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INTRODUCTION

The Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas was held in Guayaquil, Ecuador, from August 29 through September 1, 2005. The Thirteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), the highest Governing Body of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), was also held in the context of that Meeting. The IABA Meeting addressed strategic issues, and decisions that are crucial for the Institute were adopted. These dealt mainly with the implementation of the 2002-2006 Medium-Term Plan, the new initiatives that need to be considered in the 2006-2010 Medium-Term Plan and the 2006-2007 Program-Budget.

The Third Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas in the context of the Summit of the Americas process was also held at this major hemispheric event. There, the Ministers gave continuity to the ministerial process initiated in 2001 and consolidated hemispheric agreements adopted in Bavaro in 2001 and in Panama in 2003. Thus, in Guayaquil in 2005, they reaffirmed their commitment to the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan of Action by adopting the *Ministerial Agreement of Guayaquil for Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas* and other agreements aimed at supporting implementation and follow-up of it and promoting consideration of agriculture and rural life in the mandates of the Fourth Summit of the Americas.

This document contains the Report of the Thirteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA as well as a section on the Third Ministerial Meeting and the outcome.

INAUGURAL CEREMONY

The Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas was inaugurated by His Excellency Dr. Alejandro Serrano Aguilar, Vice President of Ecuador, in Guayaquil, Ecuador, on August 29, 2005. Seated with him at the podium were the Assistant Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS), the Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Ecuador, the Minister of Foreign Trade, Fisheries and Competitiveness of Ecuador, the Director General of IICA, the FAO Delegate for Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Governor of the Province of Guayas.

Two major events were held in the framework of the Ministerial Meeting: the Third Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Rural Life in the context of the Summit of the Americas Process”, and the Thirteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA). There were more than 800 people in attendance at the inauguration ceremony: delegations from 33 countries affiliated with the Summit of the Americas Process; representations from Germany, Spain, France and Israel; delegates from the National Congress of Ecuador; members of the diplomatic corps; ex-ministers of agriculture and livestock of Ecuador; directors emeritus of IICA; representatives from international organizations, and representatives of the national and international media.

After the playing of the National Anthem of Ecuador and the Anthem of the city of Guayaquil, the following officers addressed the Ministerial Meeting:

The Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Ecuador, Chair of the Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas

“...may the future always be a new dawn for agriculture in the Americas.”

Mr. Pablo Rizzo Pastor extended a welcome to participants. He did so, he said, fully aware of the responsibility it implied for the 34 Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas to meet at this time as the 2005 World Summit on the Progress of the Millennium Development Goals and the Fourth Summit of the Americas, being held under the watchword “*Creating Jobs to Face Poverty and Strengthen Democratic Governance*”, were approaching.

At the Third Summit of the Americas, held in Quebec, Canada, he said, the Heads of State and Government of the Americas had pledged to promote programs to improve agriculture and rural life and boost agro-industry as a means of alleviating poverty and sparking integral development. In the meantime, he added, at the Special Summit of the Americas, held in Nuevo Leon, Mexico, the government leaders had supported the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan of Action adopted at the Second Ministerial Meeting, held in Panama in 2003.

He said that that new political support engaged them even further. We shared the great responsibility of charting a different future for all those who had placed their faith in them and who understood that with the Guayaquil Ministerial Agreement for Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas, there would be hope for a better life.

Finally, he said that the Thirteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA, which would be held following the Third Ministerial Meeting, was an appropriate time to acknowledge the major effort being made by IICA to support the countries through their national plans aimed at fulfilling the commitments assumed in the AGRO 2015 Plan and to fine-tune the Institute's Medium-term Plan, based on any agreements made at that meeting.

The Director General of IICA

“We come to continue building a bridge to the future so that many more of our people can cross over from a life of despair to a life of rural prosperity”.

Dr. Chelston W.D. Brathwaite expressed sincere thanks to the Government of Ecuador and its staff for the warm welcome and hospitality and the reception it had arranged for their stay in Guayaquil.

He then went on to share some thoughts on their responsibilities –current and future– vis-à-vis agriculture in the 21st century. Taking as a foundation the shared vision of the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan of Action and attainment of the Millennium Development Goals, he said they were committed to assuming new responsibilities and playing a more dynamic and strategic role in helping to bring greater prosperity to the rural communities of their nations.

In this regard, he referred to:

- ▶ The use of agriculture as an alternative source of energy;
- ▶ Food security, safety and the nutritional and social value of food;
- ▶ Dignified and well remunerated employment for rural inhabitants;

- ▶ The creation of more and better jobs in rural territories;
- ▶ Furthering the contribution of agriculture to social equilibrium;
- ▶ The contribution of agriculture to integration among nations.

He said they were convinced that modernization of the agricultural sector and priority attention to rural areas were key to reducing poverty, ensuring food security and fostering sustainable development in the Americas. He urged the countries to pool efforts to implement new strategies, policies, actions and investments to foster growth in agriculture and the rural milieu so that they could continue to make a noble and sustained contribution to the economies of their nations.

Finally, he thanked the mayor of Guayaquil for his hospitality and support and the Vice President of Ecuador for his participation and support.

The Assistant Secretary General of the OAS

“We should do everything possible to ensure that the changed dynamics worldwide and in our own region do not result in the social and economic marginalization of countries and/or groups”.

Ambassador Albert R. Ramdin started his address by saying that the issues that would be addressed at the Ministerial Meeting would indeed be far-reaching and of strategic importance for the countries of the Americas. He said that agriculture would continue to be one of the key strategic pillars in fighting poverty, creating employment, safeguarding social stability, and providing citizens with a tangible stake in the development of their local communities and their countries.

The Organization of American States, he said, believed in the importance of continuing to promote medium- and long-term national strategies toward sustainable improvement in agriculture and rural life. As Presidents and Heads of Government agreed at the Third Summit of the Americas in Quebec City, all actors – parliamentarians, civil society organizations and the scientific and academic sectors – should be working along with governments to accomplish this goal.

He added that they applauded the spread of democracy in the Hemisphere. However, all were painfully aware that countries had not always been successful in delivering the promised fruits of democracy and economic reform. This failure, in turn, threatened the social and political fabric, and created unstable environments that threatened the ability of governments to govern.

The Vice President of Ecuador

“In the face of the challenges of the new context, it is imperative that we view agriculture from a different perspective so that it is given due consideration when major political decisions are made”.

His Excellency Dr. Alejandro Serrano Aguilar said that the President of the Republic had asked him to extend, on behalf of the people and Government of Ecuador, a warm welcome and best wishes to delegations for a most pleasant and productive stay in Ecuador.

Like the other countries represented at the meeting, the Ecuadorian Government, he said, was committed to the Millennium Goals and Objectives proposed for 2015. The Third Ministerial Meeting and the Inter-American Board of Agriculture therefore took on special importance for the future of their peoples and, especially, those who work daily in the countryside and fight against the odds of nature and the risks and whims of the markets which often dashed hopes for a better life for farmers and rural entrepreneurs.

In declaring the Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Rural Life formally inaugurated, he was convinced that the ministerial dialogue and the Guayaquil Agreement reached would address the needs, concerns and demands of all those who worked in the countryside and that they would be instruments for promoting fair and balanced development which they all sought after for rural societies, made up of enterprising and courageous businessmen and a significant community of farmers which, for many decades, had hoped for better living conditions.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

IICA/JIA/Acta 13 (XIII-O/05)
August 30 – September 1, 2005
Original: Spanish/English

PREPARATORY SESSION

0.1 *Opening of the Session*

0.1.1 The Preparatory Session of the Third Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Rural Life in the context of the Summit of the Americas Process, and of the Thirteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), was called to order at 8:40 a.m. on August 30, 2005, in the Salón Isabela of the Hilton Hotel in Guayaquil, Ecuador. It was attended by 33 heads of delegation.

0.1.2 The Delegate of Panama, Erick Fidel Santamaría, Secretary General of the Ministry of Agricultural Development of Panama, representing the country that chaired the Second Ministerial Meeting in the context of the Summit of the Americas Process and the Twelfth Regular Meeting of the IABA, chaired the session.

0.2 *Election of the Chair and Rapporteur of the Meeting*

0.2.1 The Delegate of Costa Rica proposed Mr. Pablo Rizzo Pastor, Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Ecuador, as Chair of the Third Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Rural Life in the context of the Summit of the Americas Process, and of the Thirteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA). The proposal was seconded by the delegates of Nicaragua, Bolivia (on behalf of his country and the Southern Agricultural Council) and the Dominican Republic.

0.2.2 The Delegate of Mexico, seconded by the Delegates of Guyana and the Dominican Republic, proposed Philippe Mathieu, Minister of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Rural Development of Haiti, as Rapporteur. The proposal was approved.

0.2.3 The officers of the meeting were elected as follows:

Chair:	Pablo Rizzo Pastor (Ecuador)
Rapporteur:	Philippe Mathieu (Haiti)
<i>Ex officio</i> Secretary:	Chelston W. D. Brathwaite

0.3 *Order of Precedence of the Member States*

0.3.1 In accordance with Article 34 of the Rules of Procedure of the IABA, the order of precedence was established, beginning with Ecuador, the Member State whose Delegate was elected Chair of the meeting. Thereafter, alphabetical order in Spanish would be followed. Consequently, the Minister of Agriculture of El Salvador, Mario Ernesto Salaverría, would assume the responsibilities of the Chair in the event of his absence.

0.4 *Provisional Agenda*

0.4.1 The Technical Secretary of the Thirteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA, Mr. Fernando del Risco, read out the provisional agenda and opened the floor for discussion of it.

0.4.2 The Chair noted that the provisional agenda had been prepared taking into account the demands of the Summit of the Americas process and the decisions reached at previous meetings of the IABA, especially the ones held in Panama in 2003 and the regular meetings of the Executive Committee, held in San Jose, Costa Rica, and Ribeirão Preto, Brazil. He then invited the heads of delegation to comment on the proposed agenda.

0.4.3 The Delegate of Bolivia, on behalf of the Southern Agricultural Council (CAS), asked that a proposal from the CAS calling for the reorganization and modernization of IICA be placed on the agenda of the IABA meeting.

0.4.4 The agenda was approved following inclusion of the agenda item proposed by the CAS.

0.4.5 The Chair gave the floor to the technical secretaries of the Third Ministerial Meeting and of the Thirteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA.

0.4.6 The Technical Secretary of the Third Ministerial Meeting, Lizardo de las Casas, submitted for the consideration of the plenary the procedures to be followed in reaching consensus on the ministerial proposal to be submitted to the Fourth Summit of the Americas, and in approving the ministerial

agreements. With regard to the proposal for the Fourth Summit, he announced that, in keeping with the approved program, the Chair of the GRICA, the hemispheric forum of Ministerial Delegates, would present the result they achieved to the ministers for consideration. As for the ministerial agreements, he said that the GRICA had worked on the respective proposed ministerial agreements and was awaiting the respective ministerial dialogues, included in the agenda, in order for any necessary adjustments to be made and presented by the Chair of the GRICA for approval by the ministers.

0.4.7 The Director General, in his capacity as *ex officio* Secretary of the IABA, indicated that, in order to facilitate the work of the IABA, and considering that the Executive Committee, at its Twenty-fourth and Twenty-fifth Meetings, had already approved resolutions on the matters to be addressed by the IABA, draft resolutions would be presented to the plenary *en bloc* for consideration. He said the Technical Secretariat would include in the draft resolutions the essential aspects of the deliberations and decisions of the Delegates of Member States.

0.5 *Establishment of Committees*

0.5.1 The Chair explained that, according to Article 52 of its Rules of Procedure, the IABA was empowered to set up temporary or special committees to examine questions related to the nature and purposes of the Institute. Inasmuch as no proposals had been received for the establishment of committees, the Chair announced that they could be established during the course of the meeting, if the delegates of the Member States so wished.

0.6 *Deadline for Submitting Proposals*

0.6.1 The deadline set for the submission of proposals was Thursday, September 1, at 12:00 p.m.

0.7 *Duration of the Meeting*

0.7.1 The plenary agreed to hold the closing session on Thursday, September 1, at 4:30 p.m.

0.8 *Right to vote in the IABA*

0.8.1 The Director General asked the Legal Advisor to explain the scope and method for applying the rules and regulations governing the right to vote at the IABA meetings.

0.8.2 The Legal Advisor explained the rules governing the right of Member States to vote at IABA meetings, referring specifically to Article 24 of the IABA's Rules of Procedure and other provisions governing the right to vote. He added that, according to information provided by the Administration of the Institute, for the first time in twelve years, all Member States were entitled to exercise their right to vote at this meeting.

0.8.3 The Director General expressed satisfaction with the situation explained by the Legal Advisor, and thanked the Member States for their efforts to honor their financial commitments to the Institute. He noted that that support engaged the Administration's commitment to provide high-quality services.

0.9 *Procedure for electing the Director General*

0.9.1 The Chair suggested that, since there was only one candidate, the Director General should be elected by acclamation. The proposal was endorsed by all Regular Delegates of the Member States present.

0.10 *Closing of the Session*

0.10.1 The Preparatory Session adjourned at 9:42 a.m.

FIRST PLENARY SESSION

1.1 Opening of the Session

1.1.1 The First Plenary Session was called to order at 10:15 a.m. on August 30, 2005, with Mr. Pablo Rizzo Pastor, Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Ecuador, presiding.

1.2 Opening remarks at the Third Ministerial Meeting in the Context of the Summit of the Americas Process

1.2.1 The Chair clarified that the Third Ministerial Meeting was taking place within the framework of the Summit of the Americas process, adding that dialogue and negotiation were a feature of the times. He noted that Ecuador was living the experience of a participatory democracy where the Government had taken on commitments to the producers and other stakeholders in the agricultural sector, which were considered in the trade negotiations. He went on to say that his country was working on consolidating a domestic agenda agreed upon for the next ten years. That agenda would become the state's policy.

1.2.2 He expressed the wish that this meeting would be an instrument for exchanging experiences and that it would contribute in a meaningful way to the dialogue. He then went on to summarize the scope and expectations of the meeting.

1.3 Presentation on the Role of the Ministerial Meetings in the Summit of the Americas Process

1.3.1 Mr. Luis Alberto Rodríguez, Director of the Summit of the Americas Secretariat of the Organization of American States, gave a presentation on the "Role of the Ministerial Meetings in the Summit of the Americas Process". He gave background information relating to this process, briefly summarized the Summits of the Americas held thus far and highlighted aspects relating to agriculture and rural life contained in the declarations of those Summits. He explained the mechanisms for accountability and follow-up, the functions of the Secretariat and the role of the Ministerial Meetings in the Summit process. Finally, he referred to the preparatory activities for

the Fourth Summit of the Americas, to be held from November 4-5 in Mar del Plata, Argentina.

1.4 *Progress Report on Fulfillment of the 2003-2005 Hemispheric Agenda*

1.4.1 Mr. Lizardo de las Casas, Secretary for the Ministerial Meeting, presented the progress report on fulfillment of the 2003-2005 Hemispheric Agenda.

1.4.2 He divided his statement into three sections. In the first part, he spoke about the positioning of agriculture and rural life in the Hemispheric Agenda. He then went on to explain the underlying strategic framework for agriculture and rural life, linking it to the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan of Action. He also defined the scope of the new hemispheric dynamic. He highlighted the building of new relations and the formulation of objectives for agriculture in the Americas. He ended his presentation with a summary of the challenges and strategic actions for 2006-2007.

1.5 *Leading Change and the Modernization of IICA*

1.5.1 The Director General presented the Report "Leading Change and Institutional Reform at IICA". He shared the achievements of his administration to date and his thoughts about the future. Dr. Mario Seixas, Associate Deputy Director General and Director of the Secretariat for Technical Cooperation of IICA, completed that report with a presentation on the main achievements and results of technical cooperation in the period 2002-2005.

1.5.2 The Director General referred to efforts to promote operational efficiency, financial prudence, better use of human resources, expanded relations with strategic partners, a new relationship with Member States based on participation, transparency and accountability. He said that the process of institutional transformation had been conducted in accordance with the following characteristics of a modern organization: a vision and an appropriate strategy for its implementation; an appropriate management structure; mechanisms for performance management and evaluation; a definition of the clientele, strategic partners and competitors; innovative policies for human resource management; policies, processes and controls for financial management; strategies for improving communication and promoting a corporate image; principles and values; social responsibility and the capacity to think and anticipate the future.

