

OPSAa – Public Policy Observatory for Agrifood Systems



Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture

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IICA's Technical Cooperation

The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), established in 1942, is the specialized agricultural agency of the Inter-American System that supports the efforts of its Member States to achieve agricultural development and rural well-being. The Institute promotes hemispheric cooperation aimed at achieving a more competitive, inclusive and sustainable agricultural sector, capable of feeding the region and the world.

IICA works together with its member countries to identify their needs and demands for technical cooperation, in order to provide the most appropriate responses to these demands through knowledge management led by its specialized technical experts, in coordination with hemispheric programs and the participation of partner institutions and professional networks of recognized prestige.

The Institute's operations are aimed at the implementation of three strategic technical cooperation actions:

Support the strengthening and transformation of agri-food systems, in accordance with the mandate of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture expressed in resolution 531, in which it endorses the 16 messages presented by the Americas at the United Nations Food Systems Summit of 2021.

Provide tools and inputs that contribute to the formulation of a new generation of public policies aimed at recognizing the contribution of agriculture in agri-food systems and in solving the climate crisis, as well as addressing science and innovation issues, placing agricultural and livestock producers of all contexts and scales at the center; and

Support the collective action efforts of member countries in areas linked to their institutional mandate.

To this end, the new Medium-Term Plan (MTP) established the creation of a new integrating body called the Observatory of Public Policies for the Transformation of Agri-Food Systems. The Observatory carries out cross-cutting actions in all areas of the MTP, and operates in coordination with the Coalition to Build Capacities for the Transformation of Agri-Food Systems, whose objective is to mobilize political, social, financial and technical support between national, regional and global entities with common and complementary objectives, in order to contribute to the development of leadership capabilities, and to the promotion and management of innovation, required to foster the evolution of the agri-food systems of the Americas.

Furthermore, the programs were adjusted to adequately reflect the emerging issues of the new global scenarios and priorities. IICA currently has the following hemispheric programs:

Innovation and Bioeconomy
Territorial Development and Family Farming
International Trade and Regional Integration
Agricultural Climate Action and Sustainability
Agricultural Health, Safety and Agri-food Quality
Digitalization of Agrifood Systems
Gender Equality and Youth

The seven programs act in a coordinated manner and with an interdisciplinary approach to ensure the provision of articulated responses to the challenges faced by the 34 Member States of the Institute.

Through these changes, we seek to continue consolidating the vision of an IICA that looks outward to the world from the Americas and that, through its network of national delegations and its various regional and subregional technical cooperation mechanisms, provides member countries with technical cooperation of excellence, offering real solutions to the Ministries of Agriculture of the Americas.

Summary

The Medium-term Plan (MTP) for the period 2022-2026 established the creation of a new integrating body for technical cooperation programs of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) called the **Public Policy Observatory for Agrifood Systems** (OPSAA)¹. The Observatory carries out cross-cutting actions in all areas of the MTP, and operates in coordination with the Leadership School for the Transformation of Agrifood Systems of the Americas (ELTSA).

The OPSAA is a digital platform at the service of the countries of the Americas that serves as a meeting point to exchange knowledge and promote a new generation of public policies to strengthen the agrifood systems of the American continent.

The OPSAA seeks to strengthen capacities and change the way policies are designed in the Americas, by providing a space to analyze the different policies and their national and international contexts, and to exchange good practices, perspectives and future visions. With this tool, IICA seeks to support the decision-making process of policymakers and foster partnerships, greater cooperation and exchange of experiences among stakeholders in the countries of the region.

The background and work pillars of the OPSAA are detailed below, as well as the concepts and methodologies that constitute the basis for its operation.

¹ More about the OPSAA at <https://opsaa.iica.int/about-us>.

Background

The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) is the specialized agricultural agency of the Inter-American System that supports the efforts of its Member States to achieve agricultural development and rural well-being. Through international technical cooperation of excellence.

IICA's strategic framework is the Medium-term Plan (MTP), which provides strategic guidelines for the development of technical cooperation activities. The MTP 2022-2026 (IICA 2022), prepared based on both the challenges and opportunities of the MTP 2018-2022 that remain in force and the changes in the current context, serves as guidance for technical cooperation through three strategic actions:

1. Support **the strengthening and transformation of agrifood systems (AFS)**, in accordance with the mandate of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture expressed in resolution 531, in which it endorses the 16 messages presented by the Americas at the United Nations Food Systems Summit of 2021;
2. **Provide tools and inputs that contribute to the formulation of a new generation of public policies** aimed at recognizing the contribution of agriculture in agrifood systems and in solving the climate crisis, as well as addressing science and innovation issues, placing **agricultural and livestock producers** of all contexts and scales at the center; and
3. Support the **collective action efforts** of member countries in areas linked to their institutional mandate.

