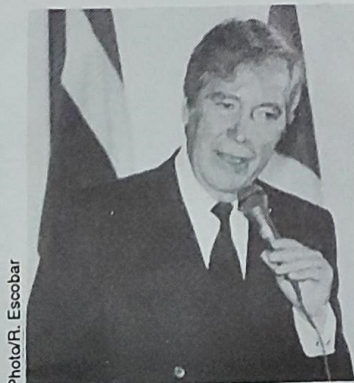
Mexico: Contribution to Growth

According to the Secretary of Agriculture and Water Resources (SARH) of Mexico, Carlos Hank Gonzalez, over IICA's fifty years of institutional life, it has made an important contribution to the economic growth of the agricultural sector and to environmental protection in the Americas.

He added that "IICA must receive everyone's support since a stronger Institute is of vital importance to the countries of the hemisphere."

The Minister noted that agriculture, livestock, forestry, land and water management are vital to all countries, and that "the most important thing for human beings is their life, and life requires the existence of forests that provide oxygen, and a plentiful supply of food."

The Mexican minister of agriculture recognized IICA's leadership in strengthening economic and political ties between Latin America and the Caribbean, affirming that "Dr. (Martin E.) Piñeiro has carried out his mandate with great vitality and has earned the respect and trust of all the Institute's member countries."



Nicaragua: Adaptability

According to Roberto Rondon, Minister of Agriculture of Nicaragua, IICA has contributed to agricultural development in Latin America and the Caribbean throughout its history, adjusting its technical cooperation to the needs of the countries.



In his judgement, this characteristic takes on new importance as the Institute celebrates fifty years of institutional life; it shows that IICA has developed the capability to adapt to the challenges of the day, in which competitiveness is a key factor.

Rondon noted that the relationship between IICA and Nicaragua has been characterized by openness and fluent communication. In this regard, he underscored the willingness of the IICA Office in Nicaragua to fulfill the requests of the various agencies of the public agricultural sector.

St. Lucia: Benefits for the Caribbean

According to the Minister of Agriculture, Lands, Fisheries and Forestry of St. Lucia, Ira d'Auvergne, "In all truth we can say that the CARICOM region has benefitted immensely from IICA's work."

The Minister spoke in favor of strengthening the Institute. "It is our responsibility to set the course for the future. The people of Latin America and the Caribbean look to us for leadership within the new international context."

He highlighted IICA's technical cooperation in strengthening animal and plant quarantine systems in most CARICOM countries, and its assistance in upgrading the planning capabilities of the ministries of agriculture.

He also praised the Directors General who, "through their vision and guidance over IICA's fifty years of institutional life, have given the Institute the prestige it enjoys today."



Brazil and Costa Rica Win Inter-America Press Award

prepared with a team of collaborators, to be consistent with the general theme of the contest, "The Role of Agriculture in the New International Setting."

The article, entitled "A qualidade é o fiel do mercado," deals with a relevant topic that is closely linked to the new challenges faced by agriculture. It is a factual, informative article that makes good use of information sources and is written in an attractive and accessible style.

Manuel Enrique Delgado's article "¡A salvar la industria bananera!" was selected by the judges because of the importance of the topic, the appropriate use of information sources, its style and structure, as well as the journalist's insights into the subject.

The international jury consisted of the Director of the School of Mass Communications of the University of Costa Rica, Luis Montoya; the Director of the daily newspaper La Nación of San Jose; the President of the Commission on Freedom of the Press and Information of the Inter-American Press Society (SIP), Eduardo Ulibarri; and the Director of Programming and Evaluation of IICA and the Advisor to the Director General, Manuel R. Otero.



The Brazilian ambassador to Costa Rica, Luis Jorge Rangel de Castro (left), presents the award to fellow Brazilian, Alex Branco.

Alex Branco, from Brazil, and Manuel Enrique Delgado, from Costa Rica, were awarded first and second prizes, respectively, in the 1992 IICA Inter-American Press Award, which was one of the activities to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the Institute.

The awards were approved unanimously by the international panel of judges, who also awarded honorable mentions to Debby Jacob, from Trinidad and Tobago; Juan Danell Sanchez, of Mexico; and Marco Antonio Bonetti, of Brazil.

Branco and Delgado received their awards during the principal ceremony of the celebrations, held on October 7 at IICA Headquarters.

The contest, which was open to journalists of the written press and from international press agencies, drew entries from 17 Latin American and Caribbean countries. National juries selected the two best works from each country, which were subsequently submitted to the members of the international jury.

Branco, who works for the magazine *Dirigente Rural*, was awarded the first prize of US\$3,000 and Delgado, who works for the magazine *Panorama Internacional*, was awarded US\$1,500.

The members of the panel indicated that they considered Branco's article,



The Minister of Agriculture of Costa Rica, Juan Rafael Lizano (left), presents the award to Manuel Delgado, second prize winner.

France Awards Cross of Agricultural Merit to Director General

The Government of France made the Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñero, an Officer in the Order of Agricultural Merit for his vision and leadership in promoting agriculture as the basis for a new style of development.

The French ambassador to Costa Rica, Helene Dubois, bestowed the honor upon Piñero during a formal ceremony celebrating the Institute's fiftieth anniversary.

"He is deserving of our admiration for his tireless efforts and ardent defense of a more just economic world order," she said.



Photo/R. Escobar

The award is also a recognition for the efforts of the Director General to strengthen cooperative ties between France and the region.

The ambassador praised Piñero for his vision, adding that it is "admirable that he was able to foresee, design and develop an agriculture-based development scheme for the region, given the politically difficult situation of a Latin America submerged in the 'lost decade'."

She also emphasized Piñero's constant support for the activities of French institutions in Latin America during his tenure as Director General.

According to Dubois, "This collaboration has borne fruit. IICA and French cooperation agencies are working together on nine initiatives, produce joint publications and share the belief that economic growth and social well-being can be achieved through agriculture."

IICA Commemorated on Postage Stamps

Several Latin American and Caribbean countries issued postage stamps and postmarks to commemorate the Institute's fiftieth anniversary.

Costa Rica, Honduras, Guatemala and Paraguay are among the countries whose philatelic societies issued stamps on IICA. With slight variations, all of the stamps reproduce the poster designed by Olman Trigueros, of IICA's art department, which depicts, on a black or white background, the golden tassel of a corn stalk in bloom. The stamp also bears IICA's motto for the celebration "Agriculture: Strength and Future of the Americas."



Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago issued postmarks with phrases referring to the Institute and its technical cooperation actions. In the two circles of the postmark in Suriname are the words "IICA: 50 years of service to Latin America," and in the second, "10 years in Suriname." The postmark in Trinidad and Tobago reads "Agriculture: Strength and Future of the Caribbean."

In Costa Rica, the National Director of Communications, Victor Aguilar, presented the stamp to the Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñero, during a special ceremony held at Headquarters. In noting that 250,000 stamps had been issued, Aguilar recalled that this was the third time Costa Rica had issued a stamp on IICA; the others were issued in 1967 and 1972, on the occasion of the Institute's twenty-fifth and thirtieth anniversaries.

In Guatemala, the stamp was presented by the Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Food, Adolfo Boppel, and in Honduras by the Director of the Postal Service, Roberto Moncada. In Paraguay, where stamps were issued under an executive decree, authorities noted that IICA "has been a positive force in upgrading technology and improving agriculture in the Americas."

Throughout 1992, IICA celebrated its fiftieth anniversary in all of its Member States, with activities to foster reflection on and discussion of the strategic importance of the agricultural sector.

Secretary Regunaga sustained that current challenges include increasing competitiveness while making sound use of natural resources and alleviating rural poverty, which are possible because of the human and natural

newspaper *Correio Braziliense* and sponsored by the Ministry of Agriculture, the Brazilian Institute of Agricultural Research (EMBRAPA), the National Department of Rural Development and Cooperatives, the Banco Nordeste do Brasil and the Brazilian Association of Zebu Ranchers.