- 1.5.3 He added that in order for IICA to make its new strategic vision a reality, it had emphasized the promotion of agribusiness, support for trade policies and negotiations, the promotion of technology and innovation, the promotion of sustainable rural development, and the promotion of agricultural training and education. He said that the goal was for the Institute to be a leader in providing technical cooperation in the Americas and to be the first partner of choice for Member States in their efforts to promote the development of agriculture and rural well-being. He further emphasized how important teamwork between the Member States and the General Directorate had been in the progress achieved and the accomplishments.
- 1.5.4 Finally, he said that IICA stood ready to support the countries in implementing the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan of Action. It had greater capacity to promote hemispheric integration and horizontal integration; follow up on the status of and prospects for agriculture and rural life in the hemisphere; and promote an inter-institutional agenda that supported sustainable rural development.
- 1.6 *Actions and Results of Technical Cooperation: 2002-2005*
- 1.6.1 Dr. Mario Seixas, Assistant Deputy Director General and Director of the Secretariat for Technical Cooperation of IICA, completed the presentation by the Director General. He showed progress made in the implementation the Medium-Term Plan of IICA (MTP) for the period 2002-2005 and underscored the main achievements of technical cooperation provided by IICA during that time. He said that the Institute had continued to place emphasis on three areas: promoting the inter-thematic approach as a result of which the technical areas had been able to provide an overall response to the demands of Member States; promoting horizontal cooperation between countries and regions, with IICA serving as an efficient intermediary; and c) applying the “working together” strategy in carrying out activities and projects with the organizations of the Inter-American System, the international organizations and cooperation agencies in developed countries.
- 1.6.2 He then went on to explain and to illustrate with examples the principal results of the technical cooperation agendas at the national, regional and hemispheric levels. He referred to the most outstanding achievements of the hemispheric agenda in the development of agribusiness, trade policy and negotiations, technology and innovation, agricultural health and food safety, sustainable rural development, education and training, and the preparation of

investment projects. He then outlined the most significant results of the agendas in the Andean, Southern, Central, Northern and Caribbean regions.

- 1.6.3 Finally, he thanked Member States for their support. He said that support had been vital in generating and providing better technical cooperation services.

1.7 *Election of the Director General*

- 1.7.1 The Chair invited the plenary to ratify unanimously and by acclamation the election of Dr. Chelston W.D. Brathwaite as Director General of the Institute for the period 2006-2010.

- 1.7.2 The plenary accepted the Chair's proposal and re-elected the Director General by acclamation with a round of applause.

1.8 *Director General's Acceptance Speech*

- 1.8.1 Dr. Chelston W.D. Brathwaite accepted the honor conferred upon him by Member States and the opportunity afforded to complete the mission he had embarked upon in November 2001 when he was elected the ninth Director General of IICA. He said that the decision of Member States to re-elect him was an honor for his country, the Caribbean region, his family and IICA staff who worked to promote the ideals of that institution with loyalty, dedication and commitment.

- 1.8.2 He thanked the government and people of Ecuador for their hospitality; all Member States for their confidence and support; the Prime Minister of Barbados and his Cabinet for endorsing his candidacy and for their support. He also thanked the Heads of Government of CARICOM, the strategic partners of the Institute, his wife and children and gave thanks to God for health and strength. He paid tribute to the ex-Directors General and thanked them for their valuable advice and support during his first administration.

- 1.8.3 He reviewed briefly the strategic topics he considered to be the pillars of his first administration, highlighting among them the process of institutional modernization. He called for the establishment of hemispheric partnerships with strategic partners for rural development to reduce poverty and bring prosperity to the rural areas of the Americas. He cited as key areas of the agenda to support Member States trade and integration, agricultural health and food safety, the development of agribusiness, including the introduction

of new technologies and the promotion of competitiveness, environmental management, modernization of the agricultural sector of the Americas and the development of human capital.

- 1.8.4 Dr. Brathwaite said he looked forward to continuing to build IICA into an institution of excellence that helped agricultural producers and the rural population to break the cycle of poverty and dependence, while at the same time protecting the environment and participating effectively in the globalized economy.
- 1.8.5 He concluded with the three following ideas: (i) high rural income was essential if the millennium development goals were to be met in the area of poverty alleviation; (ii) rural prosperity was vital to social stability and democratic governance; (iii) rural poverty could not wait and solving this core problem required immediate attention.
- 1.8.6 On behalf of his government, the Delegate of Barbados thanked Member States for their support and confidence in Dr. Chelston W.D. Brathwaite's candidature. That support, with the consensus of the 34 Member States, had secured his re-election for a new term.
- 1.9 *Closing of the Session*
- 1.9.1 The first session adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

SECOND PLENARY SESSION

2.1 Opening of the Session

2.1.1 The Second Plenary Session commenced at 3:15 p.m. on August 30, 2005 under the chairmanship of Mr. Pablo Rizzo Pastor, Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Ecuador.

2.2 Ministerial Dialogue on the Institutional Modernization of IICA

2.2.1 On behalf of the Southern Agricultural Council (CAS), the Delegate of Bolivia submitted a proposal for the reorganization and modernization of IICA.

2.2.2 The Delegate of Bolivia explained that the idea behind the proposal was that the new 2006-2010 Medium-Term Plan (MTP) should be an outgrowth of the national and regional technical cooperation agendas. He noted that the analysis of priorities at regional level should serve as input for the establishment of a hemisphere-wide agenda, which would be the basis for the 2006-2010 MTP.

2.2.3 The Delegate of Argentina added that the proposal also stipulates that IICA's budgetary allocation should be consistent with the regional agendas. He suggested to the plenary the possibility of delivering a printed version of the proposal.

2.2.4 The Delegate of Honduras congratulated the Director General on his address on institutional progress. With regard to the subject of the new strategic vision, he voiced his concern about the multi-sectoral quality ascribed to IICA, given its financial limitations and, especially, the fact that the Institute had no mandate to function in that capacity. He added that the preparation of the next MTP should involve the participation of the countries and should focus on the sectoral character of the Institute as defined. With regard to the CAS proposal, he supported the idea of preparing the MTP in conjunction with the countries, but was not in agreement with the budgetary guidelines.

2.2.5 The Delegate of Canada noted that the discussion of the CAS proposal could generate conflict, and he therefore asked that the institutional procedures previously defined by IABA be followed in relation to this matter.

- 2.2.6 The Delegate of Uruguay noted that the CAS proposal was designed to reinforce the regional councils as bodies that face together common problems and that explore topics that could be part and parcel of the MTP. He recognized that the procedure followed by the CAS was not defined by the IABA, but he insisted on the intention, which was to contribute to the institutional modernization of IICA.
- 2.2.7 The Delegate of the Bahamas said that IICA was an organization that provided technical cooperation to the countries and that each country should establish its national lines of action to improve the agri-food sector. He felt that the Institute should continue with its hemispheric activities in the area of technical cooperation and not focus efforts on regional blocs.
- 2.2.8 The Delegate of Mexico noted that the various regions of the hemisphere had regional agricultural bodies such as the agricultural technical group for the north, (Grupo Técnico Agropecuario del Norte), CORECA, CAC, etc.), and that the fora organized by IICA had provided opportunities to meet. He endorsed what the Delegate of Canada had said and suggested that the Executive Committee analyze the CAS proposal
- 2.2.9 The Delegate of Nicaragua suggested forming a committee made up of delegates from the five regions, to analyze the CAS proposal. A report would thereafter be presented to the next IABA for its analysis.
- 2.2.10 The Delegate of Brazil noted that the CAS proposal could be addressed by a working group comprising 10 people –one regular and one alternate delegate per region. A report could thereafter be submitted to the Director General within a 90-day period.
- 2.2.11 The Chair suggested, as a first step, considering the first point in the CAS proposal concerning the establishment of a task force which would be responsible for generating draft proposals for consideration in the respective institutional bodies.
- 2.2.12 El Director General reminded the plenary of the existence of the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues (SACMI) and explained its structure. He then suggested that that Commission analyze the CAS proposal and that it deliver a report within 90 days.
- 2.2.13 The delegates of Argentina and Mexico suggested the advisability of having an ad hoc committee analyze the proposal. That committee should be made

up of two delegates per region. This recommendation was accepted by the plenary.

2.2.14 The Chair asked the delegates of the various regions to meet and decide on two delegates that would sit on the committee to study the CAS proposal and to report accordingly by the following day.

2.2.15 The Delegate of Haiti noted the importance of seeking a mechanism that would address the topics of interest to each country. He suggested setting up two trust funds, one for the development of new sources of energy and the other the transfer of related knowledge.

2.3 Strategic Topics for the years leading up to 2015

2.3.1 The Potential of Agro-biotechnologies (ABT) in Agriculture in the Americas

2.3.1.1 Dr. Mario Seixas, Assistant Deputy Director General and Director of the Secretariat of Technical Cooperation, introduced the topic and the speaker, Mr. Albert Sasson, summarizing his professional career. He underscored the importance of IICA assisting the countries to develop ABTs.

2.3.1.2 Mr. Sasson noted that the development of ABTs was the result of clear-sighted and prescient action in life science. ABTs, he said, were not the solution to all the problems of producers. They could, however, help to alleviate poverty when used as a tool to add value to agriculture. In the Americas, ABTs offered a range of possibilities, starting with the simpler techniques and going on to the more sophisticated ones, affording an opportunity for each country to invest as they could. Finally, he said, that there were countries in the Americas that had an ABT strategy and that the countries should avail themselves of the opportunity to participate actively, responsibly and within a secure framework since this was a means of eradicating poverty and increasing competitiveness. He noted that IICA could play a collaborative role and support the countries through horizontal technical cooperation.

2.3.2 Presentation on Prospects for the Agro-energy Industry in the Americas

2.3.2.1 Dr. Mario Seixas, Assistant Deputy Director General and Director of the Secretariat of Technical Cooperation, introduced the topic and the speaker, Mr. Luiz Carlos Correa Carvalho, summarizing his professional career.

2.3.2.2 Mr. Carvalho referred to developments regarding agro-energy and bio-fuels on the market and to the opportunities they afforded and the expectations. He added that the production of bio-energy was increasingly gaining currency in those countries that were interested in diversifying agricultural production and gaining access to new markets. He explained the success of the Brazilian experience in producing sugarcane-based ethanol. He highlighted the fact that in countries that produced sugar, ethanol and other bio-fuels at low cost, production could experience rapid growth. He said, finally, that agro-energy provided a response to the energy crisis and that it could play a key role in adding value to agriculture, in ensuring a market for producers, in helping to reduce environmental pollution and in seeking world peace. He felt that IICA could contribute to identifying the usefulness of agro-energy for the countries.

2.3.3 *Ministerial Dialogue on Strategic Topics*

2.3.3.1 The Chair asked the Delegate of El Salvador to chair the meeting temporarily.

2.3.3.2 The Delegate of Argentina underscored the potential role of biotechnology in eradicating poverty and stressed the fact that it was an instrument of knowledge. He further pointed to the importance of stressing with presidents the priority of the topic for the countries.

2.3.3.3 The Delegate of Chile made the observation that the positioning of biotechnology in agriculture had yet to be consolidated. This was because obsolete codes that were not attuned to current and future needs continued in use. He added that the major challenge was to conceptualize the new paradigm. Finally, he said that his country was continuing with research in biotechnology, albeit in a very conservative way.

2.3.3.4 The Delegate of Paraguay said that the use of bio-products entailed a cost and that the challenge was making that technology accessible to small-scale rural producers.

2.3.3.5 The Delegate of Uruguay noted that the issue of biotechnology was complex since it included many aspects that were not necessarily viewed from the same perspective. He added that it was important to consider the point of view of consumers with regard to the topic as well as the cost associated with importing improved seeds.

- 2.3.3.6 The Delegate of Argentina highlighted the capabilities of the countries with regard to developing ABTs and underscored the importance of socializing that technology through horizontal cooperation activities.
- 2.3.3.7 The Delegate of Brazil thanked the speakers and IICA for bringing up these two major topics for discussion at the IABA. He then went on to share with member countries of the Institute the Brazilian experience in these areas.
- 2.3.3.8 The Delegate of Canada spoke of the importance of considering ploughing back into the primary sector profit generated from these two activities, since research in his country had demonstrated that this type of reinvestment in the primary sector was insignificant. This limited re-investment did not in any way help to improve the income levels of primary producers and consequently did not help to fight rural poverty..
- 2.3.3.9 The Director General thanked the speakers and the Ministers for their interventions.

2.4 *Closing of the Session*

- 2.4.1 The Second Plenary Session adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

THIRD PLENARY SESSION

3.1 *Opening of the Session*

- 3.1.1 The Third Plenary Session started at 9:00 a.m. on August 31, 2005, under the chairmanship of Mr. Pablo Rizzo Pastor, Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Ecuador.

3.2 *Poverty Reduction, Job Creation and the Promotion of Rural Prosperity*

- 3.2.1 Mr. Fernando del Risco, Technical Secretary of IABA, introduced the speaker, Sergio Sepúlveda, Director of Sustainable Rural Development of IICA, and briefly summarized his academic and professional career.

- 3.2.2 Mr. Sergio Sepúlveda presented the report “Policies for Rural Prosperity”. He said that the Americas was facing four challenges in its public policy and its agricultural, environmental and rural development agendas: a) alleviating poverty as a structural condition; b) using to advantage the strategic role of agriculture in attaining the goals of prosperity and well-being for the rural population; c) improving the capacity of the rural world to respond to changes taking place in the environment; d) reconciling market requirements, the specialization of production and the sustainable use of natural resources.

- 3.2.3 He concluded by summarizing the proposal as a set of policies focused on chains, territories, institutions and social players which, duly coordinated, could generate the necessary synergies for significantly improving employment, income and other components of rural prosperity. To achieve this end, he proposed a platform for coordinating policies through the year 2015, which would include the various sectors of society, facilitate the transition towards meeting the objectives of the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan of Action and contribute to achieving the Millennium Development Goals. That coordination would pave the way for access to, and promote, opportunities for synergies among agriculture, trade and the rural sector; between agriculture and other sectors that promote development and among agriculture, the rural milieu and the environment. This meant coordinating inter-sectoral agendas into a platform for innovation with its respective institutional mechanisms and plans of action.

3.3 State Policies for Implementation of the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan of Action

3.3.1 Presentation by the Delegate of Chile

3.3.1.1 The Delegate of Chile shared the Chilean experience with preparing and implementing policies to develop the agrifood sector. He explained the environment in which the current Chilean agricultural policy was being developed. The purpose of that policy, he said, was to synchronize a vision and policy that would fully develop agrifood potential in Chile and that would involve all stakeholders in production.

3.3.1.2 He explained the factors that contributed to the success of that experience. These included presidential political support, the involvement of other ministries, the establishment of clear follow-up mechanisms, a demanding but realistic vision (considering only that which was feasible), heedfulness about the contextual situation and the medium term, revitalization of sectoral activities (especially exports), and having an *idée force*: Chile –an agrifood power.

3.3.2 Presentation by the Delegate of Honduras

3.3.2.1 The Delegate of Honduras said that his country had created its agricultural policy with support from the Chilean government. In so doing, it had established the Honduran Agricultural Board as a consensus mechanism involving the public, private and academic sectors and other civil society organizations. He added that that Board had analyzed the situation with regard to Honduran agriculture and agreed on a strategic vision which had been followed by the signing of agreements.

3.3.3 Presentation by the Delegate of Costa Rica

3.3.3.1 The Delegate of Costa Rica said that education and health had been key factors in instituting policies to develop the agrifood export sector, as well as the policy to increase salaries. He said that these factors had helped to diversify the basket of export products

3.3.4 Presentation by the Delegate of Guatemala

3.3.4.1 The Delegate of Guatemala said that his country's policy was based on the legal certainty of land ownership and the democratization of credit. He added that those policies aimed at responding to four basic questions: what

focal areas would they address (forests, nurseries and fruits)? with what (*Programa Guate* invests and Agricultural Insurance)? why (for watershed management)? for what (access to markets in Central America, Mexico, United States, European Union, China)?

3.3.5 *Presentation by the Delegate of Paraguay*

3.3.5.1 The Delegate of Paraguay said that rural development had to be based on a comprehensive vision. In the case of Paraguay, local government participation had been promoted through local agricultural development plans. He noted that agricultural policy was defined at the municipal level, by bodies responsible for defining the local objectives related to agricultural policy. The role of the ministry was to coordinate services with the municipalities and seek financing.

3.3.6 *Presentation by the Delegate of Guyana*

3.3.6.1 The Delegate of Guyana addressed the current problems his country was experiencing in certain key sectors of the economy, such as sugar, rice and banana. He said that low international prices and subsidies to production sectors in developed countries had had a strong impact on Guyana's production sector.

3.3.6.2 He said that his country's policy was focused, insofar as its finances would allow, on the use of science and technology to cut production costs and improve competitiveness it also focused on organizing producers, which facilitated access to support services and production resources. The search for added value, crop diversification and educational programs for farmers to bring them into the globalization process were major factors in Guyana's agricultural policy.

3.3.7 *Presentation by the Delegate of St. Kitts and Nevis*

3.3.7.1 The Delegate of St. Kitts and Nevis said that, as was the case with Guyana, the sugar sector was critical and that his government was moving in the direction of seeking alternative crops for farmers and workers in that industry.