For this reason, the Medium-term Plan (MTP) 2022-2026 established the creation of a new integrating body called the **Public Policy Observatory for Agrifood Systems (OPSAA)**². The Observatory carries out cross-cutting actions in all areas of the MTP, and operates in coordination with the Leadership School for the Transformation of Agrifood Systems of the Americas (ELTSA).

The OPSAA seeks to transform knowledge into evidence in order to achieve better management of public policies in the Americas and contribute, in turn, to making international technical and financial cooperation more effective and efficient and to promoting greater regional coordination.

The purpose of this document is to present the bases and conceptual guidelines of the OPSAA.

² More about the OPSAA at <https://opsaa.iica.int/about-us>.

Context

The region of Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) is a key player for the food, nutritional and environmental security not only of the countries in the hemisphere but also for the world. It plays a fundamental role in making AFS more prosperous, resilient, sustainable and inclusive. LAC (17 countries)³ exports more than 18% of agrifood products globally, according to data from the Trade Data Monitor (TDM 2023) (if considered at the hemispheric level, including the United States and Canada, the figure reaches 32%). In addition, it has a great wealth of natural resources: 28% of the land with potential for expansion of the cultivated area, 35% of the world's freshwater reserves (AQUASTAT data), 60% of the planet's terrestrial life, a diverse marine and freshwater flora and fauna (UNEP-WCMC 2016) and 23% of the planet's forested area (FAO 2021).

However, the confluence of crises in recent years (the COVID-19 pandemic, increasingly extreme and frequent climate events, as well as the armed conflict in Eastern Europe) have generated a setback in poverty and hunger reduction objectives. The greatest regional challenge is to confront the combination of the food, energy and financial crises that is pushing more people into extreme poverty and hunger, which represents a setback of more than 15 years from the levels observed in 2005. This situation could worsen due to unprecedented food inflation and the deterioration of income (ECLAC et al. 2023).

Faced with these scenarios, new challenges and opportunities arise for governance and institutions. There is a clear need for a new generation of public policies (with a strategic, comprehensive, evidence-based vision that anticipates, evaluates and addresses the impacts of policies) and a new institutional framework (ECLAC et al. 2021). In this context, the OPSAa seeks to become a key and useful tool for countries and regional entities to strengthen regional cooperation in the AFS, take advantage of new opportunities for sustainable and inclusive development and achieve greater resilience in the face of crises.

It is important to highlight the challenge of improving the effectiveness of policies for the sustainable and inclusive development of AFS. To reach this goal, policies must be based on scientific evidence. Part of the challenge is to influence the instrumentalization of policies and the adequate allocation of public and private budgets. To achieve this, it is key to work in partnership with stakeholders in the analysis, preparation, formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies.

³ IICA, with data from Trade Data Monitor as of March 2023. Agrifood includes chapters 1 to 24 of the harmonized system and item 5201.

OPSAA

The OPSAA is a digital platform (figure 1) at the service of the countries of the Americas that serves as a meeting point to exchange knowledge and promote a new generation of public policies to strengthen the agrifood systems of the American continent

The OPSAA seeks to strengthen capacities and change the way policies are designed in the Americas, by providing a space to analyze the different policies and their national and international contexts, and to exchange good practices, perspectives and future visions. With this tool, IICA seeks to support the decision-making process of policymakers and foster partnerships, greater cooperation and exchange of experiences among stakeholders in the countries of the region.


It is important to note that the OPSAA offers different metrics on the progress, trends and links between the impacts, results and products achieved through the implementation of public policies and the collective action of actors from the private sector, academia, civil society, regional and international organizations and the public sector.



Figure 1. Online OPSAA platform: <https://opsaa.iica.int/>.