Celebrations Throughout the Hemisphere

Government officials, technical experts, representatives from non-governmental organizations, cooperation and funding agencies participated in seminars and other fora. Following is a summary of just a few of these activities.

ARGENTINA

A seminar on the challenges faced by the agricultural sector in Argentina vis-a-vis the new world scenario was held in Buenos Aires to commemorate IICA's anniversary. Topics of discussion included agricultural competitiveness and the measures that must be taken to achieve it. Participants included the Secretary of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, Marcelo Regunaga.

The Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñeiro, accompanied by the Director of External Relations, Jorge Werthein, also participated in the activity.

Also present were the former Under Secretary of Agriculture of the United States, Dale Hathaway; Under Secretaries of Economic Policy and Economic Studies of the Ministry of Economy and Public Services, Alejandro Mayoral and Juan Carlos del Bello, respectively; and the President of the National Institute of Agricultural Technology (INTA), Felix Cirio. Other participants included the presidents of the Rural Association of Argentina, Eduardo de Zavalia; of the Agrarian Federation of Argentina, Humberto Volando; and of the International Association of Agricultural Economists, Csaba Csaki.

12



The seminar gave rise to important discussions. From left to right at the head table are: Carlos Garramon, IICA Representative; Juan Felipe Yriart, President of the Esquel Group Foundation; Csaba Csaki, President of the International Association of Agricultural Economists; Martin E. Piñeiro, Director General of IICA; Dale Hathaway, former Under Secretary of Agriculture of the United States and President of the National Center for Food and Agricultural Policy; and Jorge Werthein, IICA's Director of External Relations.

resource potential and the flow of capital and technology. With this activity, Carlos Garramon concluded his functions as IICA Representative in Argentina. He moves on to head an important project under CONASUR, an advisory forum of ministers of agriculture, of which he served as first coordinator.

BRAZIL

"Competitiveness Through Integration," was the theme of a seminar held in Brazil to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of IICA. The seminar was organized by IICA/Brazil and the daily

Discussion focused on the need for complementarity in order to achieve and maintain high levels of agricul-

tural competitiveness, within the context of integration.

Participants included government officials, the Director General of IICA and specialists on rural economy, technical experts and farmers.

COLOMBIA

As part of the activities to commemorate IICA's anniversary, Colombia organized an exhibition which included oil paintings and prints by Luis German Ardila Millan, Luis Eduardo Garzon Flores, Ilse Gordon, Victoria E. Newman and Luis F. Uribe.

Government authorities and representatives of international agencies, as well as business leaders, participated in the meetings held to celebrate IICA's fiftieth anniversary.

site of a seminar on the projections for development and competitiveness in the agricultural sector of Chile. Participants included government ministers, heads of public services, farmers and diplomats.

IICA Headquarters was represented by the Assistant Deputy Director General for Operations, Alfonso Cebberos. Speakers included the Ministers of the

Maximiliano Cox. Also participating were the presidents of the National Agricultural Association, Jorge Prado; of the Southern Agricultural Consortium, Marcelo Hoffman; of the Confederation of Farmers, Domingo Duran; small-farmers were represented by Francisco Leon.

According to the IICA Representative in Chile, Alfredo Alonso, Minister Foxley aptly reflected the spirit of this activity when he stated, "It's time to sit down and seek new responses to new problems."



The celebrations in Colombia included a photography exhibition. From left to right are: the IICA Representative in that country, Edgardo Moscardi; the Director General, Martin E. Piñeiro; and former IICA Director General, Armando Samper.

El Salvador

Salvadorans were able to learn more about IICA and its cooperation activities over the past five decades through radio and television programs.

In a radio speech, the IICA Representative in El Salvador, Mariano Olazabal, spoke about the different activities carried out by the Institute, highlighting the challenges involved in modernizing the sector in order to attain the goals of competitiveness, equity and sustainability. Several short TV programs on the Institute's activities were also aired.

Costa Rica

In celebration of the Institute's anniversary, the IICA Office in Costa Rica organized a seminar on the impact of economic policies on the sustainable development of the agri-food sector. The seminar was co-sponsored by the National University of Costa Rica.

The seminar was divided into four one-day sessions and the topics addressed were international trade and economic and social development; the modernization and diversification of the agri-food sector; investment and institutional change; and strategies for natural resource use, management and conservation.

Treasury and of Agriculture, Alejandro Foxley and Juan Agustin Figueroa, respectively; and Deputy Secretary



In Chile, the Assistant Deputy Director General for Operations, Alfonso Cebberos (right), met with the Deputy Foreign Minister, Enrique Vargas and the Mexican Ambassador, Horacio Flores de la Peña.

Chile

As part of the activities to celebrate IICA's anniversary, Santiago was the

GUATEMALA

The National Palace of Guatemala served as the backdrop for the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Institute. The Minister of Agriculture, Adolfo Boppel and the First Lady, Magda Bianchi de Serrano were among the guests.

In the celebration -during which a commemorative postage stamp was presented to the IICA Representative in Guatemala, Virgilio Paredes- the speakers highlighted the challenges faced by the agricultural sector, and the role of technical cooperation in finding solutions to these challenges.

NICARAGUA

Nicaragua shared in the celebrations of IICA's anniversary with a panel discussion on agricultural policies for sustainable development.

Panelists included the Minister of Agriculture, Roberto Rondon; the Minister-Director of the Nicaraguan Agrarian Reform Institute (INRA), Bohanerges Matus; on behalf of IICA, the Assistant Deputy Director General for Operations, Alfonso Cebreros, and

the IICA Representative in Nicaragua, Alfonso Chirinos.

Minister Rondon spoke of the challenges of modernization, technological development, competitiveness and equity, all framed by a judicious use of natural resources. The Minister of Agrarian Reform discussed the link between land use and sustainable development.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Several activities were held in this Caribbean nation to celebrate IICA's fifty years of institutional life.

The IICA Representative, Joan Wallace, coordinated an art contest for high school students under the theme of "The World of Agriculture."

Scholarships were also established for the children of rural families to motivate interest in agriculture among the new generations of Trinidad and Tobago.

Also introduced was a new stamp bearing the theme of the fiftieth anniversary "Agriculture: Strength and Future of the Americas."

URUGUAY

In Montevideo, a seminar was held on agriculture in Uruguay seen from the international perspective. Attending was the president of Uruguay, Luis Alberto Lacalle, who stressed the importance of improving conditions for marketing agricultural commodities, stating that "our production efforts will be in vain unless we are able to sell our products."

This, he added, is one of the major problems facing the world today. Although it is not as sensational as the news on Sarajevo, the Middle East, volcanic eruptions or floods, the final impact, if no satisfactory answer is found, "can be much more devastating than any of these other catastrophes."

"... our production efforts will be in vain unless we are able to sell our products." (Luis Alberto Lacalle, President of Uruguay).



The Minister of Agriculture of Nicaragua, Roberto Rondon (second from the left), participated on the panel. With him are Alfonso Cebreros, of IICA; the Minister-Director of INRA, Bohanerges Matus; and IICA's Representative, Alfonso Chirinos.

The Minister of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries, Alvaro Ramos, spoke on the role of agriculture in the new regional and international context. IICA's Director of Southern Area Operations, Carlos Rucks, served as the rapporteur.

The Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñeiro, spoke on agricultural modernization: a challenge for the future. The rapporteur for this session was the Institute's Director of External Relations, Jorge Werthein.

Venezuela

"Venezuela: Agriculture in the Twenty-first Century" was the theme of a seminar held in Caracas to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of IICA's institutional life.

The Minister of Agriculture and Livestock, Jonathan Coles, spoke on the situation of agriculture in Venezuela and his forecast for the year 2000. The Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñeiro, spoke about the challenges facing the sector in the 1990s.



The Director General of IICA (left) inaugurated the seminar in Venezuela. With him are the President of FEDEAGRO, Cruz Hemandez; the advisor of the Latin America and Caribbean Bank, Miguel Rodriguez; the Minister of Agriculture and Livestock, Jonathan Coles; the IICA Representative, Diego Londoño; and the Director of Andean Area Operations, Dario Bustamante.