3.3.7.2 The search for solutions to the problems that had emerged in that sector had led to a look at alternatives, such as ethanol production and the use of bagasse for animal feed.

3.3.8 *Presentation by the Delegate of Mexico*

3.3.8.1 The Delegate of Mexico said that his country had focused efforts on promoting production through programs to support the agrifood sector as a result of which production and access to international markets had increased.

3.3.8.2 Mexico had sought new sources of financing for the sector. It had also endeavored to incorporate value chains. An effort had also been made to include primary producers in the production chains, make rational use of natural resources and take advantage of the benefits that biotechnology had to offer.

3.3.9 *Presentation by the Delegate of Jamaica*

3.3.9.1 The Delegate of Jamaica said that in his country IICA had become a technical partner for the implementation of the sector's policy. He went on to say that migration from the rural agricultural areas to urban ones had triggered a social problem that affected other sectors, especially tourism. He added that the lack of financing, recurring natural disasters that invariably affected the competitiveness of the sector, and migration from the rural to urban areas were three problems that agricultural policy was focused on addressing.

3.3.9.2 He said that due to the decline in local agricultural production in the wake of Hurricane Andrew, the sales prices of imported agricultural goods had increased disproportionately since they had no competition. This is why he felt that the survival of agriculture was an overwhelming factor for the survival of democracy and the self-determination of peoples.

3.3.10 *Presentation by the Delegate of the Bahamas*

3.3.10.1 The Delegate of the Bahamas said that the main problem facing his country was the limited participation of the young population in the agrifood sector and, as a result, agriculture was in the hands of the older people. This, he said, was because young people preferred to seek employment in sectors like the financial sector and tourism which were more economically dynamic. He said that agricultural policy had focused on seeking programs to motivate young people to work in the agrifood sector. To date, positive results had yet to be achieved.

3.3.11 *Presentation by the Delegate of the Dominican Republic*

- 3.3.11.1 The Delegate of the Dominican Republic raised the issue of the limitations experienced by small- and medium-scale producers insofar as acquiring new technology was concerned, given the lack of capital and the difficulties they faced in obtaining credit. He reflected on the importance of setting up trust funds which might be accessed for financing in due course to acquire technology.

3.3.12 *Presentation by the Delegate of Venezuela*

- 3.3.12.1 The Delegate of Venezuela described how his country had been able to address the main needs of the agrifood sector through “missions”. Through these missions, he said, Venezuela had managed to increase agricultural capability and financing, promote the awarding of lands to producers with the necessary infrastructure. It has also managed to generate more employment in the agricultural sector, create markets to guarantee product sales and bring health to the rural sector.

3.3.13 *Observations regarding the Presentations*

- 3.3.13.1 The Director General thanked the various delegations for participating. He added that in preparing the next Medium-Term Plan of IICA, consideration should be given to current national challenges and to the involvement of other ministries and financial entities. He added that that plan should be prepared as a strategy to enable the Institute to respond fully to the needs of the countries. He felt it was important for organizations like the OAS, IDB, PAHO and IICA to formulate an inter-institutional plan of action for development in the medium term.
- 3.3.13.2 The Delegate of Colombia expressed his concern about something that had been happening in his country. He said that the World Bank had claimed there was a conflict of interest which prevented IICA from executing projects financed by the Bank. The Bank argued that because the Ministry of Agriculture was a beneficiary of credit and the Minister was an integral part of the IABA, which was one of the bodies of IICA, if it administered the funds, it played a role as beneficiary and credit operator. For that reason, the Institute could not administer loans from that financial institution. The Minister tabled this concern for consideration since that argument could be used by the Bank in other countries, thereby marginalizing the Institute as an executing agency for loans from that financial institution.

- 3.3.13.3 The Delegate of Ecuador resumed as Chair and went on to the following item on the agenda.
- 3.4 *Presentation “Towards a system of information on agriculture and rural life for follow-up of the AGRO 2003-20015 Plan of Action”*
- 3.4.1 Mr. Lizardo de las Casas, Technical Secretary of the Ministerial Meeting, gave a presentation on the conceptual and reference framework for the system, saying that it should include information on activities accomplished for the fulfillment of commitments, the impact of those actions on the performance of agriculture and rural life, and the expectations and perceptions of leaders in agriculture.
- 3.4.2 The Technical Secretary of the Third Ministerial Meeting invited Mrs. Martine Driven, Head of the Agricultural Development Unit of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), to present the document “Indicators for the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan for Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas”.
- 3.4.3 Mrs. Driven explained that the Ministerial Delegates had established 204 leading indicators for the AGRO Plan but that with the information on various indicators provided by co-participant agencies, ECLAC had only been able to include information on 54 indicators in the matrix of the AGRO Plan which deals with 27 topics.
- 3.5 *Closing of the Session*
- 3.5.1 The Third Plenary Session adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

FOURTH PLENARY SESSION

- 4.1 *Opening of the Session*
- 4.1.1 The Fourth Plenary Session commenced at 3:00 p.m. on August 31, 2005 under the chairmanship of Mr. Pablo Rizzo Pastor, Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Ecuador.
- 4.2 *Presentation of Ministerial Agreements on the Implementation and Follow-up of the 2003-2005 Hemispheric Agenda*
- 4.2.1 In his capacity as Chairman of GRICA for 2005, Mr. Jorge Hernan Chiriboga submitted the proposed ministerial agreements on the implementation and follow-up of the Hemispheric Agenda. He divided his statement into three parts. The first dealt with the implementation and follow-up of the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan in preparation for the Fourth Ministerial Meeting. The second part dealt with the Information System for the Follow-up of the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan, and the third part dealt with inputs for the Draft Declaration of Mar del Plata of the Fourth Summit of the Americas, to be held in Argentina on November 4 and 5, 2005.
- 4.3 *Election of the Sub-commission for the Analysis of the "CAS Proposal for the Reorganization and Modernization of IICA"*
- 4.3.1 The Chair submitted to the plenary for consideration the proposal to establish a working group to study the "CAS Proposal for the reorganization and modernization of IICA", contained in Resolution CAS/Res.01 (URE-2005) of August 29, 2005).
- 4.3.2 The delegates of Canada, the United States and Guatemala requested that the proposal be submitted formally and asked for the benefit of legal counsel in this matter.
- 4.3.3 The Director General explained that on the initiative of the General Directorate, and by resolution of the IABA, the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues had been created. The purpose of that advisory body was to facilitate dialogue on administrative and financial initiatives with Member States. That Commission was made up of nine delegates, six of whom were from the biggest contributors to the Institute's

budget –Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Mexico, the United States and Venezuela.

- 4.3.4 He felt that the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues was *per se* an appropriate mechanism for dealing with the topic proposed by CAS. He said that it was possible for the IABA to expand the membership of the Commission. He noted that the disadvantage of creating another commission was that this involved cost and time.
- 4.3.5 The Delegate of Argentina asked for a clarification as to whether or not the IABA had the power to expand or modify SACMI.
- 4.3.6 The Legal Advisor explained the background to, and the main characteristics and functions of, SACMI. He said that the continuation of that Commission was subject to ratification by the IABA. He went on to clarify that the Commission was an advisory body and did not have decision-making power. Its recommendations were not binding. He concluded that SACMI fulfilled the necessary conditions for conducting a study of the proposal submitted by the CAS and that, if necessary, the IABA could amend the statutes to expand the membership of the Commission or redefine its scope.
- 4.3.7 The Delegate of Canada proposed the option of creating a sub-commission of SACMI to study the CAS proposal. He further suggested establishing time frames and defining responsibilities.
- 4.3.8 The Legal Advisor confirmed that the IABA had the power to create sub-commissions or working groups of SACMI.
- 4.3.9 The Delegate of Brazil asked who convened these working groups. He also proposed establishing a steering committee to be made up of two delegates from each region. This group would report its findings to SACMI.
- 4.3.10 The delegates of the United States, St. Kitts and Nevis, Mexico, Nicaragua, Ecuador and Canada supported the establishment of a sub-commission to study the CAS proposal.
- 4.3.11 The Delegate of Honduras expressed his concern that the CAS proposal was not being considered in the context of the 2006-2010 MTP. He proposed forming a committee to advise the General Directorate about the MTP. That

committee would in turn form a subcommittee to study the CAS proposal. This would allow for a coherent and comprehensive approach.

- 4.3.12 The Delegate of Guatemala said he agreed with setting up a working group on the understanding that it would be a temporary subcommittee that would report to SACMI and that its scope would be limited to studying the CAS proposal.
- 4.3.13 The Chair requested that the continuity of SACMI, whose term would expire in the course of the Regular Meeting of the IABA, should be ratified prior to establishing the sub-commission. The plenary approved the proposal unanimously. The Director General clarified that a draft resolution formally adopting this decision would be circulated shortly.
- 4.3.14 The Chair suggested that the delegates of Member States meet according to region to designate the delegates on the sub-commission that would study the CAS proposal.
- 4.3.15 The Delegate of El Salvador temporarily assumed the chairmanship of the meeting and asked the spokesmen for the groups of delegates to report on whom they had designated. Based on the proposals of the various regions, the sub-commission was made up of the delegates of the Bahamas and Jamaica for the Caribbean; Colombia and Ecuador for the Andean region; Nicaragua and Honduras for the Central region; the United States and Canada for the Northern Region, and Argentina and Bolivia for the Southern Region. For each region, the first country designated would be the regular delegate and the second country would be the alternate.

4.4 *Ceremony for the Signing of the Ministerial Agreement of Guayaquil*

- 4.4.1 The Chair of the Ministerial Meeting, Pablo Rizzo P., asked the meeting to approve the *Ministerial Agreement of Guayaquil for Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas*, prepared by the 2005 GRICA and invited the ministers and heads of delegation to sign the document. The President of Ecuador, Alfredo Palacio G., and IICA Director General, Chelston W. D. Brathwaite, served as honorary witnesses. By signing the Ministerial Agreement of Guayaquil, the ministers renewed their commitment to the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan.

4.5 *Closing of the Session*

4.5.1 The Fourth Plenary Session adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

FIFTH PLENARY SESSION

5.1 *Opening of the Session*

5.1.1 The Fifth Plenary Session commenced at 9:30 a.m. on September 1, 2005 under the chairmanship of Mr. Pablo Rizzo Pastor, Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Ecuador.

5.1.2 The Delegate of Saint Lucia asked the plenary to observe a moment of silence as a sign of solidarity with the victims of Hurricane Katrina in the United States.

5.1.3 The Delegate of the United States thanked all of the delegations present for their solidarity.

5.2 *Draft Resolution "Joint Actions in the Field of Biotechnology and Bio-security"*

5.2.1 The Delegate of Haiti referred to a proposal document delivered by his delegation to the Director General to address those two topics. He said that the proposal suggested setting up a trust fund to finance investments for small- and medium-scale producers. He requested that the document be studied in keeping with the respective institutional procedures.

5.2.2 The Chair asked the Director General to look into the proposal presented by the Delegate of Haiti.

5.2.3 The Delegate of Argentina said more time was needed to study the documentation delivered by the Delegate of Haiti in order to have more arguments in the event the plenary was asked to approve the proposal.

5.2.4 The Delegate of Venezuela suggested that the Institute should not take a position on agro-biotechnologies (ABTs) since it was a controversial subject which should be left up to the countries and not to an international organization made up of countries with different points of view on the subject. He voiced concern about the bias in the presentations on the subject of ABTs, which had underscored only the positive aspects of those technologies.

- 5.2.5 The Delegate of Mexico said it might be useful for IICA to be able to study ABTs objectively and be in a position to make that information available to the countries so that each country could adopt a position and debate its point of view. He added that having information was vital and that IICA, by virtue of its role, could be a channel for such information and a body for horizontal cooperation in relation to these issues. He said that the Government of Mexico supported that initiative and shared with the other countries advances made by Mexico in this field.
- 5.2.6 The Delegate of Argentina thanked IICA for the cooperation it had extended to the CAS countries in this area and said that as a result of that support, it had been possible to hold three ministerial meetings. He suggested eliminating operative paragraphs 3 and 4 of the draft resolution since he felt that the proposal was in need of fine-tuning and should include a budget.
- 5.2.7 The Director General thanked the Delegates for their comments and said that IICA would not adopt an official position on this crucial topic. He added that as indicated in the purpose and spirit of the draft resolution on ABTs submitted to the plenary, the Institute would remain neutral and its role would focus on disseminating information to the member countries and making objective analyses of the topics.
- 5.2.8 The Delegate of Uruguay said that the problem with that subject was that it went beyond the scope of the functions of the ministries of agriculture. In light of that fact, he suggested that the topics should be defined precisely and a determination made as to just how far they wanted to go. He also suggested including other ministries when the subject of ABTs was being discussed. He asked for time to consider the national implications that the proposal presented by the Delegation of Haiti could have.
- 5.2.9 The Delegate of the United States thanked IICA for considering the topic and suggested the importance of the countries being able to base their decisions on scientific knowledge. He said that the United States agreed to sharing information on this topic.
- 5.2.10 The Delegate of Canada suggested using the program presented by IICA as a starting point for continued work and indicated his government's support for that initiative.

- 5.2.11 The Director General suggested that the Secretariat prepare a proposal to reflect the observations presented for discussion in SACMI. It would thereafter be discussed at the next meeting of the Executive Committee.
- 5.2.12 The Delegate of Argentina shared the view of the Delegate of Canada. He stated Argentina's intention of sending to SACMI personnel trained in the political implications of the subject for a better analysis of the proposal.
- 5.2.13 The Delegate of Honduras suggested to IICA that on behalf of the IABA it send funding proposals to donor agencies in an effort to raise external funds to develop these initiatives.
- 5.2.14 The Delegate of Mexico said that his country had already sent observations on the proposal document and urged the other countries to do the same. He said that at the last meeting of the IABA, pursuant to Resolution 386, a working group had been established and it had been given responsibility for preparing the document which supported the proposal under consideration.
- 5.2.15 The Delegate of Uruguay said that his country did not agree with voting on resolutions that did not guarantee the participation of all members of the IABA.
- 5.2.16 The Chair heard several observations from the Delegates of Bolivia, Canada, Mexico, Honduras, the United States and Argentina. He submitted the resolution to the plenary which was approved with new wording in the following paragraphs:
- a) In paragraph 5 of the Preamble, ...[into which] the observations and comments of the member countries "will be incorporated" should be clarified.
 - b) In operative paragraph 1, it should be specified that the proposal would be reviewed by the delegates appointed by the ministries of agriculture in order to finalize as soon as possible the proposed Hemispheric Biotechnology and Biosafety Program.
 - c) It was recommended that operative paragraph 3 be eliminated given the fact that the technical proposal would be fine-tuned and, consequently, a new budget proposal would have to be prepared.

- d) In operative paragraph 4, Member States are urged to make voluntary non quota contributions for the implementation of the proposal, and to support IICA in its efforts to secure financial resources from technical and financial cooperation agencies to finance the program.

5.3 *Draft Resolution “Proposed Hemispheric Program on Agro-Energy”*

5.3.1 The Delegate of Bolivia asked that in operative paragraph 2.b, it be clarified that the ministries of agriculture would be the ones to appoint the experts that would form the task force.

5.3.2 The Delegate of Canada expressed concern that he would not be able to vote in favor of the resolution if operative paragraph 2.b provided for the development of a hemispheric plan. He explained that he would have to consult with his government since the subject of bio-energy went beyond the scope of the Ministry of Agriculture of Canada.

5.3.3 The Delegates of Brazil, Canada and the United States suggested using the terms “agro-energy” and “bio-fuels” in the text of the resolution.

5.3.4 The Chair noted the observations and amendments proposed and then submitted the draft resolution to the Plenary, which was approved with new wording in the following paragraphs:

- a) Operative paragraph 1: “To ask IICA to serve as a platform for hemispheric cooperation, with a view to drawing on the successful experiences in the area of agro-energy of countries in the region that produce alcohol from sugarcane and other bio-fuels.”
- b) Operative paragraph 2.b: “To set up a task force comprising experts from the Member States appointed by the Ministries of Agriculture, IICA personnel and strategic partners, and task them with drawing up a hemispheric program on bio-energy and bio-fuels, to be presented to the Executive Committee at its Twenty-sixth Regular Meeting.
- c) Operative paragraph 3: To instruct the Director General to submit a proposal to the Executive Committee at its Twenty-sixth Regular Meeting, on the resources required to support activities to be carried out under the aforementioned Program.”