OPSAA work pillars

The work of the OPSAA is based on three pillars (see figure 4):

- 1. Public Policy Network:** OPSAA's commitment and success factor is to work with all stakeholders in the countries of the Americas in the management of public policies for AFS. The program seeks to manage the vast array of knowledge that may not be available or accessible to everyone, and promote evidence-based dialogue, as well as the exchange of experiences that facilitate the replicability and scalability of these policies and their successful instruments in terms of results and impacts. To this end, the online platform offers tools, such as dialogue rooms, to organize sessions to exchange information and knowledge on current issues or medium- and long-term perspectives. In the process, the members of the network collaborate and enrich the contents of the Observatory. The participants of the network include IICA technical experts and public policy managers in the countries, the private sector, academia and all parties interested in sound public policy management.
- Figura 2** Sala de diálogo: Alternativas de políticas frente a la crisis de fertilizantes (<https://opsaa.iica.int/room-10>).
- 
- 2. Systematization of public policies:** This pillar is perhaps the most work-intensive, since it involves monitoring, systematizing, recording and validating data and information on policies that are implemented in the countries of the Americas and linking said information with the 18 OPSAA thematic areas, the ten policy dimensions discussed below, and with other OPSAA components, such as resources, indicators, good practices and related events.
 - 3. Dialogue, analysis and projections:** Spaces for dialogue and analysis are promoted on the policies and measures observed by the OPSAA, as well as discussions on different perspectives, challenges and opportunities in the short, medium and long terms for the sustainable and inclusive development of AFS. The Observatory offers conceptual bases, methodologies and tools to develop, implement, monitor and evaluate public policies for AFS, in addition to providing support in drafting agricultural policies. Examples of this are the processes carried out in Panama, Honduras and Ecuador, where IICA has been a key partner.

OPSAa en cifras*

Primer año de funcionamiento



*Cifras al 13 de setiembre de 2023.

Figure 3. OPSAa in numbers.



Figure 4. OPSAa work pillars.

Information processing at the OPSAa

(see figure 5)

The information entered into the OPSAa is initially classified within the eight components that make up the Observatory (initiatives, policy frameworks, good practices, indicators, information resources, events, evidence and dialogue rooms) and subsequently according to the ten policy dimensions detailed below. The data is registered in an integrated database, to avoid having isolated elements and ensuring their proper integration. This facilitates a systemic approach to information and knowledge management and allows for different perspectives, entry points and pathways to explore the information.

The systematized content on the OPSAa platform covers all the elements and their interactions, which are part of AFS (see figure 6). Unlike other observatories, the OPSAa allows users to consult information on public policies linked to the various components of AFS without being limited to the primary agricultural sector. As seen in Figure 6, AFS cover the entire range of agents, processes and value-added activities involved in the production, aggregation, processing, distribution, consumption and disposal of agricultural and food products. AFS are made up of activities, results and their interactions, influenced by biophysical, socioeconomic and environmental dynamics, and it is important to consider the broader economic, social and natural environments in which they operate, including the relationships with other systems and the fact that agrifood transformation is essential, but not sufficient, to ensure sustainable development. Likewise, AFS belong and are anchored in their specific territories; hence their characteristics and performance respond to interrelated spatial scales, whether at a global, regional, national or local level.

Procesamiento de datos

La información ingresada a OPSAa se registra en una base de datos integrada, de manera que todos los elementos se vinculan entre sí, y hace realidad un enfoque sistémico de manejo de los datos y el conocimiento, permitiendo diferentes miradas, puntos de entrada y rutas de exploración .



1

SISTEMATIZACIÓN

Sistematización de la información a ingresar, así como la validación del contenido y la fuente de donde se extrae.

CLASIFICACIÓN SEGÚN COMPONENTE

El primer paso es determinar **que tipo de información es**, clasificándola según los componentes que conforman la estructura de datos OPSAa

2



INICIATIVAS
Intervenciones con asignación de recursos



MARCOS DE POLÍTICA
La base legal



BUENAS PRÁCTICAS
Iniciativas que han sido evaluadas



INDICADORES
Métricas sobre el contexto, avance y resultados



RECURSOS
Información relacionada con el diseño y gestión de políticas



EVENTOS
Relacionados con políticas públicas



EVIDENCIAS
Hechos e información puntual



SALAS DE DIÁLOGO
Espacios para dialogar sobre temáticas específicas

3

CARACTERIZACIÓN SEGÚN DIMENSIÓN

En esta etapa se caracteriza al componente mediante las dimensiones de política, las cuales, siguen de la Teoría del Cambio y responden a preguntas como ¿qué se espera lograr?, ¿cuáles son los instrumentos utilizados?, etc.