Other speakers included Miguel Rodriguez F., an advisor from the World Bank; Miguel Rodriguez Mendoza,

from the Institute of Foreign Trade; Fernando Castro, Sectoral Director General of Agricultural Planning; Carlos Machado, General Manager of the National Agricultural Research Fund; Carlos Morales, President of the Agricultural Credit Fund; Luis Llambi, of the Venezuelan Institute for Scientific Research; and Mario Seijas, from FEDECAMARAS.

The IICA Representative in Venezuela, Diego Londoño, presided over the closing session of the seminar.

In celebrating fifty years of technical cooperation to the countries of the Americas, and in contrast with other celebrations, IICA sponsored activities to stimulate discussion and analysis, with broad participation in each Member State. In so doing, the Institute clearly showed that it is truly a forum for reflection and action in the strategically important area of agriculture.



A seminar on Uruguayan agriculture in the international context was held in Montevideo.

Headquarters

During a visit to IICA Headquarters, the Chairman of the Earth Council, Maurice Strong, announced that IICA will provide support in establishing the Council, created by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED).

Strong, who served as Secretary of the UNCED, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June of this year, met with IICA's Director General, Martin E. Piñeiro, and other officials to discuss the Institute's support. "We are going to work very closely with IICA," he said.

Piñeiro stated that IICA and the Council will identify topics of development in which they can work together in pursuit of common objectives. He went

IICA to Support Earth Council

on to say that the Institute can provide support in specific technical areas and, since it is a multilateral agency, it

is to serve as a framework for action to orient environmental protection and economic growth, as well as the conventions on climatic change and biodiversity, and a declaration of principles on forests.

The Earth Council was established to support the work of the United Nations, and the results of its work are to be submitted to the U.N. General Assembly, the U.N.'s Sustainable Development

Commission, governments, international organizations, citizens' groups and the general public.

Last October, during a meeting in Washington, D.C. with members of the Council's organizing committee, Strong stated that the Council "...will not seek confrontation and will not follow a given ideology."

To the contrary, he said that the Council will promote objectivity, transparency and participation, and will foster dialogue among different interests



Photo/Th. Escoblar

The Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñeiro (left), and the Chairman of the Earth Council, Maurice Strong, examine different ways of cooperation between the two organizations.

The Earth Council, to be headquartered in Costa Rica, was created to support and facilitate follow-up and implementation of decisions approved during the Rio summit. It will begin operations next year.

The Council will be made up of specialists with broad experience in the fields of natural resource conservation and development. It will promote public discussion and dissemination of information on topics and key issues related to the environment and economic development worldwide.

can offer the administrative flexibility the Council will need to operate throughout the Americas.

MOMENTUM

Strong stressed the need to keep the momentum generated in Rio going, and to encourage world leaders to implement and follow up on the commitments they acquired at the Earth Summit.

These commitments are set forth in the Agenda 21, the objective of which

The Earth Council, to be headquartered in Costa Rica, was created to support and facilitate follow-up and implementation of decisions approved during the Rio summit. It will begin operations next year.

and points of view. In this regard, he explained that the Council will provide any person or organization with access to objective and reliable information on the matters addressed in Rio.

American cooperation



Photo/R. Escobar

The Under Secretary of Agriculture of the United States becomes acquainted with IICA Headquarters, accompanied by the Director General.

Under Secretary of Agriculture of the United States Visits IICA

During a visit to the Headquarters of IICA, the Under Secretary of Agriculture of the United States, Anne M. Veneman, highlighted "IICA's new role in the changes taking place in the hemisphere."

On October 12, Veneman met with the Director General, Martin E. Piñeiro, the Director of External Relations, Jorge Werthein, and other Institute officials.

The Under Secretary noted that "international cooperation is more important than ever" in the new world context.

She also stressed the role of agriculture in the future of the region, given the hemisphere's urgent need to increase food production, strengthen trade and create jobs.

This was her first visit to IICA Headquarters, although she has participated in various Institute activities. Veneman headed her country's delegation to the Tenth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA), which was held in Madrid in September 1991. At that time, the Director General invited Veneman to visit the headquarters of this inter-American agency.

In Search of Sustainable Development with a Gender Perspective

Two issues of great importance today, sustainable development and the gender perspective, were analyzed in a first-of-its-kind training activity organized by the Socioeconomic Program of the Regional Office

for Central America of the World Conservation Union (IUCN).

The course-workshop, entitled "Gender and Sustainable Development in Central America," received financial support from the International Develop-

ment Research Centre (IDRC) of Canada. It was held at IICA Headquarters from October 13-24 and attended by 21 technicians from all the countries of the isthmus.

Miriam Abramovay, coordinator of the aforementioned Program as well as the workshop, said that, as a result of the course, each participant is now in a position to plan and implement sustainable development projects with a gender perspective, that is, taking into consideration the social, cultural and economic differences that exist between men and women in a community.

She explained that the workshop had given participants an opportunity to learn more about the variables of conservation, sustainability and gender, and how to incorporate them into their proposals. "Having taken a critical look at theories and statistical data, they can stress the gender dimension in their day-to-day efforts."



Photo/R. Escobar

Miriam Abramovay, of IUCN (center), indicated that conservation, sustainability and gender are elements of the subregional development projects. With her are Fabiola Campillo, of IICA, and Alberto Salas, Costa Rican representative to IUCN.

Henri Carsalade, Director General of the Center for International Cooperation in Agricultural Research for Development (CIRAD), of France, stated that a European consortium, made up of four agricultural research centers, will expand its support for Latin America and the Caribbean.

During an official visit to IICA this November 2, Carsalade added that these new actions will add to the work which began several months ago when a decision was made to provide support for staple grain research in Central America and for groups of countries interested in promoting small rural enterprises.

The European Consortium for Agricultural Research in the Tropics, of which CIRAD is a member, is made up centers from the Netherlands, France, Portugal and Great Britain. It was established in Amsterdam in June 1991 and involves some 2,000 scientists and technical experts.

Carsalade met with officials from the Institute, with whom he reviewed cooperation relations between CIRAD and IICA. These relations, which he described as "extremely fruitful," date back to 1978.

Latin America and the Caribbean:

European Consortium To Expand Support for Agricultural Research

Regarding possible cooperation between IICA and the Consortium, he added that the Institute provides the perfect institutional framework for cooperation aimed at contributing to economic and social well-being in Latin America. "We are in the early stages of discussions, but there is good reason to believe that joint actions will be initiated in the future," he added.

He also signed a letter of understanding with the Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñero, through which CIRAD's Department of Agri-food and Rural Systems will support the activities of IICA's PRODAR program.

PRODAR (Rural Agroindustrial Development Program) is an ambitious cooperative endeavor that seeks to improve the standard of living of small-scale farmers through the com-



Photo/R. Escobar

Henri Carsalade, Director General of CIRAD.

bined efforts of international, regional and subregional agencies and national institutions.

L.H. Davis leaves IICA

In October, L. Harlan Davis, from the United States, left IICA and his position as Deputy Director General there to become Vice President for International Programs of the University of Georgia.

Strengthening links between Latin America and the Caribbean, active support for the Tropical Agriculture Research and Training Center (CATIE), and a decided interest in sustainable development and technology transfer are only some of the areas which interested Davis during his tenure at IICA. Upon leaving, he stated that the experience of participating in technical and administrative activities had been "enriching and fruitful." During a celebration offered by officials from Headquarters, the Director General, Martin E. Piñero, thanked Davis for his useful and valuable collaboration.



Photo/R. Escobar

Cooperation with Donor Countries

Sweden and IICA: Cooperation for Today's Needs

Over the last five years, Sweden and IICA have developed a very dynamic working relationship, characterized by joint actions aimed at meeting changing needs that arise in the countries as a result of changing conditions.

In a context marked by profound changes in political and economic relations, topics such as competitiveness, integration and equity are taking on new meaning in regional efforts to ensure economic growth and social well-being.