- 5.4 *Draft Resolution “Creation of a Sub-Commission of the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues to Study the Proposal presented by the Agricultural Council of the South in its Resolution CAS/RES. 01 (V RE-2005)”*
- 5.4.1 The Rapporteur proceeded to read out the draft resolution and invited the Delegates of Member States to make their respective comments.
- 5.4.2 The Delegate of the United States said that the document containing the CAS resolution had not been distributed officially during the meeting and requested the English version of that document to study it. He added that with regard to operative paragraph 3, he was in favor of a closer date for the report of the sub-commission.
- 5.4.3 The Delegate of Bolivia said that the CAS resolution had been read out in the meeting on several occasions and that it had been delivered to the Secretariat for distribution.
- 5.4.4 The Director General suggested that given the positive results achieved with the collection of quotas in arrears, the Institute could give the necessary financial support for the effective operation of the sub-commission. He joined the Delegate of the United States in requesting the meeting as soon as possible so that the report of the sub-commission could serve as input for the preparation of the 2006-2010 Medium-Term Plan.
- 5.4.5 The Chair summarized the observations made by the Delegates of Mexico, Bolivia and the United States and submitted to the plenary the new text of the resolution into which the following changes were incorporated:
- a) It should be stipulated in operative paragraph 1 that a sub-commission was being created within the framework of SACMI with a mandate to study the proposal and the recommendations contained in Resolution CAS/RE.01 (V RE 2005). The sub-commission should present its conclusions and recommendations on the matter to the next meeting of SACMI.
 - b) In operative paragraph 3 the sub-commission was instructed to meet in San Jose, Costa Rica, during October of 2005 and to submit its report with its conclusions and recommendations to the Director General of the Institute by December 15, 2005 so that it could be transmitted to the members of SACMI before the end of the year.

- c) In operative paragraph 4, the Director General was entrusted with providing the necessary technical, logistic and financial support for the operation of the sub-commission. Operative paragraph 5.a of the draft resolution under reference was therefore eliminated.
- 5.5 *Draft resolutions “Progress in and Results of the Implementation of the 2002-2006 Medium-Term Plan”; “Report on the State of and Outlook for Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas 2005”; and “Extension of the Term of the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues”*
- 5.5.1 The Rapporteur read out the draft resolutions: “Progress in and Results of the Implementation of the 2002-2006 Medium-Term Plan”, “Report on the State of and Outlook for Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas 2005” and “Extension of the Term of the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues”, which were approved without amendment.
- 5.6 *Draft Resolution “Authorization for the Executive Committee, at its Twenty-sixth Regular Meeting, to approve the 2006-2010 Medium-Term Plan”*
- 5.6.1 The Rapporteur read out the draft resolution on authorization from the IABA to the Executive Committee to approve the Medium-Term Plan of IICA at its Twenty-sixth Regular Meeting.
- 5.6.2 The delegates of Canada and Argentina proposed changes in the wording of the second operative paragraph to establish that SACMI would incorporate the contributions and proposals that would emanate from the Sub-commission of the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues, created to study the proposal of the Southern Agricultural Council (CAS), instead of studying the contributions of the regional groups.
- 5.6.3 The Delegate of Argentina said that the spirit of the CAS proposal to the IABA was that a commission would be created to analyze proposals from all regions and not exclusively from the CAS.
- 5.6.4 The Delegate of Honduras said that the IABA had established regulations and procedures for reviewing the Medium-Term Plan. He added that the creation of the sub-commission to study the CAS proposal ought to be considered as a special case.

- 5.6.5 The Delegates of Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic agreed that the sub-commission had been created to deal with a specific mandate and that this should not be confused with the resolution under discussion.
- 5.6.6 The Delegates of the United States and Jamaica suggested leaving the second operative paragraph unamended, since major contributions could therefore be received from other groups, which would be very important in preparing the 2006-2010 Medium-Term Plan.
- 5.6.7 The Delegate of Venezuela suggested that the words “and consider” be added to operative paragraph 2 after the word “analyze”.
- 5.6.8 The Director General expressed his interest in receiving from the various regional groups any contributions and proposals they considered needed to be incorporated during preparation of the next Medium-Term Plan. He added that there were various bodies, such as the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues, the Executive Committee, the IABA, where the countries, whether as a group, or individually, could make their contributions. Finally, he asked that the possibility of the regional groups making their comments be established in the operative paragraph.
- 5.6.9 The Delegate of Nicaragua seconded the proposal by the Director General.
- 5.6.10 The Chair put the draft resolution to the vote. It was approved.
- 5.7 *Draft Resolution “General Power of Attorney of the Director General”*
- 5.7.1 The Rapporteur read out the draft resolution “General Power of Attorney of the Director General”, which was approved without amendment.
- 5.8 *Establishment of a Technical Advisory Committee*
- 5.8.1 The Director General reported that he would submit to the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues for consideration a proposal to establish a Technical Advisory Committee, composed of up to six experts of recognized technical, scientific and professional competence to advise IICA on matters related to new areas it was entering into. He added that the Institute stood to benefit from the advice and innovative proposals of the experts, who would come especially from universities and other centers of excellence to guide technical cooperation offered by the Institute to its Member States and improve the relevance and quality of that cooperation.

- 5.8.2 The Delegate of Bolivia commented that the statutes empowered the Director General to make any consultations he deemed appropriate and that he did not see the need for the IABA to approve establishing a committee of that nature.
- 5.8.3 The Delegate of Uruguay pointed out that that proposal should define the competence of the members of that committee, the type of work it would engage in and its status within the institutional hierarchy.
- 5.8.4 The Director General acknowledged that the statutes empowered him to establish this type of committee. However, he felt it important to report to the IABA on the actions that the Institute planned to engage in to meet the needs of the countries. He said that he would forward to the delegations all the information related to the proposal to form that committee and that he would submit the topic to SACMI for discussion there.
- 5.9 *Presentation on the Financial Statements of the Institute for 2003 and 2004 and Report of the External Auditors*
- 5.9.1 Mrs. Karen Kleinheinz, Director of Finance, presented the Institute's financial statements for 2003 and 2004 and the Report of the Board of External Auditors. She explained that the financial rules of IICA established that an external audit would be conducted each year and she informed that the firm Deloitte & Touche had audited IICA's financial statements for 2003 and 2004. She said that the audits of the financial statements were conducted in accordance with international auditing standards and that they had been prepared in keeping with generally accepted accounting principles. She reported on the case of fraud in the IICA Office in Suriname and said that with the support of the internal and external auditors and the Audit Review Committee (ARC), they were revising the internal control procedures to avoid similar cases in the future.
- 5.10 *Presentation on the Tenth and Eleventh Reports of the Audit Review Committee (ARC)*
- 5.10.1 Mr. Fernando del Risco, Executive Secretary of the IABA, advised the plenary that personal reasons prevented Mr. Luis Carlos Gutiérrez, a member of the ARC, from attending the meeting. However, he clarified that his report had been presented and endorsed by the Executive Committee at its Twenty-fifth Regular Meeting and that it had been distributed to the 34 Member States 45 days before the meeting. He went on to say that the Draft

Resolution whereby the IABA took cognizance of these reports had been distributed in the meeting room.

5.11 *Presentation on the Revised Measures for the Collection of Quotas in Arrears to the Institute*

5.11.1 Mrs. Karen Kleinheinz, Director of Finance, explained progress that had been made with the collection of quotas in arrears to IICA. She recalled that the situation with regard to quotas in arrears had been revised on a number of occasions by the IABA, the EC and SACMI. Under resolutions 392 of the IABA and 417 of the Executive Committee, measures had been adopted for the collection of those quotas. Countries in arrears, she said, had agreed to a payments plan with the Director General. She underscored the importance of the Member States being up to date with their quotas in order for the Institute to continue to provide technical cooperation in a timely fashion.

5.12 *2006-2007 Program Budget and 2006-2007 Special Budget financed with resources from the General Subfund*

5.12.1 Mr. Francisco Barea, Director of Administration and Finance and of Programming explained the 2006-2007 Program Budget and the proposed Special Budget. He explained that the former was based on the following guidelines: (i) regular funds would not increase and would remain at the same level in the 2006-2007 biennium as in the past ten years, which meant that Member State quotas would remain unchanged; (ii) the breakdown of resource allocations was presented by chapter, thematic area and unit in IICA and had been prepared for 2006 so as to allow the new administration of IICA more flexibility. He suggested that in view of the fact that a new administration would be starting in January of 2006, IABA authorize the Executive Committee to approve, at its next Regular Meeting, a detailed allocation of resources to the Regular Fund for 2007; and (iii) the allocation of resources was based on the national and regional technical cooperation agendas of IICA and on the priorities emanating from the Summit of the Americas, especially, to support Member States with implementation of the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan.

5.12.2 He reported that the total amount of resources budgeted for the Regular Fund was US\$30 million per year. Of that total, US\$27.2 million a year corresponded to quota resources and US\$2.8 million were for miscellaneous income. He added that in accordance with the rules in effect, the proposed

Program-Budget showed a Regular Fund allocation broken down into three chapters: (i) Direct Technical Cooperation Services, (ii) Management Costs, and (iii) General Costs and Provisions. Resources under this last chapter include funds for the meetings of the Executive Committee and the IABA, insurance, pensions and other headings, which because of their special nature, cannot be allocated to operational units of the Institute.

- 5.12.3 He then presented the proposed special budget financed with resources from the General Subfund in the amount of US\$2,609,000.00. He explained that these budgetary resources would be earmarked to finance three types of priority actions of strategic importance: (i) the development of capabilities for the effective application of the WTO's Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures; (ii) investments in technological infrastructure, audiovisual equipment and electric generators; and (iii) office remodeling and maintenance. Finally, he noted that the execution of that special budget was subject to retrieval, during the biennium, of quota arrearages in excess of the amount of budgeted quotas.
- 5.12.4 The Delegate of Argentina underscored the work of CATIE in training professionals. He requested information regarding the reduction in the budgetary allocation for CATIE.
- 5.12.5 Mr. Barea clarified that the transfers established for CATIE had not changed. The budgetary allocation for the Orton Library had been redirected. When the US\$1 million transferred directly was added to this amount, it gave a figure similar to the one allocated to that Center in previous years.
- 5.12.6 The Delegate of Mexico emphasized that funds earmarked for remodeling and maintenance should be used only for IICA property or property in usufruct and not for rented property.
- 5.13 *Closing of the Session*
- 5.13.1 The Fifth Plenary Session was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

SIXTH PLENARY SESSION

- 6.1 Opening of the Session
- 6.1.1 The Sixth Plenary Session commenced at 3:30 p.m. on September 1, 2005 under the chairmanship of Mr. Pablo Rizzo Pastor, Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Ecuador.
- 6.2 Draft Resolutions “2003 and 2004 Financial Statements of the Institute and Reports of the External Auditors”, “Revised Measures for Collecting Quotas Owed to the Institute”, “2006-2007 Program-Budget”, “Tenth and Eleventh Reports of the Audit Review Committee (ARC)”, and “Amendment to Article 73 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Directorate and rule 2.1(b) of the Financial Rules”
- 6.2.1 The Rapporteur read out the Draft Resolutions “2003 and 2004 Financial Statements of the Institute and Reports of the External Auditors”, “Revised Measures for the Collection of Quotas Owed to the Institute”, “2006-2007 Program-Budget”, and “Tenth and Eleventh Reports of the Audit Review Committee (ARC)” and Amendment to Article 73 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Directorate and Rule 2.1 (b) of the Financial Rules”. These draft resolutions were approved without amendment.
- 6.3 Draft Resolution “2006-2007 Special Budget Financed with Resources from the General Subfund”
- 6.3.1 The Rapporteur read out the Draft Resolution “2006-2007 Special Budget Financed with Resources from the General Subfund”.
- 6.3.2 The Delegate of Ecuador suggested cutting resources allocated for the remodeling of the offices owned by IICA or in usufruct and proposed increasing resources allocated for developing capabilities in the countries to take advantage of the SPS Agreement.
- 6.3.3 The Delegate of Bolivia supported Ecuador’s proposal on behalf of the Member States of the CAS, as did the Delegate of Canada.

- 6.3.4 The Delegate of Honduras suggested that the Director General ascertain whether or not the special funds allocated to reinforce the agricultural health component were sufficient.
- 6.3.5 The Delegate of Jamaica felt that savings on maintenance could turn out to be counterproductive. He said that if property was not maintained in a timely fashion, it would deteriorate more quickly and the subsequent cost could be significantly higher, in addition to which the staff could be inconvenienced and exposed to risk.
- 6.3.6 The Director General understood the spirit of the proposal of the Delegate of Ecuador. He felt, however, that the situation with regard to the physical facilities in some offices, and especially, at headquarters, was critical since, because of financial restrictions, it had not been possible to make repairs, which had been postponed. This posed risks and implied increasing costs for the Headquarters infrastructure --the building was more than 30 years old-- and for other premises owned by IICA. The same was true for infrastructure used by IICA in Member States, which had been given to IICA for its use by the governments. He explained that as a result, he had had to suspend an important meeting which was to be held at Headquarters. This situation, he said, not only affected the image of the organization but also could lead to further deterioration that would be harder to manage and could prejudice the safety of staff. He said that the inclusion of the budgetary category "renewal of infrastructure and equipment" would enable the administration to take measures to avoid further deterioration of IICA's facilities and equipment.
- 6.3.7 The Delegate of Ecuador clarified his intention which was not to adversely affect staff. His concern to have additional resources for technical cooperation. He said he agreed that the management and redistribution of the resources of that special budget should be left to the discretion of the Director General.
- 6.3.8 The Draft Resolution was approved without amendment, with the clarification that the distribution of resources allocated in the special budget under the headings considered should be administered at the discretion of the Director General.

- 6.4 *Draft Resolution “Horizontal Cooperation in the Area of Agricultural Insurance and Guarantee Funds”*
- 6.4.1 On behalf of the Member States of the Central American Agricultural Council (CAC), the Delegate of Costa Rica presented the draft resolution, “Horizontal Cooperation in the area of Agricultural Insurance and Guarantee Funds”.
- 6.4.2 The Delegate of Argentina welcomed the proposal. He said that a group specializing in risk management had been formed within CAS. Experiences had been systematized, various instruments in risk management had been developed and training had been given to trainers, among other things. He placed this valuable experience that the member countries of CAS had acquired at the disposal of the other Member States.
- 6.4.3 The Delegate of Panama was pleased with the offer made by the Delegate of Argentina. He said that his country had experience they also wished to share. One such experience related to the creation of a guarantee fund which facilitated access to credit for agricultural producers.
- 6.4.4 On behalf of CARICOM, the Delegate of Saint Lucia offered full support for the draft resolution and summarized experience with the establishment of cooperative networks intended to protect farmers. Finally, he expressed interest in participating in the proposed activities in this Draft Resolution.
- 6.4.5 The Draft Resolution was approved without changes.
- 6.5 *Reports on the Status of the Resolutions of the Twelfth Regular Meeting of the IABA and of the Twenty-fourth and Twenty-fifth Regular Meetings of the Executive Committee*
- 6.5.1 Mr. Fernando Del Risco, Technical Secretary for the Meeting, said that the reports on the status of the resolutions of the Twelfth Regular Meeting of the IABA and of the Twenty-fourth and Twenty-fifth Regular Meetings of the Executive Committee had been placed on IICA’s web site 45 days before the meeting. Consequently, and bearing in mind that topics that had high priority for the meeting were pending, he was available to the Delegates of Member States to clarify any doubts or give additional information on those reports.

- 6.6 *Draft Resolution “Status of the Resolutions of the Twelfth Regular Meeting of the IABA and of the Twenty-fourth and Twenty-fifth Regular Meetings of the Executive Committee”*
- 6.6.1 The Rapporteur read out the Draft Resolution “Status of the Resolutions of the Twelfth Regular Meeting of the IABA and of the Twenty-fourth and Twenty-fifth Regular Meetings of the Executive Committee” which was approved without amendment.
- 6.7 *2003-2004 Biennial Report of CARDI*
- 6.7.1 Mr. Francis H Asiedu, Delegate of the Jamaica Unit to CARDI, presented to the plenary the 2003-2004 Biennial Report of CARDI.
- 6.8 *2003-2004 Biennial Report of CATIE*
- 6.8.1 Mr. Pedro Emilio Ferreira Rossi, Director General of CATIE, presented to the plenary the 2003-2004 Biennial Report of CATIE.
- 6.9 *Draft Resolutions “2003-2004 Biennial Report of the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI)”, “2003-2004 Biennial Report of the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE)”, and “Strengthening of IICA- CATIE Relations and Progress in the Execution of Joint Actions 2002-2004”*
- 6.9.1 The Rapporteur read out the draft resolutions “2003-2004 Biennial Report of the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI)”, and “2003-2004 Biennial Report of the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE)”. Through these draft resolutions, the IABA received the reports of CARDI and CATIE and congratulated the speakers for their presentations. The Rapporteur also read out the draft resolution “Strengthening of IICA-CATIE Relations and Progress in the Execution of Joint Actions 2002-2004”. The three draft resolutions were approved without amendment.
- 6.10 *Presentation “More than Food on the Table: Agriculture’s True Contribution in Ecuador”*
- 6.10.1 Mr. Jaime Muñoz Reyes, Representative of IICA in Ecuador, presented the report and said that the issue of undervaluing agriculture had been one of concern to authorities in the agricultural sector in Ecuador. He went on to

say that traditional statistics did not take into account the multifunctional nature of agriculture and its social, environmental and economic implications and that they were a determining factor in decision-making processes. He said that these errors in judgment relegated agriculture exclusively to the farm.