Figure 5. Data processing at the OPSAa

EL OPSAA ABARCA
 TODOS LOS
 COMPONENTES -Y
 SUS INTERACCIONES-
 DE LOS SISTEMAS
 AGROALIMENTARIOS

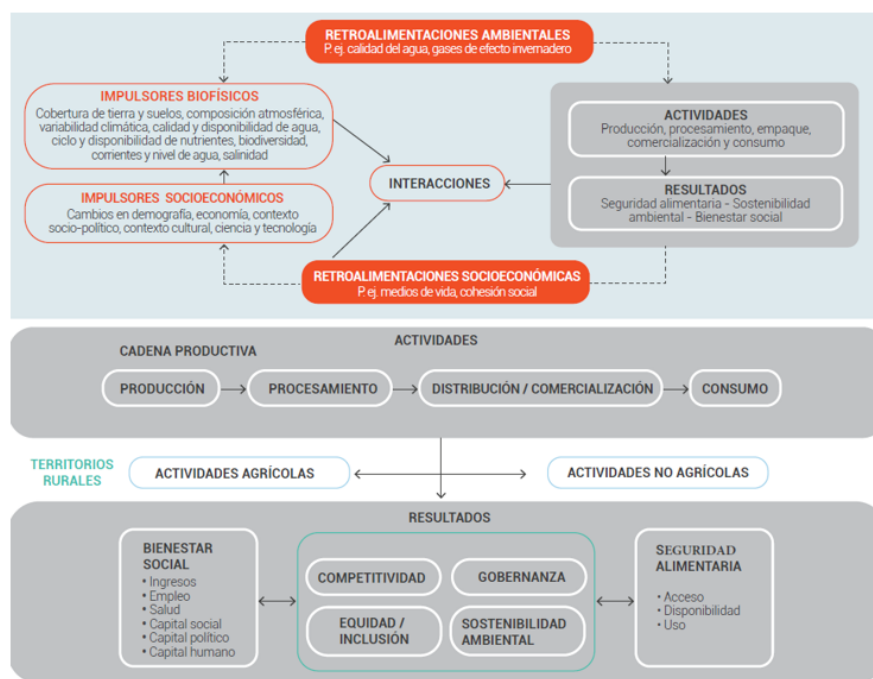


Figure 6. Agrifood systems and their components.

Source: Arias et al. 2021.

At the OPSAa, information is organized into eight components that make up the data structure within the Observatory, namely:

1. **Policy initiatives⁴** are interventions that can take the form of laws, guidelines and incentives, among others, which are reflected in allocations of public or private resources. This component is particularly important, given that in the region a high number of policies are not fully implemented, so priority is given to those that have an explicit public budget allocation and, therefore, the specific instruments used to achieve the results stipulated in the policy.

⁴ <https://opsaa.iica.int/policy-initiatives>



2. **The policy frameworks⁵** are the legal basis of State actions expressed in guidelines, strategies, regulations, resolutions or agreements, at the international, regional, national and subnational level. The OPSAa prioritizes the registration of policy frameworks that are the basis for the design and implementation of the initiatives mentioned in component one.

Figure 7. Content visualization at the OPSAa corresponding to the policy initiatives component (<https://opsaa.iica.int/policy-initiatives>).

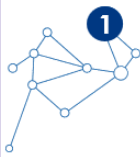
digital transformation policies

In recent years, there has been an increase in actions for the digital transformation of AFS, with an additional boost as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Mobility restrictions showed the benefits of digitalization in the sector, but also showed gaps and challenges in the region that limit the advance of digitalization in agriculture (ECLAC et al. 2021).

The actions require joint work between actors from the public and private sectors, academia and cooperation organizations, promoting inclusive processes and fostering the advance of digital agriculture. According to information available in the OPSAa, although the countries of the region have made progress on the issue, only a few of them have institutionalized this approach.

As of May 30, 2023, the platform had 102 records of policy frameworks and initiatives (with a cumulative investment close to USD 8 billion), focused on national plans and strategies for digital transformation (DT). These measures reflect the need for comprehensive progress, but differentiated by type of actors and type of AFS, as well as policies that can be evaluated in terms of their results and instruments.