The search for answers in this process provided fertile ground for cooperation between IICA and Sweden, a Nordic country with nearly 9 million inhabitants and 449,964 square kilometers of territory, which considers support for development as one of the objectives of its foreign policy.

Two of its principal cooperation agencies, SAREC and SIDA, work with the Institute on policies for agriculture and rural women. SAREC is the Swedish Agency for Research Cooperation with Developing Countries, and SIDA is the Swedish International Development Authority.

SAREC, which is attached to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, is very well known in Latin America. It has made important bilateral contributions in countries such as Argentina, Uruguay, Cuba and Nicaragua.

It also executes a program to support 23 research institutes, the objective of which is to prepare documentation and methodologies for analyzing economic and social development. Through its International Research Program, SAREC collaborates with the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT), the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) and the International Potato Center (CIP).

Through IICA's Agricultural Policy Analysis and Planning Program, SAREC has developed a project entitled "Analysis of the Impact of Macroeconomic Policies and Structural

Adjustment on Agriculture." This initiative has helped the countries meet the challenges arising from the new economic environment, which is characterized by economic liberalization, opening up to world markets, and a new role for the state.

Of special importance are the contributions of the project in drafting proposals related to economic policy, institutional reforms and investment programs that contribute to growth with equity. (See separate article.)



Photo J.M. Gutiérrez, Guatemala

The Central American region is a privileged target of Swedish cooperation.

With SIDA, IICA executes two projects: "Harmonization of Agricultural Policies in the CORECA Countries" and "Training in Mass and Group Communications Techniques for Governmental and Private Organizations Working with Women in Central America and Panama." (See separate articles.) The latter is executed in close collaboration with the Inter-American Agricultural Documentation and Information Center (CIDIA), a specialized unit of the IICA.

Both initiatives cover Central America, a subregion targeted by Swedish cooperation. Sweden recognizes the importance of supporting the democratization process under way there by carrying out

actions to promote economic and social development. Aid is coordinated through the Swedish embassy in Guatemala.

The economy of Central America has become a topic of interest for other sectors in Sweden, so much so that Swedish students do graduate work on the subject, with support from IICA.

Trade and the environment are other topics that receive support from Swedish cooperation. Specifically, the School of Economics of the University of Stockholm is examining an IICA proposal to study these issues, which will give continuity to the dynamic relationship which has developed over the past five years.

Since 1988, IICA has been executing a project to analyze and provide advisory services on agricultural policy, with financial support from the Swedish Agency for Research Cooperation with Developing Countries (SAREC).

Through this initiative, the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) have received assistance in implementing economic policies, investment programs and institutional reforms introduced in the 1980s and early 1990s in response to the economic and financial crisis.



The project has helped make it possible to meet the challenges posed by the new economic setting.

In addition, the project has also served to help the countries meet the challenges arising from the new economic environment, which is characterized by economic liberalization, an opening up to world markets, and a new role for the state.

More specifically, support has focused on evaluating the impact of macroeconomic policies on the agri-food sector in LAC, and on strengthening capabilities for analyzing and providing advice on agricultural poli-

Working Together to Meet New Challenges

cies and investment programs, which have declined in the region as a result of the financial crisis and subsequent state reform policies.

To this end, project strategy has placed emphasis on research, technical support, training and the ex-

changes in economic policies brought about as a result of economic opening and trade liberalization.

This ambitious four-year initiative has already produced a series of results, including:

- * consolidation of an approach for designing, implementing and adjusting macroeconomic and sectoral policies, and for determining their effect on agricultural development;
- * preparation of proposals for economic policies, institutional reforms and investment programs that will contribute to growth with equity, and which are consistent with the opening of the economies; and
- * better understanding of the interrelationships among macroeconomic and sectoral policies and agriculture.

change of experiences and results, in close collaboration with the IICA Offices in the member countries and other initiatives carried out by Program I.

Considerable technical cooperation efforts are required for upgrading capabilities to analyze and advise on economic policies for agriculture and investment programs. Because of this, the project expanded its scope to include analysis of the implications for agriculture and the rural poor of

The initiative has served to assist the Latin American and Caribbean countries in implementing economic policy, investment programs and institutional reform.

Motivated by their interest to help incorporate the agricultural sector fully into the integration process in Central America, IICA and the Swedish International Development Authority (SIDA) are working together on a project entitled "Harmonization of Agricultural Policies in the CORECA Countries."

IICA and SIDA: Committed to Integration in Central America

Working in close coordination with the CORECA Secretariat, a forum of the Central American ministers of agriculture, the project has come to complement efforts being undertaken to comply with a mandate issued during the summit meeting of Central American presidents (Antigua, Guatemala, June 1990), calling for the formulation of a coordinated agricultural policy.

To this end, the project has contributed to preparing a conceptual framework for programming actions to ensure agriculture's participation in the development of the subregion. At a practical level, proposals have been drafted and discussed, and work has begun to harmonize policies.

RENEWED IMPORTANCE

Danilo Herrera, an IICA specialist and coordinator of the project, explained that the issue of agricultural integration took on new importance with the approval of

the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC) in 1989.

The PLANLAC, which is coordinated by IICA, offers strategic guidelines for agricultural development based on the modernization of the

production structure and institutions, equitable development and sustainable production. It gives new priority to the role of agriculture, domestic and regional markets, joint action among countries and social development.

In this context, the Central American countries are faced with the challenge of developing a common agricultural policy, which will require first a harmonization of agricultural policies. In support of this process, the project drew up a conceptual framework which identifies at least three groups of policies:

- those that are the responsibility of the minister of agriculture and need to be harmonized: plant protection and information systems, quality standards, technology development and others.
- those in which responsibility is shared, for example: trade policies, non-tariff barriers, tariffs, and others.
- those formulated by the central banks of the countries that affect agricultural devel-

opment: exchange rates cred-it, interest rates and others.

The project has contributed to achieving its objective by preparing a work plan and methodologies for harmonizing agricultural policies, as well as proposals for harmonizing agricultural trade policies, especially as relates to the implementation of a price band system for staple commodities. Joint efforts have been carried out with the technical teams in the countries. In addition, training was provided for the evaluation and analysis of policies affecting agricultural development, essentially by training technical personnel to use the Information System for Agricultural Policy Analysis (SIAPA).

More specifically, this training focuses on data and information retrieval, technical tools for processing and analyzing these data, and the preparation of reports on topics relevant to agriculture.

"The goal is to use training to strengthen the capabilities of technical experts to formulate policy proposals aimed at modernizing the sector and the agricultural-agroindustrial complex," Herrera explained.

Central America in Figures

The Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO) and IICA, in collaboration with SIDA and SAREC, have published a book entitled "Centroamérica en Cifras" (Central America in Figures).

The book is a database of tables containing economic, social and political indicators relevant to the subregion. The first edition, entitled "Centroamérica: La Crisis en Cifras" (Central America: The Crisis in Figures), was published in 1986 and contained information for each of the years of the 1979-1985 period.

Thanks to the support of these two Swedish agencies, FLACSO and IICA now offer this second edition, which expands and updates the information through 1989. The book may also be obtained along with a set of diskettes containing all the data from both editions.

IICA-SIDA Project: A Pioneer Effort on Behalf of Rural Women

The IICA/SIDA-sponsored "Women and Communications Project," a pioneer effort on behalf of rural women, has been benefitting members of governmental and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) in Central America since 1990, providing intensive training in social communications theory and techniques with a focus on gender.

The first stage of the initiative concludes this December. It is one of the major instruments executed by CIDIA -a specialized unit of the Institute- to promote development for women.

It also reinforces subregional communication through dissemination of mass and group communication techniques. Reflecting current needs, the project has combined motivation and basic instruction in the analysis of gender-related issues, with a view to proposing solutions to the difficult situation faced by rural women. The project is based on four pillars: diagnosis, training, production and information networks.

The training provided over three years benefitted 124 public and private entities working for the development of rural women. This represents an average of 25 entities per country in Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua and Costa Rica. Also benefitting were some 179 technical personnel and specialists -36 per county, most of them women- of whom 142 had had some type of technical education previously.