6.10.2 He explained that because of time constraints, the IICA specialists in Ecuador who had prepared the document “More than Food on the Table: Agriculture’s True Contribution in Ecuador” would not present the findings of the report. He said that a preliminary version of the document had been distributed to all delegations in Spanish and English.

6.11 *Interventions by the Directors General Emeritus*

6.11.1 *Remarks by Mr. José Emilio Araujo*

6.11.1.1 Mr. José Emilio Araujo said how pleased and honored he was to be able to participate in the meeting. He congratulated Dr. Brathwaite on his re-election and said he hoped his second term would be as successful as the first one. Mr. Araujo referred to his administration and recalled that during his term, the membership of IICA had increased with the entry of ten new Member States.

6.11.2 *Remarks by Mr. Francisco Morillo*

6.11.2.1 He considered it an honor to participate in the meeting and to have the opportunity to address the plenary. He stressed the importance of re-assessing the role of agriculture managed by IICA. He congratulated the Director General and his team on their efforts to bring about recognition of the true contribution of agriculture. He said he felt confident that IICA would surmount the difficulties and overcome the threats posed by the current context, notably, the competition for resources and inter-sectoral relations. Finally, he congratulated the Director General on his re-election and wished him much success in his new term.

6.11.2.2 The Director General thanked the Directors General Emeritus, Carlos Samper, José Emilio Araujo, Francisco Morillo, Martín Piñeiro and Carlos Aquino for their support and timely counsel during his first term. He said that he hoped to be able to count on that support and advice during his new term.

- 6.12 *Draft Resolution “Date and Site of the Fourteenth Regular Meeting of IABA”*
- 6.12.1 The Technical Secretary read out the letter in which the Government of Guatemala, through Mr. Alvaro Aguilar Prado, Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Food, offered to host the Fourteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA, and reported that it had been the only proposal presented formally in writing to the Technical Secretariat.
- 6.12.2 The Delegate of Guatemala explained that his country had recently been selected to host important international meetings. Among these were the meeting of the Board of Governors of the IDB, the meeting of the FAO and the Assembly of the National Olympic Committee. He said, finally, that it would be an honor for Guatemala to host the next Regular Meeting of the IABA.
- 6.12.3 The delegates of Brazil, Mexico, Ecuador, Costa Rica and Bolivia -with Bolivia speaking on behalf of the Member States of CAS - expressed their support for the proposal from Guatemala.
- 6.12.4 The Rapporteur read out the draft resolution, which was approved unanimously without changes.
- 6.13 *Draft Resolution: “Vote of Thanks to the Government and People of the Republic of Ecuador and to the Authorities of the City of Guayaquil”*
- 6.13.1 The Rapporteur read out the Draft Resolution “Vote of Thanks to the Government and People of the Republic of Ecuador and to the Authorities of the City of Guayaquil”, which was unanimously approved without changes. The plenary responded with a standing round of applause.
- 6.14 *Inter-American Awards*
- 6.14.1 The Technical Secretary explained that the Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector were the highest public and international recognition granted by IICA to individuals and institutions that have devoted themselves to developing agriculture and improving rural life in the Americas.

- 6.14.2 The awards were delivered by the Chair of the meeting on behalf of the IABA and by the Director General, pursuant to Resolution IICA/CE/Res.439(XXV-O/05) adopted at the Twenty-fifth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee, held in Ribeirao Preto, Brazil, from May 13 to 14, 2005.
- 6.14.3 The awards were presented as follows: (i) the Inter-American Agricultural Medal for 2003-2005 to Mr. Miguel Holle Osterdart of Peru was delivered to his son, Kurt Holle, on his behalf; (ii) the Inter-American Award for the Participation of Women in Rural Development, 2003-2005, was presented to Mrs. Fresia Enriqueta del Carmen Zúñiga Pérez of Chile; (iii) the Inter-American Agricultural Award for Young Professionals, 2003-2005, was delivered to Miss Ximena Rocio Cadima Fuentes, of Bolivia; and (iv) the Inter-American Award for Institutional Contributions to Agricultural and Rural Development, 2003 – 2005, to the Center for Artificial Insemination of the *Universidad Austral de Chile* was delivered to Mr. Victor Cubillos, Dean of Agronomy at that university. The following individuals received honorary mention: Mr. Nelson Estrada Ramos of Colombia, Inter-American Agricultural Medal, 2003-2005; Mrs. Grace Cereceda Sangster de Cabaniolla, Inter-American Award for the Participation of Women in Rural Development, 2003-2005; Sandals Resort International in Saint Lucia, Inter-American Award for Institutional Contributions to Agricultural and Rural Development, 2003-2005.
- 6.14.4 The recipients of these awards in turn thanked Member States for the honor bestowed upon them with these high distinctions.
- 6.15 Other Business
- 6.15.1 The Delegate of Honduras requested that consideration be given to including a draft resolution on the remuneration of the Director General of IICA since the Convention on IICA did not provide for a mechanism or procedure for the regular revision of the Director General's salary. He said that the custom was for the IABA to issue instructions to the Executive Committee to deal with this matter. He suggested that the Executive Committee be instructed to recommend a permanent solution. The Delegate of Mexico expressed a similar opinion. The Delegates of Ecuador and Brazil seconded the proposal.

- 6.15.2 The Delegate of Canada requested that the Legal Advisor give an opinion on the proposal presented.
- 6.15.3 The Legal Advisor agreed with the Delegate of Honduras that there was no specific procedure to determine the Director General's remuneration and explained that there was a provision in the Convention to the effect that the IABA was the one to determine and define the Director General's remuneration. For this, a vote of two-thirds of the Member States was required. To resolve this situation he suggested two alternatives: (i) That SACMI be instructed to study this matter and to submit the appropriate recommendation to the Executive Committee so that it could, in turn, make a recommendation to the IABA that would be voted on by correspondence; (ii) that the Executive Committee, in the exercise of its authority, could adopt a resolution, subject to approval by the IABA at its next meeting. That resolution could not go into effect until the IABA ratified it.
- 6.15.4 The Delegates of the Bahamas, Saint Lucia, Ecuador, Mexico and Haiti felt that this was a major decision and that the relevant information was needed sufficiently in advance in order to take an appropriate decision.
- 6.15.5 The plenary recommended instructing SACMI to study the subject of the Director General's remuneration and to make a proposal accordingly for presentation to the Twenty-sixth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee.
- 6.16 Closing Session
- 6.16.1 The Sixth Plenary Session adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

CLOSING SESSION

- 7.1 Opening Session
- 7.1.1 The Closing Session started at 5:30 p.m. on September 1, 2005 under the chairmanship of Mr. Pablo Rizzo Pastor, Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Ecuador.
- 7.2 Recognition of former staff members from Ecuador
- 7.2.1 Granting of Honorable Doctorate (Honoris Causa) to Dr. Jorge Soria Vasco
- 7.2.1.1 Mr. Pedro Ferreira, Director General of CATIE, addressed the plenary on the occasion of the tribute paid to Dr. Jorge Soria Vasco who was granted an Honorary Doctorate. He highlighted his career path, noting the specialized and managerial functions he had performed at CATIE, his main professional achievements and his contribution to agriculture and the rural milieu in the Americas.
- 7.2.1.2 Dr. Soria expressed grateful thanks for this high distinction which he wished to share with the professionals who had accompanied him during his term at CATIE. He highlighted the work of IICA and CATIE, saying that these organizations understood that changes in the environment required a redefinition of priorities and the formulation of strategies to respond to the new conditions. He thanked his family, CATIE and IICA and, especially, Dr. José Emilio Araujo.
- 7.2.1.3 The Director General of IICA congratulated Dr. Soria and thanked him for his valuable contribution to the Institute. He also acknowledged his commitment to the development of the agricultural sector and the prosperity of rural communities.
- 7.3 Tribute to Former Staff Members of IICA from Ecuador
- 7.3.1 On behalf of the General Directorate, the Director General paid tribute to various former international staff members of IICA who were nationals of Ecuador and who had made a professional contribution to the development of agriculture and rural communities in the Americas and to an increase in

the level of excellence of IICA. Those to whom he paid tribute were: Danilo Vallejo López, Gonzalo Efraín Jaramillo del Pozo, Víctor Hugo Buitrón Torres, Manuel Oswaldo Chiriboga Vega, Carlos Julio Jara Martínez, Jaime Egberto Tola Cevallos, Julio César Delgado Arce, Fausto Enrique Jordán Bucheli, Jorge Soria Vasco, Gustavo Adolfo Enríquez Calderón, Marco Polo Torres, Jaime Ortiz Egas, Tarcisio Granizo Ribadeneira, Karel Vohnout, Saulo Soria Vasco, Pablo Rosero Galarza and Hernán Carrero Andrade.

7.3.2 The Director General delivered the medal of IICA to them for their professional contribution to agricultural and rural development.

7.4 *Address by the Director General*

7.4.1 The Director General noted the presence of the Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Ecuador whom he thanked for the invitation and for the Government's support in holding the meeting. He then said that thanks to the work and skillful stewardship of the Chair and Rapporteur, the anticipated goals of the meeting had been achieved. He thanked the Mayor of Guayaquil, Attorney Jaime Nebot, for his invaluable support and thanked the following staff for the work accomplished in the preparatory phase and during the meeting: Mr. Fernando Del Risco, Technical Secretary; Dr. William Berenson, Legal Advisor to IICA; Mrs. Leda Ávila and her team from the Official Events Unit; Mr. Jaime Muñoz Reyes, Delegate of IICA in Ecuador; the staff members at the IICA Office in that country; the meeting room assistants; the translators, the précis writers; security staff; employees the Hilton Hotel; the press and those in charge of ambulance, health and security services. He also wished to thank Member States for the support they had given over the past four years.

7.4.2 The Director General recounted the achievements of the meeting, saying that he was pleased with its success. The meeting, he said, had concluded with a renewed vision of agriculture and a steadfast determination to continue working on a hemisphere-wide agenda intended to boost competitiveness, equity, sustainability and good governance. He added that that vision had been reinforced with the agreement on the agenda for 2006-2007 of the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan of Action, the proposal for the upcoming Summit of Heads of State and Government to be held in Argentina in November and the commitment to work in aid of a prosperous rural sector where the benefits of democracy were obvious. He said that the Institute should include on its agenda support to the countries in fulfilling

the mandates of the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan of Action, carrying out the national and regional agendas and a hemisphere-wide agenda agreed upon by all Member States of IICA, instituting a process of strategic institutional alignment, coordination with international partner organizations to ensure an integrated approach to solving problems and active participation as an institution linked to the Summit of the Americas process. He concluded by saying that the Institute should redouble efforts to support Member States which should focus on promoting a competitive agricultural sector that responded to the current challenges and opportunities.

7.5 *Address by the Chair*

7.5.1 The Chair of the IABA said that it was a high honor to have led the debate at the Third Ministerial Meeting in the context of the Summit of the Americas Process and the Thirteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture. He thanked the Ministers of Agriculture and other high officials from the countries of the hemisphere for traveling to Ecuador to reflect on and propose solutions to the problems that affect agriculture and the rural population of the Americas and identify opportunities.

7.5.2 He spoke about the achievements of the meeting. He noted that positions had come closer together and consensus had been achieved on a number of key issues for the modernization of agriculture and for efforts to bring well-deserved wellbeing to rural dwellers. This was all reflected in the Ministerial Agreement of Guayaquil, which was the concrete expression of the aspirations of the countries of the hemisphere to modernize agriculture, combat rural poverty and bring new opportunities to rural areas.

7.5.3 He went on to say that weighty decisions of special significance for the life and future of IICA had been reached. He referred to the re-election of Dr. Chelston Brathwaite for a new four-year term; the reinforcement of the priority working areas, especially of biotechnology, bio-safety, agro-energy, agricultural health and food safety; the approval of IICA's budget and of a special budget to promote cooperation activities in response to the new mandates and to renew the physical facilities of the Institute; and the decision to delegate authority to the Executive Committee to approve the new Medium-Term Plan of IICA for the period 2006-2010 and adjust the 2007 budget to that Plan.

- 7.5.4 He also said, among other things, that the issue of government policy for agriculture had been addressed, a consensus proposal had been prepared and would be forwarded to the Heads of State and Government at the Fourth Summit of the Americas, that individuals who had dedicated their lives to modernizing agriculture and improving living conditions for rural women had been honored with the Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector; and that institutional contributions to the development of agriculture which had led to a significant impact in rural areas had been recognized.
- 7.5.5 He thanked the Director General and the IICA staff who had organized the tribute to former IICA staff members from Ecuador. Finally, he said how pleased he was that the meeting had fulfilled the agenda and the objectives of the Third Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas and the Thirteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA.
- 7.6 *Closing and Signing of the Final Report of the Meeting*
- 7.6.1 The Chair of the meeting and the Director General of IICA signed the report of the meeting.
- 7.7 *Closing Session*
- 7.7.1 The Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas adjourned at 7:40 p.m. on September 1, 2005.

RESOLUTIONS

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IICA/JIA/Res. 407 (XIII-O/05)

1 September 2005

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 407

**PROGRESS IN AND RESULTS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
2002-2006 MEDIUM TERM PLAN**

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, at its Thirteenth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

The presentation by the Director General on progress in transforming IICA from 2002-2006, and the presentation by the Assistant Deputy Director General and Director of the Technical Cooperation Secretariat on the results of the technical cooperation actions carried out from 2002-2005,

CONSIDERING:

That the Executive Committee, in Resolution IICA/CE/Res.364(XXII-O/02), of October 2002, approved the 2002-2006 Medium-Term Plan, by express delegation from the Inter-American Board of Agriculture;

That the Medium-Term Plan has served as the frame of reference for both the cooperation actions of the Institute and its transformation and modernization;

That the Executive Committee took note of the progress in and results of the implementation of the 2002-2006 Medium-Term Plan and, in Resolutions IICA/CE/Res.426 (XXV-O/05) and 408 (XXIV-O/04), recognized the progress achieved by the Director General and the staff of the Institute in transforming and modernizing IICA, as well as the results of the cooperation actions carried out to modernize agriculture and promote prosperity in the rural communities of the Americas,

RESOLVES:

1. To accept the report on progress in implementing the 2002-2006 Medium Term Plan and to take note of the important progress made and positive results achieved in implementing the Plan, underscoring the efforts of the Director General and the staff of the Institute, as well as the support of the member countries.
2. To urge the Member States to reach agreement on initiatives aimed at strengthening the Institute technically, administratively and financially, so that it will have the means it needs to comply with the 2002-2006 MTP.

IICA/JIA/Res. 408 (XIII-O/05)

1 September 2005

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 408

**REPORT “STATE OF AND OUTLOOK FOR AGRICULTURE AND
RURAL LIFE IN THE AMERICAS 2005”**

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, at its Thirteenth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/JIA/Doc.S/N(05) Report “State of and Outlook for Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas 2005,”

CONSIDERING:

That in the Ministerial Declaration of Bavaro the countries of the Americas pledged to attach special importance to and make significant progress in reducing the level of rural poverty;

That the Ministers of Agriculture, in the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan of Action, subsequently endorsed by the Heads of State and Government of the Americas, pledged to modernize agriculture and promote rural prosperity and food security;

That Article 3.a. of the Rules of Procedure of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture states that the Board shall take note of the report of the Director General on the status of the development of agriculture and the rural milieu in the Americas;

That the Director General has presented to the Member States a report on the state of and outlook for agriculture and rural life in the Americas 2005, which focuses on the role of agriculture in contributing to the generation of employment and the alleviation of rural poverty,

RESOLVES:

To accept the report "State of and Outlook for Agriculture and Rural life in the Americas 2005", presented by the General Directorate, and to underscore the importance of same for the governments of the region as an instrument for analyzing and formulating policies.