⁵ <https://opsaa.iica.int/frames>

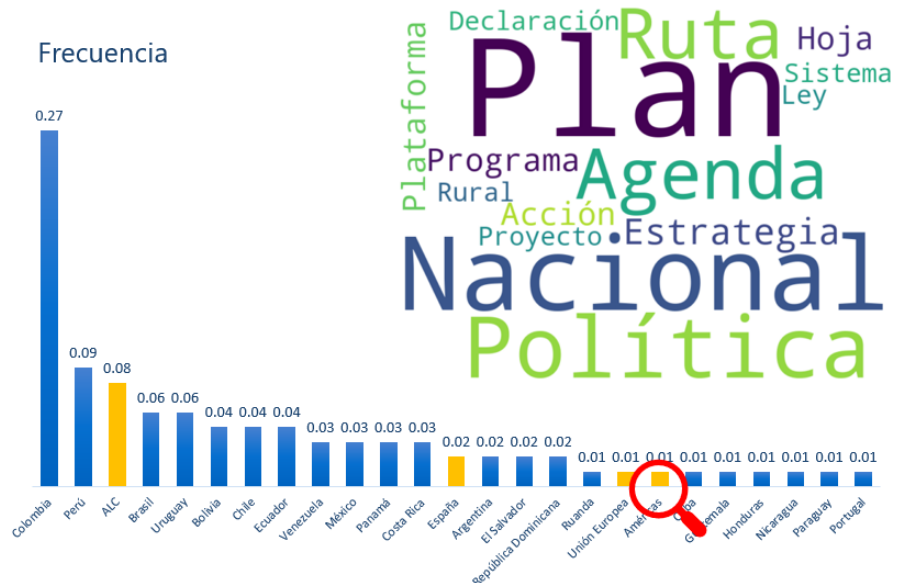


1 HIPÓTESIS

EL TEMA DE TD SE HA INSTITUCIONALIZADO EN POCOS PAÍSES Y REQUIERE DE MAYOR POSICIONAMIENTO EN LA AGENDA POLÍTICA DE PAÍSES DE LA REGIÓN

102 registros de INICIATIVAS Y MARCOS de políticas

7700 palabras de descripción breve de las políticas



- The OPSAa considers **good practices**⁶ in policy management as those public policy experiences that have generated outstanding impacts and results and are a reference for their scalability within the countries and in the region. This component records metrics of relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of policies, as well as lessons learned.
- The **indicator**⁷ component is included in the OPSAa to show a selection of metrics on the state of progress, trends and links between the impacts, results and products of public policies. This component does not intend to compete with other systems available on the market, but rather to carefully select those metrics that are relevant to monitor the results and impacts of the actions of States and regional entities to modernize or improve AFS (see example in figure 8). On the other hand, the subcomponent "Agri-food Atlas"⁸ shows an overview by country or region of the macroeconomic, commercial and environmental context of agrifood systems in the Americas.

⁶ <https://opsaa.iica.int/good-practices>

⁷ <https://opsaa.iica.int/indicators>

⁸ <https://opsaa.iica.int/atlas>



Figure 8. Indicators component of the OPSAA: <https://opsaa.iica.int/indicators>.

5. The **information resources**⁹ component aims to establish a bridge or link between the OPSAA and other information systems relevant to policymakers or that include content related to the design and implementation of public policies, as well as studies or data that support evidence-based policy management processes. The resources include other observatories of interest, analysis documents, news, virtual platforms, databases and scientific publications, among others.
6. **Events**¹⁰ and workshops registered at the OPSAA must be linked to activities and discussions on public policies for AFS.
7. On the other hand, the **evidence**¹¹ component is used by the OPSAA to report facts and provide timely and objective information that is supported by data, statistics or formal studies on the state of the current and future situation of the AFS, as well as the results and impacts achieved with the implementation of policies and their instruments.
8. Finally, **dialogue rooms**¹² are spaces designed to facilitate the operation of policy networks that are formed around specific current or long-term issues. These virtual spaces provide tools to integrate all OPSAA contents that are relevant to evidence-based dialogue, as well as facilitate the exchange of future perspectives

⁹ <https://opsaa.iica.int/resources/>

¹⁰ <https://opsaa.iica.int/eventsList>

¹¹ <https://opsaa.iica.int/evidences>

¹² <https://opsaa.iica.int/rooms>

and good public policy management practices on current or long-term issues. At the time of drafting this document, there are four active dialogue rooms: Scenarios of change in global geopolitics product of the war conflict in Eastern Europe (<https://opsaa.iica.int/room-3>), Policy alternatives to the fertilizer crisis (<https://opsaa.iica.int/room-10>), What public policies are countries implementing to foster agri-food digitization? (<https://opsaa.iica.int/room-11>) and Promotion and Development of Bioinputs (<https://opsaa.iica.int/room-13>).