The project began in 1990 in Costa Rica with the first international workshop on this topic. The workshop was attended by participants from four countries of the subregion, who pledged to share the knowledge gained with their organizations and countries. A second international meeting took place in 1992, which dealt with the production of videos.

However, the most important work of the project was that of the national workshops held during 1991-1992. They were of varying duration and included modules on the gender approach and an introduction to communications. Four areas of work were addressed: videos, audiovisuals, radio and printed materials.

Through these efforts, participants were trained as "producers of messages": 83 in printed materials, 78 in radio and 84 in audiovisuals and television. The goal of the workshops



The project combines motivation with basic instruction in analyzing gender-related issues, and seeks to propose solutions to the difficult situation faced by rural women.

was to ensure that the activities and messages prepared by the participants were effective and consistent in terms of gender, and, at the same time, that they have greater impact through the use of the communications media. Another goal was to have trainees share their experiences with other leaders, enabling their institutions and internal and external training units to produce the educational-communications materials needed for their work.

As a result of the project's activity in El Salvador, a proposal was made to create a training program on rural women and communications, designed by those in charge of the project, their national support team and the IICA Office in that country. The initiative is currently under study, and will be submitted to donor agencies for funding.

Also a product of the national workshops were printed materials and radio and television programs dealing with women's issues. A book "Detrás de Bastidores" (Behind the Scenes), written by Miriam Abramovay and Ileana Ramirez, was published. It examines the messages produced by certain organizations working on behalf of women in Costa Rica and Brazil.

Also, a document entitled Rural Woman Report was compiled and published, containing a data base and information on hundreds of documents and materials for dissemination prepared by 270 agencies that work with rural women and produce educational-communications materials. The Report, which has become a valuable reference document, consists of three volumes. The first describes the work of the institutions (80.8% are NGOs, and 19.2% are governmental organizations) and the communications resources at their disposal. The second is a directory of the institutions. The third is a compilation of documents that makes up the Rural Woman Information Network.

Action in the Countries

Uruguay:

Piñeiro proposes changes in international cooperation

The Director General of IICA, Martín E. Piñeiro, stated at the FAO Regional Assembly in Uruguay that international cooperation must undergo changes, given the new approaches to development and the challenges of the current world context.

While in Montevideo in early October, Piñeiro was invited to attend the Parliament as a special guest of the Agriculture Commission of the Chamber of Deputies. He also participated in a working luncheon with the directors of agricultural institutions in that country.

In his address to the members of Parliament, the Director General analyzed the challenges of the new international context for countries such as Uruguay and Argentina, and outlined possible lines of action for reactivating and

modernizing agriculture. In underscoring the importance of integration, he noted that "MERCOSUR is the path we must follow to ensure the economic and social future of our countries. (...) Problems resulting from integration must be corrected with short-term solutions, but without altering the time frames or goals of integration."

Integration was again the topic of discussion in his meeting with rural leaders, which focused on the outlook for MERCOSUR, relations with the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the role of agriculture in both. The meeting was attended by the leaders of organizations such as the Rural Association and the Federated Agrarian Cooperatives, as well as the IICA Representatives in Uruguay and Argentina, Arnaldo Veras and Carlos

Garramon, respectively.

At the FAO Assembly

In his address to the Regional Assembly of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Piñeiro proposed new approaches to technical cooperation, the strengthening of such agencies as fora where the countries can build consensus on different issues, and greater collaboration among United Nations and regional agencies.

He pointed out that the multilateral agencies of today developed in response to conditions that "we now recognize have been outdated by circumstances." He added that the bases of the new proposal for international cooperation in an interdependent world of shared interests and common needs should be solidarity, open dialogue and the sharing of responsibilities, to differing degrees, by rich and poor nations. In his judgement, the end of the Cold War means that many of FAO's mandates will take on renewed importance.

Natural resource and environmental conservation, food security and its connection with poverty and hunger, uncontrolled migration and regional and international agricultural trade "are the framework in which we must build a common agenda for a new and more robust style of multilateral cooperation."

Multilateral agencies should serve as fora where the countries can reach agreement on the problems of agriculture worldwide, as well as possible joint actions. "In order to be successful in this, we must be capable not only of generating ideas and proposals, but also of creating an environment and climate in which the countries can engage in constructive dialogue in their strivings to reach common goals," he said.



The Minister of Agriculture of Uruguay, Alvaro Ramos (left), greets the Director General of IICA.

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and IICA will work together on a project to support poor rural communities in Chalatenango, one of the departments most affected by the armed conflict in El Salvador.

IFAD and IICA to Support Poor Farmers

The initiative, which will receive economic support from the Government of El Salvador, the European Communities (EC), the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and IFAD, includes a training component to strengthen farmer organizations.

IICA will provide training for the technical personnel and outreach workers participating in the project, and will collaborate in identifying opportunities to create rural micro-enterprises.

The Institute's participation in this initiative was discussed in a meeting

rehabilitation and sound use of natural resources, environmental protection, initiatives to support rural women, and coordination with other initiatives promoting economic growth in Chalatenango.

Through the Radio Nederland Training Centre (RNTC), IICA will also provide support to all aspects of the project dealing with communications. A mission of Institute specialists traveled to El Salvador to draft the final proposal on training and communications.

Entitled "Development project for populations affected by the conflict: Department of Chalatenango," this six-year initiative will begin in 1993.

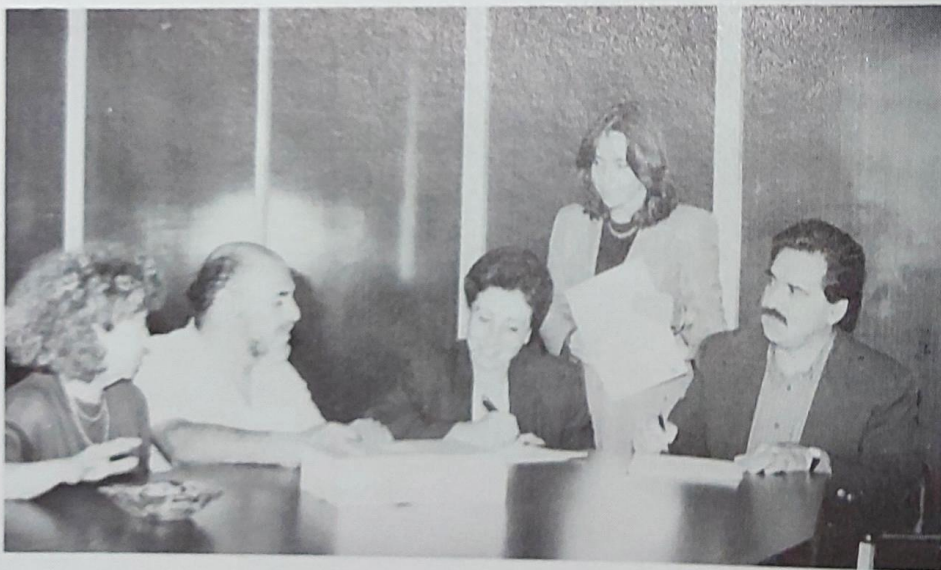
With this project, IFAD (a United Nations agency specializing in funding for poor small farmers) and IICA will expand the scope of their joint actions in El Salvador to support the pacification and reconstruction process under way in this Central American country of 5.5

standstill. According to official data, 73.3% of the households live below the poverty line, with 46% living in dire poverty.

Given this situation, the goal of the project is to increase the incomes and improve the general living conditions of the inhabitants.

To accomplish this, rural credit systems will be strengthened and land tenure and ownership laws will be standardized.

Also, a system will be established to rehabilitate, improve and manage natural resources and the environment, through training programs and forest management systems, and the use of conservation practices on farms and in watershed areas.