IICA/JIA/Res. 409 (XIII-O/05)

1 September 2005

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 409

JOINT ACTIONS IN THE FIELD OF BIOTECHNOLOGY AND BIOSAFETY

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, at its Thirteenth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/JIA/288 (05) “Hemispheric Biotechnology and Biosafety Program: Frame of reference for its formulation and implementation,”

CONSIDERING:

That by IICA/JIA/Res.386(XII-O/03), the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (“IABA”) entrusted IICA, in consultation with the Member States, with discussing the importance of agricultural biotechnology and biosafety and their impact on trade and development;

That the same Resolution charged IICA with developing a plan to promote biotechnology and biosafety in the hemisphere, and encouraged horizontal cooperation among the IICA Member States in these areas, urging them to contribute additional resources for furthering IICA’s work in this field;

That IICA convened the task force on biotechnology, which agreed on the need to focus actions on gathering and disseminating information related to the costs and benefits of agricultural biotechnologies; assessing and studying regional needs in the field; and formulating policies for agricultural biotechnology, which will be the basic priorities for the development of a hemispheric biotechnology and biosafety program;

That by Resolution IICA/CE/Res.428(XXV-O/05), the Executive Committee studied and endorsed the proposal prepared by the General Directorate of IICA calling for increased horizontal cooperation and other activities aimed at developing biotechnology and biosafety in the Americas;

That IICA has circulated the draft document IICA/JIA/288 (05) "Hemispheric Biotechnology and Biosafety Program: Frame of reference for its Formulation and Implementation", into which the observations and comments of the member countries will be incorporated,

RESOLVES:

1. To support the continuation of the efforts of the General Directorate aimed at reviewing and finalizing, with the representatives appointed by the Ministries of Agriculture of the Members States, as soon as possible, the proposed Hemispheric Biotechnology and Biosafety Program, for which the General Directorate will continue to provide the necessary financial support.
2. To instruct the Director General to present the final proposal on the aforementioned Hemispheric Biotechnology and Biosafety Program, and the corresponding proposed budget, to the next meetings of the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues and the Executive Committee, for consideration and final approval by the member countries.
3. To urge the Member States to make voluntary, non-quota, contributions for the implementation of the proposal, and to support IICA in its efforts to secure financial resources for this hemispheric activity from regional and international technical and financial cooperation agencies.

IICA/JIA/Res.410 (XIII-O/05)

1 September 2005

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 410

PROPOSED HEMISPHERIC PROGRAM ON AGRO-ENERGY

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, at its Thirteenth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/JIA/Doc. 289(05) "Proposed Hemispheric Program on Agro-energy,"

CONSIDERING:

That at the Third Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Rural Life, held in Guayaquil, Ecuador, on August 30 and 31, 2005, the Ministers of Agriculture recognized the importance of agro-energy and bio-fuels, and their impact on agricultural development in and the economies of the countries of the Americas;

That the current crisis, attributable to the high price of oil and oil by-products, makes it necessary for countries to look for alternatives to offset rising fuel prices;

That the production of bio-fuels is gaining in popularity among nations interested in reducing the emission of toxic gases, reducing imports of oil and supporting the development of agriculture;

That the production of bio-fuels is a technologically proven alternative that would enable many countries in the Americas to promote the modernization of agriculture, offering producers, through the use of agro-energy, new options with a guaranteed market;

That Brazil, the world's largest producer of fuel based on alcohol derived from sugar cane, at the Twenty-fifth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee, offered to cooperate with other countries in the region interested in developing their agro-energy sector; and that the Ministers of Agriculture of IICA's member countries present at the meeting expressed interest in learning from the Brazilian experience;

That the Executive Committee, in Resolution IICA/CE/Res.429 (XXV-O/05), entrusted the General Directorate of IICA with presenting to the IABA a draft resolution on horizontal cooperation in the area of agro-energy and bio-fuels,

RESOLVES

1. To ask IICA to serve as a platform for hemispheric cooperation, with a view to drawing on the successful experiences in the area of agro-energy of countries in the region that produce alcohol from sugar cane, and other bio-fuels.
2. To instruct the Director General of IICA, in consultation with the Member States:
 - a. to convene meetings to discuss the importance of agro-energy and bio-fuels and their potentially favorable impact on agricultural development and the economies of the Member States; and
 - b. to set up a task force comprising experts from the Member States appointed by the Ministers of Agriculture, IICA personnel and strategic partners, and task them with drawing up a hemispheric program on bio-energy and bio-fuels, to be presented to the Executive Committee at its Twenty-sixth Regular Meeting.
3. To instruct the Director General to submit a proposal to the Executive Committee, at its Twenty-sixth Regular Meeting, on the resources required to support activities to be carried out under the aforementioned Program.

IICA/JIA/Res. 411 (XIII-O/05)

1 September 2005

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 411

**HORIZONTAL COOPERATION IN THE AREA OF AGRICULTURAL
INSURANCE AND GUARANTEE FUNDS**

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, at its Thirteenth Regular Meeting,

CONSIDERING:

That one of the strategic actions called for in the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan of Action is the promotion of innovative financial and non-financial services and risk management systems for the rural milieu;

That the development of the insurance market and guarantee funds may improve access to financial resources and considerably reduce the perception of risk in agriculture, thus improving financial conditions and favoring the attraction of investment;

That the recurrence of natural disasters associated with climate variability affects the agricultural sector and the rural milieu of the Americas uniquely, and that, as a result of these adverse climatic events, production units repeatedly suffer from a loss of capital;

That agricultural insurance is an important instrument for the management of risk, and also promotes the use of agricultural practices that are less vulnerable to natural hazards,

RESOLVES:

1. To ask the Director General of IICA to promote and facilitate horizontal cooperation among the Member States, and the systematization and

dissemination of successful experiences in the area of agricultural insurance and guarantee funds.

2. To urge the Member States to contribute to the exchange of information and experts.
3. To ask the General Directorate to establish partnerships with public and private financial institutions and financial organizations, with a view to coordinating, and seeking complementarities among, efforts to develop and strengthen the agricultural insurance market.

IICA/JIA/Res. 412 (XIII-O/05)

1 September 2005

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 412

**2003 AND 2004 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE INSTITUTE
AND REPORTS OF THE EXTERNAL AUDITORS**

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, at its Thirteenth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/JIA/Doc.291(05) "2003 and 2004 Financial Statements of the Institute and Reports of the External Auditors,"

CONSIDERING:

That the Executive Committee, at its Twenty-fourth and Twenty-fifth Regular Meetings, in Resolutions IICA/CE/Res.415(XXIV-O/04) and IICA/CE/Res.432(XXV-O/05), approved the Financial Statements of the Institute for 2003 and 2004, respectively;

That the External Auditors have attested to the sound management of the organization's financial resources, in conformity with the regulations of the Institute;

That, in its Tenth and Eleventh Reports, the Audit Review Committee (ARC) stated that it had studied the reports of the External Auditors on the Financial Statements of the Institute for 2003 and 2004, and found the work performed to be thorough and in accordance with IICA's rules and with international auditing standards,

RESOLVES:

To approve the 2003 and 2004 Financial Statements of the Institute and the Reports of the External Auditors on said Financial Statements.

IICA/JIA/Res. 413 (XIII-O/05)

1 September 2005

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 413**TENTH AND ELEVENTH REPORTS OF THE
AUDIT REVIEW COMMITTEE (ARC)**

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, at its Thirteenth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/JIA/Doc.292(05), "Tenth and Eleventh Reports of the Audit Review Committee (ARC),"

CONSIDERING:

That by Resolution IICA/JIA/Res.231(VII-O/93), the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), at its Seventh Regular Meeting, created the Audit Review Committee (ARC) and approved its Statute;

That Article 3(k) of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee establishes that the Committee "shall approve the ARC's reports and recommendations;"

That the Executive Committee, at its Twenty-fourth and Twenty-fifth Regular Meetings, adopted Resolutions IICA/CE/Res.416(XXIV-O/04) and IICA/CE/Res.433(XXV-O/05), respectively, approving the Tenth and Eleventh Reports of the ARC,

RESOLVES:

1. To approve the Tenth and Eleventh Reports of the Audit Review Committee.
2. To thank the members of the ARC for their valuable efforts.

IICA/JIA/Res. 414 (XIII-O/05)

1 September 2005

Original: English

RESOLUTION No. 414**REVISED MEASURES FOR COLLECTING QUOTAS
OWED TO THE INSTITUTE**

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, at its Thirteenth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Resolution IICA/CE/Res.435 (XXV-O/05), adopted by the Executive Committee at its Twenty-fifth Regular Meeting, and document IICA/JIA/Doc.293 “Revised Measures for Collecting Quotas Owed to the Institute,”

CONSIDERING,

That in Resolution IICA/JIA/Res.392 (XII-0/03), the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (“IABA”) adopted “Measures for Collecting Quotas Owed to the Institute;”

That in Resolution IICA/CE/Res.417 (XXIV-O/04), the Executive Committee recommended that the IABA amend Resolution IICA/JIA/Res. 392 retroactive to January 1, 2004, to give the Director General the option of consulting first with the Executive Committee or the IABA for guidance prior to applying those measures in cases where, in the Director General’s judgment, “implementation of any or all of the measures put in place for collecting quotas owed the Institute would not be in the best interest of the Institute;”

That the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues (SACMI), meeting in March 2005, recommended that the Director General, together with the Legal Advisor, prepare a proposal in the form of a draft resolution “that would clear up certain ambiguities” in Resolutions IICA/JIA/Res.392 and IICA/CE/Res.417 so as to facilitate application of those measures, consistent with Article 24 of the Convention on

the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture and IICA's other rules and regulations;

That the Executive Committee took note of the comments of the delegations regarding the proposal put forth and, in Resolution IICA/CE/Res.435 (XXV-O/05), recommended that the IABA derogate the appendix to Resolution IICA/JIA/Res.392, entitled "Measures for Collecting Quotas Owed to the Institute," and replace it with the revised version appended hereto and bearing the same title,

RESOLVES:

To eliminate the appendix to Resolution IICA/JIA/Res.392, entitled "Measures for Collecting Quotas Owed to the Institute," and replace it with the document entitled "Revised Measures for Collecting Quotas Owed to the Institute," attached to this Resolution as Appendix I.

APPENDIX I**REVISED MEASURES FOR COLLECTING QUOTAS
OWED THE INSTITUTE****I. DEFINITIONS**

For the purposes of these measures, the following definitions shall apply:

- A. Up-to-Date status: A Member State is in “Up-to-Date Status” when it has paid all of its assessed Regular Fund quotas to IICA.
- B. Regular Status: A Member State is in “Regular Status” when it owes no more than two full years of assessed Regular Fund quotas to IICA.
- C. Special Status: A Member State is in “Special Status” when it owes more than two full years of assessed Regular Fund quotas to IICA, has agreed with the Director General to a payment plan for all its arrearages, and is in full compliance with that payment plan.
- D. In Arrears Status: A Member State is in “In Arrears Status” when it owes more than two years of assessed Regular Fund quotas to IICA and does not satisfy all the above-stated requirements for Special Status.
- E. Years in arrears: This is the number of years for which assessed Regular Fund quotas are owed as of July 1 of the current year, regardless of whether the Member State has entered into a payment plan and is in compliance with that schedule.

**II. RULES FOR COMPUTING STATUS AND YEARS IN ARREARS FOR
APPLICATION OF THESE MEASURES**

- A. Article 86 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Directorate and Article 70 of the Rules of Procedure of the IABA provide that quotas are “due on the first day of each fiscal year.” Nonetheless, those Articles shall not apply for determining the status of a Member State under these measures.
- B. During the current year, a Member State shall retain the status it had as of December 31 of the prior year, provided it makes a payment equal to the

current year's quota by June 30 of the current year. Failure to make that payment by June 30 will result in an adjustment of status.

- C. By making additional payments during the current year, a Member State that is not already in Up-to-Date Status may improve its status at any time during that year.
- D. As provided under Article 84 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Directorate, quota payments received "shall be credited against the balance receivable pending from the earliest year for which the money is owed."

III. RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES OF IICA MEMBER STATES IN UP-TO-DATE STATUS

- A. The rights and privileges of IICA Membership for Member States in Up-to-Date Status include, among others, the following:
 - 1. The right to vote in the meetings of the Executive Committee and the Inter-American Board of Agriculture;
 - 2. The right to nominate candidates for the position of Director General;
 - 3. The right to have their nationals serve in the position of Director General;
 - 4. The right to nominate candidates to serve on Committees and to serve in leadership positions on those Committees;
 - 5. The right to hiring preferences for their nationals;
 - 6. The right to an Office of the Institute in their territory, funded by IICA's Regular Fund;
 - 7. The right to serve on the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues (SACMI);
 - 8. The right to receive an allocation from the IICA Regular Fund Budget for in-country projects.
 - 9. The privilege of hosting IICA meetings in their territory, funded in whole or in part by IICA's, Regular Fund Budget.¹
 - 10. The privilege of receiving extraordinary appropriations from the Working Subfund of the Regular Fund, as approved by the Executive Committee in accordance with Article 90 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Directorate

¹ For purposes of applying this privilege, funding from the IICA Regular Fund does not include the funds used to pay for the salaries of the staff members who must attend those meetings, regardless of where they are held.

- B. The exclusion of any right or privilege stated in Part A above does not preclude the existence of other rights and privileges IICA Member States may enjoy.

IV. RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES OF MEMBER STATES IN REGULAR AND IN SPECIAL STATUS

- A. Member States in Regular Status shall enjoy all the rights and privileges of Up-to-Date status described in Part III(A) above, except for the privilege of receiving extraordinary appropriations from the Working Subfund of the Regular Fund, as approved by the Executive Committee in accordance with Article 90 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Directorate.
- B. Member States in Special Status shall enjoy all the rights and privileges of Up-to-Date status described in Part III(A) above, except for the privilege of receiving extraordinary appropriations from the Working Subfund of the Regular Fund, as approved by the Executive Committee in accordance with Article 90 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Directorate.

V. RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES OF MEMBER STATES IN ARREARS

- A. Any Member State in In Arrears Status shall have its right to vote suspended unless it is determined, in accordance with Article 24 of the Convention on the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, by the IABA or the Executive Committee, as the case may be, “that failure to pay is due to circumstances beyond the control of that State.”
- B. Of the other rights and privileges enumerated in Part III(A) above, any Member State in arrears shall enjoy only the rights and privileges listed below, in accordance with the number of years in arrears:
 - 1. More than two full fiscal years in arrears, but less than three:
 - a. The right to nominate candidates for the position of Director General;
 - b. The right to have their nationals serve in the position of Director General;

- c. The right to nominate candidates to serve on Committees and to serve in leadership positions on those Committees.
 - d. The right to hiring preferences for their nationals;
 - e. The right to an Office of the Institute in their territory, funded by IICA's Regular Fund; however, the amount authorized will be reduced by 10%;
 - f. The right to serve on the SACMI;
 - g. The right to receive an allocation from the IICA Regular Fund Budget for in-country projects.
2. Three full fiscal years in arrears, but less than four:
- a. The right to nominate candidates for the position of Director General;
 - b. The right to have their nationals serve in the position of Director General;
 - c. The right to nominate candidates to serve on Committees and to serve in leadership positions on those Committees.
 - d. The right to hiring preferences for their nationals;
 - e. The right to an Office of the Institute in their territory, funded by IICA's Regular Fund; however, the amount authorized will be reduced by 20%;
 - f. The right to serve on the SACMI;
 - g. The right to receive an allocation from the IICA Regular Fund Budget for in-country projects.
3. Four full fiscal years in arrears, but less than five:
- a. The right to hiring preferences for their nationals;
 - b. The right to an Office of the Institute in their territory, funded in part by IICA's Regular Fund; however, the amount authorized will be reduced by 40%;
 - c. The right to serve on the SACMI;
 - d. The right to receive an allocation from the IICA Regular Fund Budget for in-country projects.
4. Five or more full fiscal years in arrears: None of the rights and privileges set out in Part III(A) above.

VI. THE SUSPENSION OF THE RIGHT TO VOTE

- A. The decision as to whether to suspend the right to vote of a Member State with In Arrears Status lies exclusively with the IABA and the Executive Committee, as the case may be, under Article 24 of the Convention on the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture.
- B. Voting rights may be restored automatically when a State in In Arrears Status changes its status to Special Status, Regular Status, or Up-to-date Status. They may also be restored by either the Executive Committee or the IABA, upon the presentation of a petition by the interested State, as set out in Article 6.4 of the Regulations for Application of Article 24 of the Convention on the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture.