Policy alternatives to the fertilizer crisis

The conditions during the COVID-19 pandemic, the container crisis and the armed conflict in Eastern Europe generated disruptions in the markets, especially in oil, fertilizers and grains, and significantly impacted AFS globally and in countries. Given this situation, the need arises to generate dialogues that contribute to minimizing the risks of taking wrong measures with very short-term expectations, which could have a high fiscal and political cost, as well as generate a limited contribution to the achievement of lasting benefits for the various stakeholders in the AFS.



This dialogue room offered a space to exchange information and data on the behavior of the fertilizer market in the region, as well as to share experiences and measures that the countries of the Americas have taken to address the high cost of fertilizers.

The discussion included an analysis of the methodology to assess alternative measures in the face of fertilizer crises, which helps determine the possible effect of alternative or complementary measures to mitigate the current situation with fertilizer import prices and its impact on the conditions of the main stakeholders in the value chains (Pomareda 2022). The analysis was based on the case of Peru.

More information: <https://opsaa.iica.int/room-10>.

Policy dimensions

As mentioned above, there are no isolated elements; they are all linked together and follow a systemic approach to information and knowledge management. The OPSAa adds value by analyzing and linking data and information across policy dimensions (see figure 9).

Each of the policy components is characterized by dimensions, which follow the approach of the Theory of Change and answer questions such as the following: What is expected to be achieved? What are the instruments used? Who are the stakeholders and what role do they play? Who are the beneficiaries? And what are the sources and types of financing? Each dimension is detailed below:



Figure 9. Policy dimensions at the OPSAa.

1. **Results:** They allow correlations to be made between activities, inputs, products, results and impacts of the policy. Some examples of results are food and nutritional security, competitiveness and disease control in animals.
2. **Geographic:** Refers to the scope of action of the policies, which allows for linkages of actions at the local, national, regional, hemispheric and global levels.
3. **Time frame:** Refers to whether the interventions are short, medium or long term.
4. **Beneficiaries:** Target populations or differentiations that the State makes in its interventions for populations that require greater attention.
5. **Instruments:** Different forms of intervention and how regulations are combined or complemented with market and non-market incentives.
6. **Financing:** Allocation of budgets and combination of local, national and international public-private sources classified according to types of financing, whether these are public budgets, debt, private capital, self-financing or international aid.
7. **Sectoral:** this dimension makes it possible to clarify whether the interventions are aimed at specific sectors, products or chains or if they are multisectoral or transversal in nature.
8. **Actors:** In addition to registering the actors that participate in the policy in their different roles of planning, implementation, evaluation, financing or technical assistance, over time it will be possible to map networks of people and institutions, both national and international, that participate in the policy cycle or who offer many opportunities for exchange and learning.
9. **Contextual:** The contextual dimension allows a registration of the legal bases, laws, regulations, guidelines, agreements and treaties in which the implemented policy interventions or initiatives are embodied, which may be national, regional or international.
10. **Impact:** Finally, the impact dimension of the policies is visualized in the OPSAa in the component of good management practices, which showcases metrics of relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of the interventions, as well as the lessons learned.

In addition to the policy dimensions detailed above, the OPSAa's work is organized around 18 policy areas, which were selected following criteria of relevance for the improvement of AFS and for being strategic elements in IICA's technical cooperation actions. The organization by areas or themes such as resilience to climate change, bioeconomy, trade and regional integration, gender and youth, One Health approach, etc. (see figure 10) helps decentralize OPSAa's activities, designating one IICA staff member responsible for each topic, in charge of maintaining the integrity and quality of the information presented.



Figure 10. Policy areas at the OPSAa.

An integrated approach to OPSAa content: policy dimensions.

As part of the progress in the development of the platform, the “Dimensions” section was recently created, which seeks to provide users with a comprehensive and cross-cutting approach to OPSAa content, as it allows them to view the policies according to each country of the Americas, thematic areas, economic sectors, policy beneficiaries, policy instruments and types of financing.