A mission from IFAD, headed by Benjamin Quijandría (left) and Raquel Peña (center), meets with the IICA Representative in El Salvador, Mariano Olzabal (right).

held in San Salvador, attended by an IFAD mission and IICA officials. The IICA delegation was headed by Jorge Werthein, Director of External Relations. The project also involves integrated agricultural development, the

million inhabitants. For twelve years, the department of Chalatenango, in the central part of the country, was one of the areas most ravaged by the war, which forced most of the population to migrate and brought production to a

For twelve years, the department of Chalatenango, in the central part of the country, was one of the areas most severely affected by the armed conflict, which forced most of the population to migrate and brought production to a standstill.

IICA will provide El Salvador with technical and financial support in designing a new agrarian structure. The proposed structure was presented and accepted in October during a seminar-workshop attended by international experts and governmental, legislative and judicial authorities.

IICA's Representative in El Salvador, Mariano Olazabal, reported that the initiative, which is being promoted by different segments of the public and private sectors, will be adjusted and improved technically in the coming weeks on the basis of specific recommendations from IICA.

In his judgement, the proposed agrarian code simplifies legislation, introduces the concept of private enterprise as an innovative element, provides for greater organization in this field and creates an agrarian jurisdiction, with its own courts and judges. Once this is accomplished, IICA's assistance to El Salvador in this respect will conclude.

Olazabal added that a governmental commission will be set up to study the final version, which will then be sent to the Legislative Assembly for approval.

During the event, which was attended by the President of El Salvador, Alfredo Cristiani, three international legal experts, Guillermo Figallo, of Peru; Aldo Casella, of Argentina; and Maria Cecilia Dos Reis, of Brazil, spoke on the latest thinking in agricultural law and suggested ideas and methods applicable to the initiative.

El Salvador:

New Agrarian Structure Designed

In his opening remarks, Cristiani noted that El Salvador would be among the first in the region to establish a systematic legal structure for regulating agriculture, "based on the principles of free enterprise, private property and legal and material protection, which will promote economic and social development, (...) make agricultural modernization possible and (...) promote equal opportunities for all members of society."

Central America:

Mexico Explains Implications of NAFTA

Meeting at IICA Headquarters on August 28 with representatives of the public and private sectors of Central America, Mexican authorities explained the implications of the negotiations that culminated with the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

The Mexican mission, headed by the Under Secretary of Planning of the Secretariat of Agriculture and Water Resources (SARH) of Mexico, Luis Tellez, reviewed the NAFTA's chapter on agriculture and explained how agriculture can benefit from his country's entry into the United States and Canadian markets.



The Under Secretary of Planning of the Secretariat of Agriculture and Water Resources (SARH) of Mexico, Luis Tellez, stated that the food industry in Central America is in a comparatively advantageous position to gain access to the markets of North America.

The event received technical support from IICA and the Secretariat for Coordination of the Regional Council for Agricultural Cooperation in Central America, Mexico, Panama and the Dominican Republic (CORECA).

According to Tellez, by linking up with one of the pivots of the world economy, Mexico will become a bridge that the Latin American and Caribbean countries can use to gain broad and permanent access to the enormous North

American market. He added that this market has 365 million consumers and a combined product of US\$6 billion, which is 25% larger than that of the European Economic Community (EEC).

Agreement Signed to Strengthen Rural Agroindustry

On September 17, IICA and the state-run National Production Council (CNP) of Costa Rica signed a two-year technical cooperation agreement to strengthen and promote rural agroindustry in that country.

The document was signed by the Executive President of the CNP, Constantino Gonzalez, and the Coordinator of IICA's Plan of Action in Costa Rica, Hector Morales. Under the agreement, the CNP -the executive agency of the National Agroindustrial Development Plan- will receive assistance from IICA in connection with agriculture, industry and trade.

Through its Office in Costa Rica, IICA will support the Council's efforts to expand rural agroindustry. The two in-

stitutions will draft letters of understanding for defining specific activities and establishing mechanisms for ongoing contacts between them. The agreement will contribute to strengthening the CNP both institutionally and organizationally and will provide training for technical personnel. It contains a proposal to fine tune mechanisms that contribute to development in this area.

According to Morales, "Considerable efforts should be made to boost production capabilities in rural areas." The Institute, he added, considers rural agroindustry in Costa Rica to be "an excellent option" for creating enterprise areas outside the capital city and for involving small farmers in the processing and marketing of agricultural and aquicultural products.

Support to Milk Production in Suriname

For the last four years, small farmers have benefitted from an IICA project on new technologies to improve milk production.

The aims of the initiative include reducing production costs and improving milk technology, sanitary conditions and animal nutrition.

IICA specialists advised the farmers on new kinds of feed and the use of electric fences. They also provided training in the use of milking machines, which, in addition to being more hygienic, increase yields and reduce milking time.

An important aspect of the project is administrative training, which enables farmers to be more efficient in managing their farms.

Honorable Mention

The community education project operated in Brazil by the Secretariat of Education and Culture and the Rural Education Institute of Amazonas (IER), which has received technical assistance from IICA, was awarded an honorable mention in the International Literacy Award organized by UNESCO.

The Director-President of IER, Francisca Matos, thanked IICA for the very "serious and competent" manner in which it trained technical personnel "to be able to analyze a situation and propose ways to change it."

From 1980-1985, the Institute worked with these institutions in the state of Amazonas, Brazil, to formulate and execute a community education proposal.

Subsequently, the government of that state used the proposal as a frame of reference for executing its Literacy Programs for Children, Adolescents and Adults and its Indigenous Communities Education Program.

IICA's Director of External Relations, Jorge Werthein, said that this recognition will serve "as encouragement for the professionals who participated in this project to continue working on behalf of the rural communities of Amazonas."

Programs on March

The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) recently signed a technical cooperation agreement to promote research on the impact of agricultural policies on women food producers in thirteen Latin American and Caribbean countries.

The agreement was signed by the Director of IICA's Program on Organization and Management for Rural Development, Manuel Chiriboga, and the Manager of the IDB's Economic and Social Development Department, Nohora Rey de Marulanda, during the Second Meeting of First Ladies of the Hemisphere, held in Cartagena, Colombia from September 24-25.

The estimated cost of the 13-month initiative is US\$1.29 million, of which the IDB will contribute US\$1.2 million and IICA will provide technical assistance valued at US\$90,000.

Under this agreement, the Institute will execute a cooperation project that includes studies, workshops and seminars to identify the scope of women's participation in the production, processing and marketing of agricultural products.

Fabiola Campillo, an IICA specialist in women's issues and rural development, stated that it is important to measure women's contribution to the production of foodstuffs at the country, subregional and hemispheric levels, and to come up with specific recommendations for agricultural policies.

She added that the project will also lend support to policies and actions being promoted by the governments of the Andean Area, the Southern Cone, and the Caribbean Area to reduce the impact of the crisis on the food production sector.

To this end, mechanisms will be set up to equip the countries to promote sectoral policies and strategies that will give

Latin America and the Caribbean: Studies to be Conducted on Women Food Producers

to Campillo, this will provide the IDB with the information it needs when making investments or loans to the countries.

COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

Also in Cartagena, IICA and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) announced the guidelines for a communications strategy that will promote equitable participation of rural women in development in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Specifically, it proposes to use educational communications with the gender perspective as a tool for giving rural women equal opportunity to participate in development. It includes four basic areas of action (research, training, production and dissemination), and also recommends the use of mass media to gain public support.

The guidelines will be further discussed and the final touches put on the strategy at an upcoming consultation meeting to be attended by experts on the subject of women, rural development and communications.

According to Campillo, in order to implement this ambitious initiative, which will also serve as a pilot project for possible application in other countries, technical and economic assistance will be required from international funding and cooperation agencies.

The strategy was endorsed and supported by the First Ladies of Latin America and the Caribbean, who incorporated it into the Declaration of Colombia.



Photo J.R. Calbimonte, Bolivia

IICA and the IDB will make recommendations seeking to have an impact on agricultural policies aimed at women food producers.