VII. SUSPENDING THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF IN ARREARS STATUS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE INSTITUTE²

- A. If the Director General determines that it is not in the best interest of the Institute to implement the reduced levels of funding for projects and Office support for any Member State in “In Arrears” status, he/she may first consult with the Executive Committee or the IABA before applying them and propose the suspension or modification of the reduction prescribed. The consultation shall be by correspondence if there is no meeting of the IABA or Executive Committee scheduled within ninety days of the date the State becomes subject to those reductions.
- B. The IABA or the Executive Committee, as the case may be, may consider the Director General’s proposal for not applying the reduced levels and may approve the proposal or any other lesser reduction that it deems appropriate. If the IABA or the Executive Committee rejects the proposal and provides no other relief, or they fail to respond within thirty days to the consultation by correspondence, the Director General shall apply the reductions prescribed in these measures.
- C. In the event the Director General decides to make the consultation and a proposal as provided in this Section, the interested State shall be given

² This section of the measures is effective as of January 1, 2004. This section replaces the Executive Committee’s recommendation in Annex B of Resolution IICA/CE/Res. 417.

due notice with sufficient time to explain its position to the other Member States before the Executive Committee or Board rules on the proposal.

- D. For purposes of this provision, “the best interests of the Institute” include the “purposes” established in Article 3 of the Convention on the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture and the programs and policies adopted by the Institute in pursuit of those purposes.

VIII. GUIDELINES FOR PAYMENT PLANS

- A. The Payment Plan shall be in writing and signed by the Director General and the duly authorized representative of the participating Member State.
- B. The Plan shall provide for the payment of the entire amount owed over a period of no more than forty-eight months.
- C. The Plan shall obligate the participating Member State to make a payment equal to at least the current year’s assessed quota within fifteen days of its signature and a payment for each subsequent year the Plan is in force of an amount at least equal to the quota assessed for each of those years.
- D. The Director General may negotiate and accept payment terms with Member States for the payment of amounts past due in national currency, real estate, or other valuable assets, ad referendum of the Executive Committee, and only upon a determination that:
 - 1. In the case of national currency or other valuable assets, the Institute shall not be financially prejudiced by the acceptance of said currency or assets; and
 - 2. In the case of real estate, the specific conditions under Article 4.20 of the Financial Rules “Accepting Donations of Interests in Real Property” have been satisfied and over a reasonable time, the Institute will earn income or generate savings from the occupancy, use, sale, or rental of the property in an amount equal to or greater than the corresponding arrearages.

IX. NOTICE OF STATUS PRIOR TO ELECTIONS AND MEETINGS

- A. When circulating to the Member States documents presented by a Member State nominating a candidate, the General Directorate shall indicate in the transmittal notice whether the status of the nominating Member State, and if different, the state of the nationality of the candidate, is Up-to-Date, Regular, Special, or In Arrears. It shall also indicate the number of years in arrears for the relevant States.
- B. The notice of Debtor States sent prior to meetings of the IABA and Executive Committee under Article 3.1 of the Regulations for Application of Article 24 of the Convention on the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture shall indicate, *inter alia*, the status of each Member State under these measures and the number of years, if any, that it is in arrears.

IICA/JIA/Res. 415 (XIII-O/05)

1 September 2005

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 415

**AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE 73 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE
GENERAL DIRECTORATE AND RULE 2.1b OF THE FINANCIAL RULES**

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, at its Thirteenth Regular Meeting,

RECOGNIZING:

That both the building housing Institute Headquarters in San Jose, Costa Rica, which is more than 30 years old, and its basic equipment, as well as its Offices in the countries, require investments for renewal and suitable operation;

That Article 73 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Directorate (RPGD) and Rule 2.1(b) of the Financial Rules stipulate that the Program Budget is to contain the following three categories of activity: I. Technical Cooperation; II. Management Costs, and III. General Costs and Provisions;

That pursuant to Article 73 of the RPGD and Rule 2.1(b) of the Financial Rules, the current structure of the Institute's Program Budget does not provide a category for budgeting the essential investments necessary to renew buildings and to invest in equipping said infrastructure;

That pursuant to Article 3(o) of its Rules, the Executive Committee may amend the Rules of Procedure of the General Directorate and implement amendments ad referendum the IABA, and that in accordance with Article 3(h) of its Rules, the Executive Committee may amend the Financial Rules, provided the amendments are consistent with the RPGD and the program budget resolution in force;

That the Executive Committee, in Resolution IICA/CE/Res.421(XXIV-O/04), approved provisionally, ad referendum the IABA, the amendment to Article No. 73 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Directorate to include the additional category: "d.

Renewal of Infrastructure and Equipment,” and recommended to the IABA that this amendment be permanently adopted,

RESOLVES:

1. To approve the amendment to Article 73 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Directorate to include the additional category: “d. Renewal of Infrastructure and Equipment.”

IICA/JIA/Res. 416 (XIII-O/05)

1 September 2005

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 416

2006-2007 PROGRAM BUDGET

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, at its Thirteenth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/JIA/Doc.294(05) "Proposed 2006-2007 Program Budget,"

CONSIDERING:

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

- a. In Article 8.b, that a function of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) is "to approve the biennial Program Budget and to determine the annual quotas of the Member States;"
- b. In Article 23, that "the Member States shall contribute to the maintenance of the Institute through annual quotas established by the Board, in accordance with the system for calculating quotas of the Organization of American States;" and
- c. In Article 14.b, that a function of the Executive Committee is "To examine the proposed biennial program budget that the Director General submits to the Board and to make such observations and recommendations as it deems appropriate;"

That the Director General submitted the proposed 2006-2007 Program Budget to the consideration of the Executive Committee, at its Twenty-fifth Regular Meeting, in a

format consistent with the structure and content established in the rules currently in effect;

That the Executive Committee analyzed the proposed 2006-2007 Program Budget and, in Resolution IICA/CE/Res.436 (XXV-O/05), recommended that the IABA also approve it,

RESOLVES:

1. To approve the amount of US\$30,000,000 annually from the Regular Fund as the overall allocation of the 2006-2007 Program Budget of the Institute, financed with quota contributions from the Member States in the amount of US \$27,167,572 per year, as per the amounts indicated on the Quota Scale attached hereto as "Appendix A," and with the expected receipt of miscellaneous income in the amount of US \$2,832,428 per year.
2. To approve the use of the resources of the 2006 Program Budget in accordance with the allocations for each of the Chapters, line items and Strategic Areas detailed in document IICA/CE/Doc.465(05), "Proposed 2006-2007 Program Budget." The summary of allocations by Chapter is attached as "Appendix B."
3. To instruct the Director General to submit to the consideration of the Executive Committee, at its Twenty-sixth Regular Meeting, a proposal for the detailed allocation of the funds approved for the 2007 Program Budget, consistent with the priorities set forth in the new Medium Term Plan of the Institute.
4. To authorize the Director General to make transfers between the Chapters of the Program Budget, provided that the total transfers neither increase nor reduce the affected Chapters by more than 10%, and do not substantially affect the priorities approved.
5. To authorize the Director General to make the necessary adjustments in the allocation of resources approved in this Resolution, should the combined income for each of the fiscal years 2006-2007 fall below estimated levels for the biennium. The Director General shall inform the Executive Committee and the IABA of this situation.

APPENDIX A
QUOTA SCALE OF THE MEMBER STATES AND ESTIMADES
MISCELLANEOUS INCOME
2006-2007
(US\$)

MEMBER STATES	% OAS		% IICA		AMOUNT IICA	
	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007
Antigua and Barbuda	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	5,502	5,502
Argentina	4.90	4.90	4.90	4.90	1,347,925	1,347,925
Bahamas	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	19,256	19,256
Barbados	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	22,007	22,007
Belize	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	8,253	8,253
Bolivia	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	19,256	19,256
Brazil	8.55	8.55	8.55	8.55	2,351,992	2,351,992
Canada	12.36	12.36	12.36	12.36	3,400,073	3,400,073
Chile	0.54	0.54	0.54	0.54	148,547	148,547
Colombia	0.94	0.94	0.94	0.94	258,582	258,582
Costa Rica	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	35,761	35,761
Dominica	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	5,502	5,502
Dominican Republic	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	49,516	49,516
Ecuador	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	49,516	49,516
El Salvador	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	19,256	19,256
Grenada	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	8,253	8,253
Guatemala	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	35,761	35,761
Guyana	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	5,502	5,502
Haiti	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	19,256	19,256
Honduras	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	19,256	19,256
Jamaica	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	49,516	49,516
Mexico	6.08	6.08	6.08	6.08	1,672,528	1,672,528
Nicaragua	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	19,256	19,256
Panama	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	35,761	35,761
Paraguay	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	49,516	49,516
Peru	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41	112,786	112,786
Saint Kitts and Nevis	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	5,502	5,502
Saint Vincent & the Grenadines	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	5,502	5,502
St. Lucia	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	8,253	8,253
Suriname	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	19,256	19,256
Trinidad and Tobago	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	49,516	49,516
United States of America	59.47	59.47	59.47	59.47	16,359,412	16,359,412
Uruguay	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	71,523	71,523
Venezuela	3.20	3.20	3.20	3.20	880,278	880,278
SUB TOTAL	98.76	98.76	98.76	98.76	27,167,572	27,167,572
Cuba	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24		
TOTAL QUOTAS	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	27,167,572	27,167,572
MISCELLANEOUS INCOME					2,832,428	2,832,428
TOTAL REGULAR FUND					30,000,000	30,000,000

APPENDIX B

**2006 PROGRAM BUDGET
SUMMARY BY CHAPTER
(US\$ x 000)**

CHAPTER	QUOTAS	MISCELLANEOUS	TOTAL
I: DIRECT TECHNICAL COOPERATION SERVICES	24.497,7	2.789,7	27.287,4
Strategic Area			
1. Trade and Agribusiness Development	6.292,5	641,8	6.934,3
2. Technology and Innovation	4.956,3	381,7	5.338,0
3. Agricultural Health and Food Safety	4.715,4	565,5	5.280,9
4. Sustainable Rural Development	4.134,0	575,0	4.709,0
5. Information and Communication	2.097,9	213,6	2.311,5
6. Education and Training	2.301,6	412,1	2.713,7
II: MANAGEMENT COSTS	1.574,4	42,7	1.617,1
Office of the Director General	692,7	0,0	692,7
Directorate of Administration and Finance	881,7	42,7	924,4
III: GENERAL COSTS AND PROVISIONS ¹	1.095,5	0,0	1.095,5
Governing Bodies	400,0	0,0	400,0
Insurance	325,0	0,0	325,0
Pensions	250,0	0,0	250,0
OAS Administrative Tribunal	25,0	0,0	25,0
External Audit	95,5	0,0	95,5
TOTAL	27.167,6	2.832,4	30.000,0

1/ Does not include the Cuban quota.

IICA/JIA/Res. 417 (XIII-O/05)

1 September 2005

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 417

**2006-2007 SPECIAL BUDGET FINANCED WITH RESOURCES
FROM THE GENERAL SUBFUND**

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, at its Thirteenth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/JIA/Doc.295(05), "Proposed 2006-2007 Special Budget Financed with Resources from the General Subfund,"

CONSIDERING:

That the Institute requires resources to: (i) meet the growing demand from its Member States for cooperation services, (ii) comply with new mandates from the governments, and (iii) continue the modernization and transformation process currently under way for improving the Institute's responsiveness and the quality of its services;

That the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues endorsed the proposal submitted by the General Directorate calling for more resources to be allocated to the development of the capabilities required for full compliance with the WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, and to urgently needed investments in equipment for and the remodeling and maintenance of those Offices owned by or given in usufruct to the Institute;

That the Institute expects to receive payment of past-due quotas during the coming biennium. In accordance with Articles 89 and 90 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Directorate, such funds must be transferred, at the end of each fiscal period, from the General Subfund to the Working Subfund, unless the IABA approves the allocation of a portion of the past-due quotas recovered to finance a special budget;

That the Executive Committee studied the proposed special budget submitted to its consideration and, in Resolution IICA/CE/Res.437(XXV-O/05), recommended its approval,

RESOLVES:

1. To approve the special budget attached hereto, for execution during the 2006-2007 biennium, in the amount of US\$2,609,000, to be funded by any past-due quotas recovered.
2. To instruct the Director General to adopt such measures as may be required to ensure that the execution of the special budget does not affect the normal execution of the Institute's 2006-2007 Program Budget.

ANNEX**Summary of Resources Allocated in the Special Budget
2006-2007
(US\$)**

	ITEM	AMOUNT
1.	Development of Capabilities to Comply fully with the Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS)	500,000
2.	Investments	1,185,000
3.	Remodeling and Maintenance Work in IICA-owned Offices and others held in usufruct	924,000
Total Special Budget		2,609,000

IICA/JIA/Res. 418 (XIII-O/05)

1 September 2005

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 418**GENERAL POWER OF ATTORNEY OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL**

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, at its Thirteenth Regular Meeting,

CONSIDERING:

That in the First Plenary Session of the Thirteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), held on August 30, 2005, Dr. Chelston W. D. Brathwaite was elected Director General of the Institute for the 2006-2010 term;

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

That during the 2006-2010 period, which begins on January 16, 2006 and ends on January 15, 2010, the Director General-elect shall legally represent the Institute;

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

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

RESOLVES:

1. To grant to the Director General-elect general power of attorney for a period of four years, beginning January 16, 2006, so that he may faithfully fulfill the responsibilities of Director General conferred upon him under Article 20 of the

Convention and Chapter II of the Rules of Procedure of the General Directorate.

2. To confer this general power of attorney pursuant to the general stipulations of the Civil Code of the Republic of Costa Rica, the host country of the Institute, and to Article 1253 of said Code in particular.
3. To empower the Director General, under this general power of attorney, to grant powers of attorney of all kinds and to revoke same.
4. To request the Director General, Chelston W.D. Brathwaite, to complete the legal procedures required to fulfill this mandate.

IICA/JIA/Res. 419 (XIII-O/05)
1 September 2005
Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 419

**EXTENSION OF THE TERM OF THE SPECIAL ADVISORY
COMMISSION ON MANAGEMENT ISSUES**

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, at its Thirteenth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Resolution IICA/CE/Res.438(XXV-O/05) "Report on the 2005 Meeting of the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues and Extension of the Commission's Term," adopted by the Executive Committee at its Twenty-fifth Regular Meeting,

CONSIDERING:

That, in Resolution IICA/JIA/Res.341(99), the Inter-American Board of Agriculture ("IABA") created the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues ("SACMI") to facilitate more regular discussion between the Director General and the Member States on administrative and financial initiatives and issues in order to facilitate the process of reaching consensus on those issues and initiatives in the Executive Committee and the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA);"

That the SACMI held its 2005 meeting at IICA Headquarters from March 17-18, 2005, and presented its report and recommendations to the Director General of the Institute;

That, pursuant to Article 9.1 of its Statute and Resolution IICA/IABA Res.394 (XII-O/03), the SACMI's term will expire on the date of the Thirteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA;

That in view of the SACMI's significant contributions to the work of the Institute, the Executive Committee adopted Resolution IICA/CE/Res.438 (XXV-O/05), in which it recommends that the Board extend the term of the SACMI,

RESOLVES:

To extend the SACMI's term from 2006-2010.

IICA/JIA/Res. 420 (XIII-O/05)

1 September 2005

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 420**CREATION OF A SUB-COMMISSION OF THE SPECIAL ADVISORY
COMMISSION ON MANAGEMENT ISSUES TO STUDY THE PROPOSAL
PRESENTED BY THE AGRICULTURAL COUNCIL OF THE SOUTH IN ITS
RESOLUTION CAS/RES. 01 (V RE-2005)**

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, at its Thirteenth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Resolution CAS/RES.01(V RE-2005), dated August 29, 2005,

CONSIDERING,

That the Southern Agricultural Council (CAS) has proposed, by Resolution CAS/RES. 01 (V RE-2005), that in the preparation of the IICA Medium-Term Plan for 2006-2010 and the budget of the Institute, and in order to provide guidance for its institutional modernization process, the recommendations of the regional bodies regarding regional priorities and the emerging needs of each one of the countries of the Institute be taken into consideration;

That said proposal contains a number of specific recommendations that merit careful study by the other Member States of the Institute;

That by Resolution IICA/JIA Res.341(X-O/99), the IABA established the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues (SACMI), which is a strictly advisory body, under the Executive Committee, whose purpose is to facilitate more regular discussion between the Director General and the Member States on administrative and financial initiatives and issues in order to facilitate the process of reaching consensus on those issues and initiatives in the Executive Committee and in the IABA;

That Articles 51 and 52 of the Rules of Procedure of the IABA authorize the creation of task forces within commissions created by the IABA, as well as the creation of temporary or special commissions to study matters related to the nature and purposes of the Institute and to make necessary recommendations,

RESOLVES:

1. To create a sub-commission of the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues, and charge it with studying the proposal and recommendations contained in the Resolution from the Southern Agricultural Council CAS/RES. 01 (V RE-2005), and presenting its conclusions and recommendations on same to the next meeting of the SACMI.
2. To set up the sub-commission, comprising the following members appointed by the corresponding five regional groups:
 - a. Andean
Ecuador, Regular
Colombia, Alternate
 - b. Caribbean
Bahamas, Regular
Jamaica, Alternate
 - c. Central
Nicaragua, Regular
Honduras, Alternate
 - d. Northern
United States of America, Regular
Canada, Alternate
 - e. Southern
Argentina, Regular
Bolivia, Alternate
3. To instruct the sub-commission to meet in San Jose, Costa Rica, during the month of October 2005, and to present its report, containing its conclusions and recommendations, to the Director General of the Institute, no later than December 15, 2005 to be forwarded to the members of the SACMI before the end of this year. To instruct the SACMI to present its recommendations to the Executive Committee at its next regular meeting.