Depending on the selected dimension, the module allows users to see all OPSAa components that contain information for each dimension in the same section, by showing the initiatives, policy frameworks, good practices, resources, events, dialogue rooms, indicators and an evidence section called “Did you know?”



Figure 11. Country dimension – Ecuador.

Additionally, the contents in each dimension are classified with labels, which makes it even easier for users to explore content according to topics of interest, such as COP27, gap_digital, agtechs, El Niño, etc.



Figure 12. Policy dimensions – bioinputs.

The Policy Dimensions menu highlights the importance of networking with strategic partners at the national and regional level, and facilitates and visibilizes this type of work.

Achievements and expected results

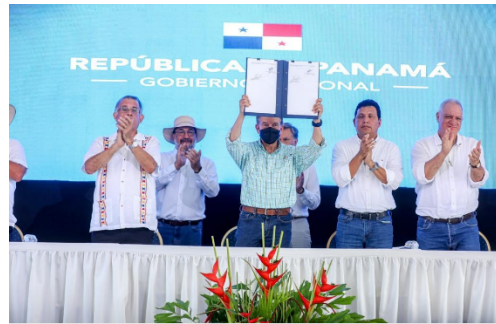
One year has passed since the launch of the OPSAa online platform, which was established to offer a meeting point for knowledge exchange and the promotion of a new generation of public policies to face the challenge of improving AFS in the Americas. Much time and effort was dedicated to consolidating an integrated database and online platform to manage OPSAa contents. Through networking and decentralization, the OPSAa will grow exponentially with the participation of technical staff from all IICA offices in the 34 member countries, as well as people interested in contributing to and being part of this effort aimed at improving policies and increasing impact in the AFS of the Americas.

We will continue to build and strengthen partnerships that enhance policy analysis to face present and future opportunities and challenges. Some examples of results that will be consolidated this year are: a) analysis of deforestation and its impacts on biodiversity in LAC, carried out together with the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) of Canada; b) results of policies for the development of family farming in the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR), together with the Specialized Meeting on Family Farming (REAF) of MERCOSUR; c) policies for the Central American dairy sector, together with the Central American Dairy Federation (FECALAC) and the Executive Secretariat of the Central American Agricultural Council (SE-CAC); d) vulnerability index of AFS in Latin America and the Caribbean, together with SELA-Venezuela; and e) policies for the operationalization of the One Health approach in collaboration with various partners at the hemispheric level and with the financial support of the USDA/United States; e) Summarized evidence on policies, technologies and institutions for the transformation of LAC agrifood systems, in partnership with several research centers, and led by IFPRI, the University of Notre Dame and IICA.

We have many expectations vis-a-vis the development and expansion of the Dimensions section of the OPSAa (<https://opsaa.iica.int/dimensions-country>), which will allow us to provide more comprehensive, cross-cutting perspectives of the contents of the Observatory, according to country, thematic areas, economic sectors, policy instruments used and sources or types of financing. This module divided by policy dimensions allows users to recognize, organize and facilitate networking with strategic partners at the national and regional levels.

We will continue to expand the indicators component (<https://opsaa.iica.int/indicators>) to track variables according to themes or expected results of the policies, such as economic activity and growth, agricultural productivity, digital connectivity, trade by products and by origin and destination, renewable energies, food and nutritional security, rural employment, bioenergy and several others.

The OPSAa, as a source of information and tool for dialogue and agreement, will continue to support countries and facilitate exchange between them in the processes of building State policies. To this end, a digital application has been developed and implemented to collaboratively develop strategic plans and State policies at the country level in real time (https://t.ly/_Rf9). This digital tool facilitates the participation of all institutional



actors interested and involved in the design, implementation, follow-up and monitoring of policies. The digital application has already been used and is in the process of consolidation in Panama and Ecuador. An additional benefit of the system is the design of goals and monitoring indicators that will help measure the effectiveness and efficiency of the policies, as well as the degree of interinstitutional participation and intersectoral linkage of the policy. In 2022, support was provided in the development of the State Agrifood Policy (PADE) in Panama and the Agricultural Policy of Ecuador 2022–2032, as well as the development of the State policy in Honduras.