Central America: Regional Agricultural Commodities Exchange Promoted

comings in marketing services. While a surplus of 100,000 tons of corn was produced in Central America during the 1988-1989 agricultural year, for which no market could be found, during the same period, it was

An agricultural commodities exchange (BOLPRO) was established in Costa Rica, with support from IICA, opening the way for the adoption of this innovative marketing system in the rest of Central America, as a means of strengthening intraregional trade and economic integration.

BOLPRO, which began operations last August, originally traded only in potatoes. Soon the commodities to be traded will include beans, seed potatoes, white and yellow corn, and white and unhulled rice.

This marketing instrument, which will determine and regulate the prices of agricultural commodities, seeks to benefit farmers, industrialists and merchants by reorganizing the market and providing essential information to participating parties.

In the exchanges, buyers and sellers negotiate through brokers. The system takes into account factors such as quantity, quality and place of origin of the product. In an open market, this mechanism will make it possible to buy and sell agricultural products and inputs.

Through its Trade and Integration Program, IICA is promoting similar initiatives in the isthmus, which will serve as the basis for setting up a regional commodities exchange. One will be established in Guatemala this January, and a commission has been set up to establish another one in Nicaragua.

Luis Lizarazo, an IICA specialist, explained that the exchanges will help the subregion become more competitive. Farmers who produce higher quality commodities will receive bet-



Photo R. Escobar

Before operations were formally launched, BOLPRO of Costa Rica held three demonstrations at IICA Headquarters.

ter prices, an important first step in the process of entering the export market.

PROJECT AND CONTEXT

The regional commodity exchange project is being developed in a very unique context, where advances have been made in both political and economic integration.

Also, following a decision by the presidents, the countries have agreed to eliminate barriers to the intraregional trade of staple commodities, and to establish a price band system.

Even though no updated studies exist on the matter, official figures show the importance of this activity and the role it can play in a regional agricultural commodities exchange.

In 1980, agricultural trade in the region totaled US\$114 million. This amount declined as a result of the high cost of marketing, a drop in domestic supply, a lack of information and decreased competitiveness as a result of short-

necessary to import 230,000 tons of corn to cover local deficits.

At present, there is only limited intraregional trade of agricultural commodities, although there is ample room for expansion.

In part, this is because merchants do not know each other -there is no mechanism facilitating this-; not enough is known about marketing opportunities and, above all, mechanisms and resources are lacking for dealing with financing, paying for and liquidating transactions.

In Lizarazo's judgement, this explains why 90% of agricultural trade in the region is with third markets and handled by a few transnational firms that take advantage of the situation to set the conditions.

Agri-food System Project Enters New Stage

The Information and Policy Analysis for the Agri-food System project, which has been under way for the last two years with support from the Government of Spain, entered a new stage and will now concentrate on agricultural policy.

Julio Hernandez, an IICA specialist in agricultural policy analysis and planning and coordinator of the initiative, explained that work will now focus on detecting changes in eating habits worldwide, and how they will impact the agri-food chains of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Forexample, he mentioned that there is interest in knowing what changes in food consumption patterns will take place in the area covered by the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), which includes Canada, the United States of America and Mexico.

He added, "We believe whatever changes we see there will be repeated in Latin America. We want to know how the new eating habits in the developed countries will affect agriculture and the agri-food industry of the region."

As regards the characterization of the agri-food chain -linkages, structure, size, investments, role of agriculture and evolution- Hernandez said that actions taken in this field will serve as "inputs" for two IICA projects. One deals with competitiveness and changes in the production structure, and the other with policy instruments.

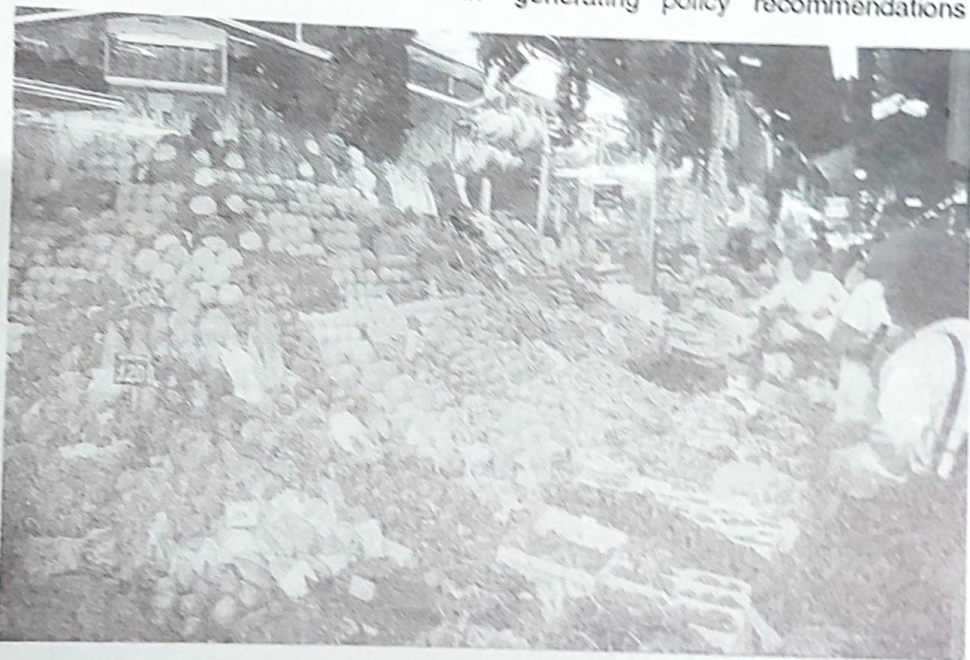
A new area of work for the project is closely related to this point: the study of the transnationalization of agri-food chains, which refers to the role of foreign investment in the expanded agricultural sector of the region.

"This process of transnationalization will determine the flow of technology, trade and investment and the exchange of inputs among countries, and will open up opportunities for joint ventures, which is one of the areas we will focus on," he said.

Regarding the latter topic, he added, there are two areas of concern. One is the link with the United States of America. The other is the link with

With these European institutions, joint seminars, joint publications and meetings between representatives of the private agri-food sector of Europe and their counterparts in Latin America will be promoted, with a view to identifying opportunities for joint ventures.

This new stage of the project, which will last until 1994 and involve direct work with the countries, will conclude by generating policy recommendations



The region wants to place its products on the European food market.

Europe, through Spain, where Latin American agri-food commodities compete with those of the Mediterranean countries (North Africa, Southern Europe and the Middle East).

"We need to know what products those countries are offering, and find ways to put ours on the food market in Europe," he stated. To this end, the project is working with the Council for Scientific Research of Spain and the National Agricultural Research Institute of France.

for consolidating the agri-food systems of the region.

One of the objectives is to identify changes in eating habits worldwide.

Environmental Risks of Coffee Cultivation to be Reduced

The Advisory Council of the Cooperative Program for Technological Development and the Modernization of Coffee Cultivation (PROMECAFE) recently extended for five more years an agreement to promote the use of sustainable coffee production systems that will ensure a sound management and use of natural resources and the environment.

In addition to the members of PROMECAFE -the coffee institutes of Central America, Mexico and the Dominican Republic-, the Tropical Agriculture Research and Training Center (CATIE) and IICA will also participate in the initiative, to be executed from 1993-1997.

Coffee is a key commodity in the agricultural and forestry exports of the area, accounting for 36% of same. Ninety percent of production takes

place on smallholdings of less than ten hectares, run by low-income families. Some five million people are involved in coffee cultivation in the region.

In coordination with IICA's Technology Generation and Transfer Program, the new PROMECAFE operating agreement will be executed by IICA, CATIE and the eight national institutions that oversee coffee cultivation in Central America, Mexico and the Dominican Republic.

Juan Jose Osorto, Executive Secretary of PROMECAFE, explained, "Our goal is to modernize coffee cultivation in the subregion by introducing technologies that will ensure the sustainability of this activity, conserve natural resources and reduce environmental contamination."