An important challenge is to ensure that the OPSAa becomes a source of information and a tool for policy analysis, to fully realize the premise of transforming knowledge into evidence for the transformation of AFS. This could be achieved by ensuring the full participation of IICA technical staff and partners. Within the framework of the OPSAa, the second edition of the document “Rural connectivity in Latin America and the Caribbean: status, challenges and actions to achieve digitalization and sustainable development” was launched (<https://repositorio.iica.int/handle/11324/21350>), updated in 2021. The preparation of said document, which is supported and monitored by highly prestigious media outlets in the countries of the Americas, was possible thanks to a collaborative work structure including Bayer, CAF –Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean, the World Bank, Microsoft and Syngenta. Among other important conclusions, the study revealed that at least 72 million rural dwellers do not have proper rural connectivity with the minimum standards, which represents a limitation for access, use and harnessing of digital technologies in the face of the challenge of leaving no one behind.

An additional tool for reflection is the IICA blog (<https://blog.iica.int/>), which facilitates the dissemination of technical content produced by both IICA staff and partners and collaborators. During 2022, the blog was visited by more than 100,000 users with an average of 5,000 active users. Furthermore, the blog space became a means to disseminate the analysis of information included in the OPSAa.

Source: Kelly Witkowski. Co-Innovating for more sustainable and climate-sensitive rice production in Chile.

Visit:

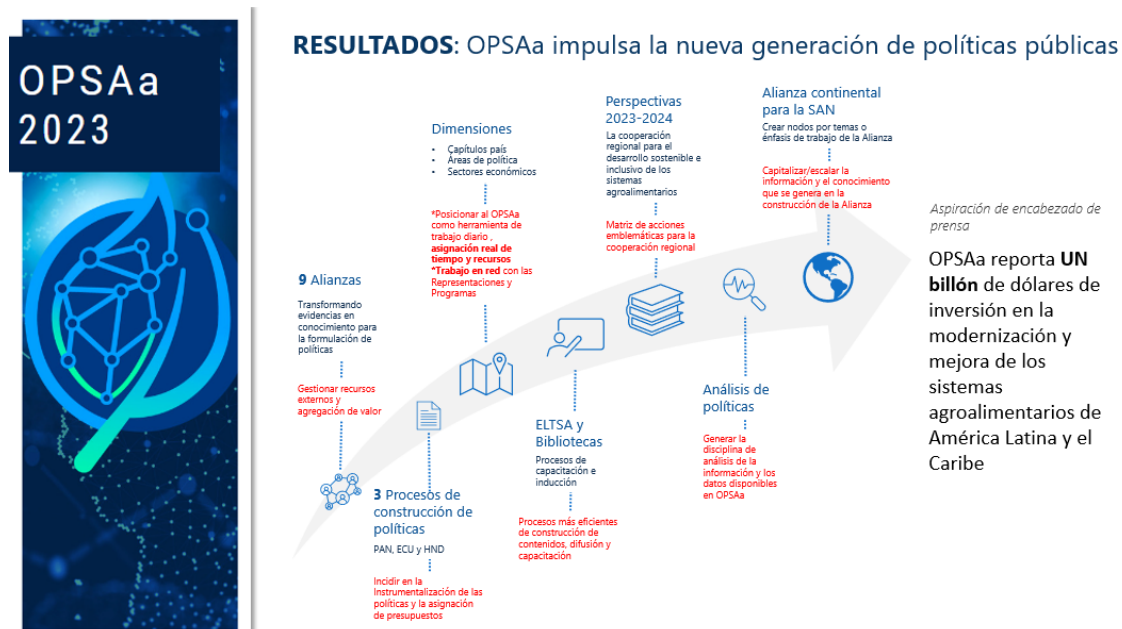


"Los agricultores han logrado rendimientos similares a los métodos convencionales utilizando la mitad de la semilla, menos herbicidas y, quizás lo más importante para ellos, la mitad del agua y menores costos. "

<https://blog.iica.int/blog/co-innovando-para-una-produccion-arroz-mas-sostenible-sensible-al-clima-en-chile>.

In the future, we will continue to build and strengthen strategic partnerships; support public policy construction processes; consolidate and integrate information on policies by dimensions, especially establishing chapters by country and sectors; and perform prospective analyses. An example of the latter is the joint publication between ECLAC, FAO and IICA of the report “Outlook for agriculture and rural development in the Americas: 2023-2024” (in its tenth edition), presented at the Twenty-Second Regular Meeting of the IABA in October 2023 and which focuses on identifying opportunities for regional cooperation for the sustainable and inclusive development of AFS.

Figure 13. Expected results at the OPSAa for 2023.



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