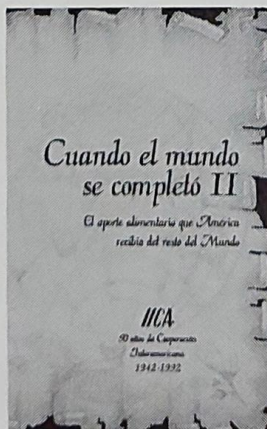
Photo/A. D. González, Guatemala

Central America, Mexico and the Dominican Republic will promote coffee production systems that favor both sustainable development and natural resource conservation.

Radio Series Prepared on Agricultural Contributions to the Americas

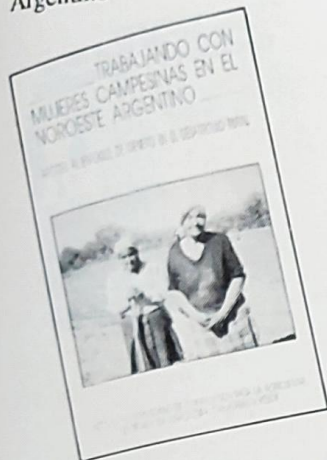
As part of the celebration of IICA's fiftieth anniversary, the Radio Nederland Training Centre (RNTC) of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAPA) of Spain, and IICA concluded a radio series in October on foods and agricultural traditions the Americas inherited from the rest of the world.

These radio documentaries are the second part of the series "Cuando el mundo se completó" (When the World was Completed). Distribution of the first



version of the series, consisting of twelve chapters, began last year. The new series focuses on how the New World was affected 500 years ago by contact with new cultures from abroad. In addition to identifying the place of origin of different foodstuffs, each of the 12 twenty-minute chapters shows how they spread throughout the area and were used by native inhabitants. An interdisciplinary group of 31 persons, coordinated by the CIDIA and the IICA/RNTC Project, conducted the research that make the radio series possible.

Trabajando con Mujeres Campesinas en el Noroeste Argentino



IICA Office in Argentina SAGAP

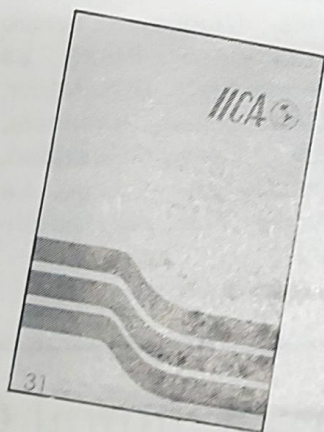
The book (*Working with Women Small-Farmers in Northwestern Argentina*) was published in Spanish only by the IICA Office in Argentina and the Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (SAGAP) of Argentina. It describes the concepts, methodologies and techniques used in a project with rural women in northwest Argentina and can serve as experience for other rural development projects addressing the issue of gender. The initiative was funded from 1989-1991 by the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM).

The authors, who include representatives of IICA, SAGAP and other institutions in the six provinces involved in the project (Jujuy, Salta, Tucuman, Santiago del Estero, Catamarca and La Rioja), offer ideas on and methodologies for promot-

ing the equitable participation of women in development projects.

Published with funding from an IICA/Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) agreement, the book sets out to analyze these issues, not only in terms of the experience gained through this project, but also through other small- and large-scale efforts to promote rural development.

Conservación de los Recursos Naturales, Medio Ambiente y Comercio Internacional



Manuel Otero Gonzalo Estefanell Eduardo Trigo IICA Editorial Service

This study (*Natural Resource Conservation, Environment and International Trade*) was published in Spanish as part of IICA's Program Papers Series. It is a valuable resource for analyzing the harmful effects -direct and indirect- of worldwide agricultural protectionism on the

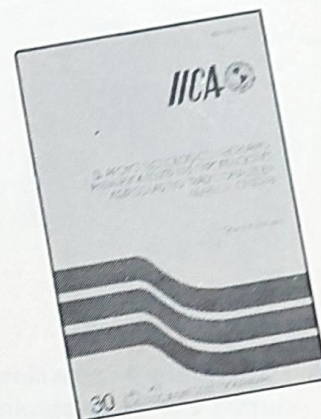
ecological balance of the planet, and it offers viable alternatives for action.

The publication indicates that multilateral fora are giving special attention to the link between international agricultural trade and natural resource management, with the agricultural sector placed as the nexus between the two, due to its direct relationship with both. Furthermore, it says that the search for a new style of development will undoubtedly require profound changes in the way our societies are organized.

Environmental deterioration, it says, can be attributed in part to the protectionist policies of developed countries, which have made it necessary to intensify agricultural production through the indiscriminate use of chemical inputs and marginal lands. Associated problems are an extremely unequal distribution of income, limited access to land and extreme poverty, which "make it necessary to exploit and mismanage fragile ecosystems."

Publications may be acquired at Headquarters or at the IICA Offices in its member countries.

El apoyo tecnológico necesario para promover las exportaciones agrícolas no tradicionales en América Central



David Kaimowitz IICA Editorial Service

This publication, also in Spanish, was published as part of IICA's Program Papers Series. It points out that technology is a key factor in Central America's capacity to compete on nontraditional agricultural export markets. In 1989, the subregion exported US\$325 million in such commodities, 80% more than in 1980.

According to the document, nontraditional crops need different technological support than traditional ones, since it takes at least ten years to build up the technological capability necessary to support sustained exports of a product. It cannot be done in a short time.

Argentina, Mexico, Colombia, Guatemala



● The different activities carried out to celebrate IICA's fiftieth anniversary in the member countries were highlighted by the press throughout the hemisphere. Over the last few months, seminars, courses and national ceremonies have taken place in each country, attended by high-ranking governmental officials and representatives of the business community and cooperation and funding agen-

cies. Each event involved a prospective discussion of key topics which, by mandate of the ministers of agriculture, are the focus of the Institute's work to promote a new vision of the sector as the driving force behind development. (Ambito Financiero, Argentina; El Mercurio, Chile; Excelsior, Mexico; El Universal, Venezuela; Correio Braziliense, Brazil; Express, Trinidad and Tobago; La Prensa Libre, Guatemala; La República, Colombia; La Mañana, Uruguay; Hoy, Dominican Republic; Nuevo Diario, Nicaragua, and others.)

Brazil, Venezuela, Trinidad and Tobago, Nicaragua

● The 1992 IICA Inter-American Press Award was given broad press coverage in all the member countries. The contest, whose theme was "The Role of Agriculture in the New International Setting," was opened in March and drew the interest of journalists from 17 Latin American and Caribbean countries. Alex Branco, from Brazil, and Manuel Enrique Delgado, from Costa Rica, were awarded first and second prizes, respectively. The contest was one of the activities to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the Institute. (Excelsior, Mexico; El Comercio, Ecuador; El Nacional, Venezuela; El País, Uruguay; Correio Braziliense, Brazil; La Prensa Libre, El Salvador; ABC, Paraguay; Presencia, Bolivia; Trinidad Guardian, Trinidad and Tobago; La Prensa, Nicaragua, and others.)

Uruguay



● The visit of the Director General of IICA, Martín Piñero, to Uruguay, where he participated in the Regional Assembly and met with high-ranking government officials, was highlighted in the newspapers of Montevideo and by the international news agency Inter Press Service (IPS).

A Flag Commemorating Agricultural Cooperation

IICA recently adopted its own flag, which symbolizes its technical cooperation efforts in Latin America and the Caribbean to promote agricultural development and rural well-being. At the behest of the Director General, Martín E. Piñero, and to commemorate the Institute's fiftieth anniversary, the new flag will be the official emblem of IICA as the specialized agency for agricul-



ture of the inter-American system. The colors of the flag are dark blue and gold. The first, which provides the background, is the official color of the inter-American system. Gold is used for the logo of the Institute: the Americas superimposed on a globe with intersecting parallels and meridians.

The original logo was altered slightly to eliminate the full name of the Institute, leaving only its acronym, which is the same in IICA's four official languages (Spanish, English, French and Portuguese). The artwork was designed by Oscar Trigueros, of Costa Rica, a graphic artist with IICA's Editorial Service. Flags will be distributed to each IICA Office in the Member States, and to the respective Foreign Ministries and Ministries of Agriculture.