4. To entrust the Director General of IICA with providing the technical, logistic and financial support required for the operation of the commission.
5. To establish that the term of the temporary sub-commission will expire once it delivers its report, in fulfillment of its mandate.

IICA/JIA/Res. 421 (XIII-O/05)

1 September 2005

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 421

**AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, AT ITS
TWENTY-SIXTH REGULAR MEETING, TO APPROVE THE
2006-2010 MEDIUM-TERM PLAN**

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, at its Thirteenth Regular Meeting,

CONSIDERING:

That the Director General-elect for the 2006-2010 period must prepare a proposed Medium Term Plan for said period;

That, according to Article 2.a. of its Rules of Procedure, the IABA is responsible for adopting measures related to the policies and actions of the Institute and, consequently, for approving its Medium-Term Plans;

That the 2002-2006 Medium-Term Plan, currently in force, has provided effective guidance for the actions and transformation of the Institute, which has led to the provision of better cooperation to the Member States and increased participation on their part in the management of the Institute;

That it is in the Institute's interest to continue application of these policies in 2006-2010, bringing them into line with new demands from the Member States for cooperation, and with the foreseeable elements of the context that will affect the Institute's actions in the coming years;

That the participation of the Member States in the process of designing and reaching consensus on the formulation of the 2006-2010 Medium-Term Plan is advisable, and necessary to ensure that it embodies the mandates emerging from the Summit of the Americas process and the ministerial meetings on agriculture and rural life held within the context of said process;

That in the process of preparing the Medium Term Plan it is necessary to take into consideration, inter alia, the priorities of the regional bodies and the emerging demands of all the member countries;

That, given the above, it is necessary to delegate to the Executive Committee authorization to study and approve the proposed 2006-2010 Medium Term Plan and such adjustments as may be required in the 2007 Program Budget to bring it into line with the new guidelines set forth in said Plan,

RESOLVES:

1. To instruct the Director General, together with the SACMI, to prepare the first draft of the IICA 2006-2010 Medium-Term Plan.
2. To instruct the SACMI to analyze, inter alia, the contributions and proposals that emerge from the sub-commission created in IABA Resolution 420, as well as proposals put forth by other regional groups for the preparation of the Medium-Term Plan and the Institute's budget, and as guidance for the institutional transformation process, and to present the corresponding recommendations to the Executive Committee.
3. To establish as basic guidelines for the preparation of the Plan: (i) those elements of the 2002-2006 MTP that should be carried over, and (ii) the priority technical cooperation services requested by the regional groups and countries and, (iii) both the mandates from the Summit of the Americas process and those emerging from the ministerial meetings on agriculture and rural life, especially the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan of Action.
4. To instruct the Director General to present the proposed 2006-2010 Medium-Term Plan to the Executive Committee at its Twenty-sixth Regular Meeting, and to authorize the Committee: (i) to approve the 2006-2010 Medium Term Plan and (ii) to approve such adjustments as may be required in the 2007 Program Budget to allow for its implementation.

IICA/JIA/Res. 422 (XIII-O/05)

1 September 2005

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 422

**STATUS OF THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE TWELFTH REGULAR MEETING
OF THE INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (IABA) AND THE
TWENTY-FOURTH AND TWENTY-FIFTH REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, at its Thirteenth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/JIA/Doc.299(05) "Report on the Status of the Resolutions of the Twelfth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture" and Document IICA/JIA/Doc.300(05) "Report on the Status of the Resolutions of the Twenty-fourth and Twenty-fifth Regular Meetings of the Executive Committee,

CONSIDERING:

That the reports demonstrate that the General Directorate has satisfactorily complied with the resolutions adopted by the IABA at its Twelfth Regular Meeting, and satisfactorily carried out the tasks required to comply with the resolutions adopted at the Twenty-fourth and Twenty-fifth Regular Meetings of the Executive Committee,

RESOLVES:

1. To approve: (i) the "Report on the Status of the Resolutions of the Twelfth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture," and (ii) the "Report on the Status of the Resolutions of the Twenty-fourth and Twenty-fifth Regular Meetings of the Executive Committee."
2. To express satisfaction with the progress reported in complying with the resolutions issued by the Executive Committee and the IABA.

IICA/JIA/Res. 423 (XIII-O/05)

1 September 2005

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 423**DATE AND SITE OF THE FOURTEENTH REGULAR MEETING OF
THE INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (IABA)**

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, at its Thirteenth Regular Meeting,

CONSIDERING:

That, in accordance with Article 16 of the Rules of Procedure of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), regular meetings of the IABA shall be held every two years, preferably during the second half of the second year of the Institute's biennium, and that at each meeting, the Board shall decide on the site and provisional date of the subsequent regular meeting, in accordance with written offers submitted by the governments of the Member States to the Director General;

That, in accordance with Article 17 of the Rules of Procedure of the IABA, the Board shall select a site for its regular meetings from among the offers received, and in accordance with the principle of rotation and geographic distribution;

That, at the Thirteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA, the Government of Guatemala offered that country as the site of the Fourteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA),

RESOLVES:

1. To accept and thank the Government of Guatemala for its generous offer to host the Fourteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA).
2. To hold the Fourteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA in Guatemala during the second half of 2007.

IICA/JIA/Res.424 (XIII-O/03)

1 September 2005

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 424

**2003-2004 BIENNIAL REPORT OF THE CARIBBEAN AGRICULTURAL
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE (CARDI)**

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, at its Thirteenth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/JIA/Doc.296(05) "2003-2004 Biennial Report of the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI),"

CONSIDERING:

That, under the terms of the current agreement between IICA and CARDI, the latter organization is to submit a biennial report to the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) covering technical, financial and administrative matters;

That the Executive Director of CARDI presented said report to this Thirteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA,

RESOLVES:

1. To thank the authorities and personnel of CARDI for the "2003-2004 Biennial Report of the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI)."
2. To congratulate the Executive Director of the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) on the contents and presentation of the Biennial Report.

IICA/JIA/Res. 425 (XIII-O/03)
1 September 2005
Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 425

**2003-2004 BIENNIAL REPORT OF THE TROPICAL AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH AND HIGHER EDUCATION CENTER (CATIE)**

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, at its Thirteenth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/JIA/Doc.297(05) "2003-2004 Biennial Report of the Tropical Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE),"

CONSIDERING:

That, in accordance with Clause Nine of the CATIE Contract, signed between the government of the Republic of Costa Rica and IICA, the Center is to submit a biennial report to the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) covering technical, financial, and administrative matters;

That the Director General of CATIE presented said report to this Thirteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA,

RESOLVES:

1. To thank the authorities and personnel of CATIE for the "2003-2004 Biennial Report of the Tropical Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE)."
2. To congratulate the Director General of the Tropical Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE) on the contents and presentation of the Biennial Report.

IICA/JIA/Res. 426 (XIII-O/05)

1 September 2005

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 426

**STRENGTHENING OF IICA/CATIE RELATIONS
AND PROGRESS IN THE EXECUTION OF JOINT ACTIONS 2002-2004**

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, at its Thirteenth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/JIA/Doc.298(05) "Report on Efforts to Strengthen Relations between IICA and CATIE, and the Implementation of Joint Actions" and Resolution IICA/CE/Res.431 (XXV-O/05) "Strengthening of IICA/CATIE Relations and Progress in Joint Actions,"

CONSIDERING:

That the Governing Bodies of IICA, on different occasions, have attached special attention to strengthening IICA's strategic partnerships, especially with CATIE, given their common origin and the complementary nature of the mandates of both institutions;

That the Director General of IICA has reported on progress by the Institute in consolidating its strategic partnerships, as a means of increasing the effectiveness of its cooperation and making more efficient use of scarce resources;

That IICA and CATIE have made important progress in executing joint actions and strengthening the mechanisms for relations between the two Institutions in technical, administrative and management issues, so as to boost their capabilities and create synergies in order to provide better service to the Member States;

That, in Resolution IICA/CE/Res.431 (XXV-O/05), the Executive Committee urged IICA, CATIE and the Government of Costa Rica, in collaboration with representatives of other Member States, to conclude the analysis of legal, technical and administrative

questions and propose an institutional arrangement that will ensure joint action between IICA and CATIE, and instructed the Director General of IICA to report on same to the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues so that it may submit the corresponding recommendations to the next Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee,

RESOLVES:

1. To accept the report on progress in strengthening the ties between IICA and CATIE and in executing joint activities and projects.
2. To instruct the Director Generals of IICA and CATIE to incorporate into the Annual Reports of their respective institutions a section on IICA/CATIE relations and on the projects and activities they carry out jointly.
3. To express appreciation for and endorse the initiative and measures adopted by the Executive Committee in Resolution IICA/CE/Res.431 (XXV-O/05) calling for the proposal of an institutional arrangement that will ensure joint action between IICA and CATIE, and to require that any proposed arrangement be consulted with the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues for presentation to the next Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee.

IICA/JIA/Res. 427 (XIII-O/05)

1 September 2005

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 427

**VOTE OF THANKS TO THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF THE REPUBLIC
OF ECUADOR AND TO THE AUTHORITIES OF THE CITY OF GUAYAQUIL**

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, at its Thirteenth Regular Meeting,

CONSIDERING:

That, thanks to the hospitality of the people and government of Ecuador, the Third Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Rural Life in the context of the Summit of the Americas process and the Thirteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) were held on August 30 and 31 and September 1, 2005, in the city of Guayaquil;

That, during the plenary sessions, the delegations expressed their profound gratitude to His Excellency, Mr. Pablo Rizzo, Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Ecuador, for the skilled and efficient manner in which he conducted the deliberations, which led to the adoption of important declarations and resolutions on high-priority topics for the hemispheric agenda on agriculture and rural life and on the actions and future of the Institute,

RESOLVES:

1. To express heartfelt appreciation to His Excellency Alejandro Serrano y Lara, Constitutional Vice President of the Republic of Ecuador, for his distinguished and enlightened participation in this event, of such great importance for agriculture and rural life in the Americas.
2. To express our appreciation to the Mayor, Jaime Nebot, and the people of the city of Guayaquil, and the government of Ecuador for their warm and generous

hospitality and for their many contributions to the success of the Third Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Rural Life.

3. To express our appreciation to the Minister of Agriculture and Livestock, Pablo Rizzo, for his great willingness to engage in constructive dialogue with his colleagues and for the efficient and fair manner in which he chaired the meeting; to the diligent personnel of the Ministries of Agriculture and Livestock and of Foreign Relations, as well as of other public and private institutions in the Republic of Ecuador, for the cordial welcome and generous support provided, which has been a determining factor in the success of the Third Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas in the context of the Summit of the Americas process and the Thirteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA.

SIGNING OF THE REPORT

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

Pursuant to Article 85 of the Rules of Procedure of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture, the Report of the Thirteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture is hereby signed in Spanish, French, English and Portuguese, the official languages of that meeting, at 18:00 on the first day of September of the year two thousand and five.

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

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

Guayaquil, Ecuador

Chelston W. B. Brathwaite
Director General of IICA and
Ex-officio Secretary

Pablo Rizzo Pastor
Minister of Agriculture and
Livestock
Ministry of Agriculture and
Livestock
Chairman

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INAUGURAL SESSION

**ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY DR. ALEJANDRO SERRANO
AGUILAR, CONSTITUTIONAL VICE PRESIDENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF ECUADOR, SPEAKING FOR THE CONSTITUTIONAL
PRESIDENT OF ECUADOR**

The President of the Republic has asked me to convey to you, on behalf of the people and Government of Ecuador, a cordial welcome and our best wishes for a pleasant and fruitful stay in our country.

As in the case of other countries represented here today, the Ecuadorian Government is committed to reaching the millennium objectives and targets for the year 2015, to halve the percentage of people whose income is less than US\$1 a day and who suffer from hunger; to reduce by two-thirds the mortality rate of children under five; to reduce by three quarters the maternal mortality rate; to halt and reverse the spread of AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis; to halve the proportion of people without access to safe water; and, in cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, to provide access to special drugs in developing countries.

Therefore, the Ministerial Meeting and the meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture are of particular importance for the future of our peoples, especially for those who work daily in the countryside, struggling with the uncertainties of nature and the risks and whims of markets that often dash the hopes of campesinos and agricultural entrepreneurs for a better life.

The dramatic situation of poverty and social exclusion that afflicts our rural brothers and sisters is very troubling and dangerous, and the historical debt we owe them and must pay is, without a doubt, the main objective of our development policies. Rural poverty, the source of all poverty, needs to be fought effectively and efficiently, as a matter of urgency. It is a scourge that produces rampant migration from the countryside to our cities, with migrants concentrated on the outskirts of our cities and towns, and creating a serious threat to the peace we so desire for all our peoples. Above all, this exodus to the modern El Dorado leaves behind grave social problems, such as broken families, and often precipitates regrettable tragedies as those we recently experienced.

Despite all our efforts, we have been unable to respond effectively to the social demands of the campesinos of our Americas, and poverty continues unabated to take root in rural families.

Thus, the authorities of our countries and international lending and technical assistance agencies must work, with the active participation of society, to find new and creative strategies for bringing these important segments of society into development.

I am convinced that the efforts we make on behalf of agriculture will contribute enormously to the achievement of the millennium goals.

Because of its links to other sectors, agriculture contributes to growth by absorbing labor, generating foreign exchange, using and conserving natural resources, and generating investment capital.

The challenges posed by the new context oblige us to look at agriculture from another perspective, to ensure that it is given proper consideration in major political decisions.

No better investment can be made than one in education, health and production systems; such investments directly target the fundamental rights of human beings and society. Hence, the Ecuadorian government firmly supports efforts to strengthen the country's agricultural health system, so it can serve as a linchpin that guarantees food production and, accordingly, health and ecological equilibrium.

We hope, honorable ministers, that as a result of your deliberations, we will be able to join efforts to reach these goals. The Ecuadorian Government will continue to support the implementation and application of the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan of Action for Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas, as agreed to in the Declaration of Nuevo León signed at the Special Summit of the Americas.

Our government has attached special attention to ensuring the continuity of the ministerial process that is culminating in this hemispheric meeting. The President of the Republic has supported the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock and other government institutions to ensure that it is held under optimum conditions.

It is in your hands to ensure that this ministerial process contributes to building a more just, prosperous, and equitable America. We have observed with interest and enthusiasm the preparations for this ministerial meeting, and would like to heartily recognize the work of the ministers of agriculture and their ministerial delegates to build consensus on the agreements to be adopted at this meeting, which give a sense of hemispheric identity to the actors responsible for agricultural development and the well-being of rural communities.

I urge you all to strengthen the commitment to the agricultural sector, to the men and women living in the countryside and rural communities who long for better living conditions. Let this be a solid commitment with organizations, research institutions, professionals, technical personnel, and local leaders to support their fellow citizens in meeting the challenge of making sustainable development a reality in agriculture and our rural communities.

All of us who are involved or are responsible, in one way or another, for that development are called upon to make that commitment.

In formally and solemnly inaugurating the Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas, I do so convinced that the ministerial dialogue and the Commitment of Guayaquil signed here will address the needs, concerns and demands of all those who work in the countryside. May they be instrumental in promoting the fair and balanced development we so desire for our rural society, a society formed by bold and enterprising entrepreneurs and a large community of campesinos who have been awaiting better living conditions for decades.

Thank you very much.

**ADDRESS BY AMBASSADOR ALBERT R. RAMDIN,
ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES (OAS)**

I am indeed honored to be here with you today in this beautiful city of Guayaquil as we launch this important Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas. The issues that will be addressed over the coming two days are indeed cross-cutting, far-reaching and of strategic importance for the countries of the Americas.

Mr. Vice President, distinguished delegates, allow me at the outset to pay tribute to the Director General of IICA, Dr Chelston Braithwaite, who has demonstrated excellent leadership qualities in putting to task his academic agricultural knowledge and managerial skills, in transforming IICA into an effective hemispheric agricultural body. I would also like to thank his staff for their pioneering work in countries across this Hemisphere. Dr. Braithwaite, I and the rest of the Hemisphere, I am sure, look forward to working with you in the years ahead.

IICA's vision of promoting the sustainable development of agriculture, food security and the prosperity of rural communities in the Americas responds in a practical way to some of the most pressing development needs in our Hemisphere. In our view, agriculture will continue to be one of the key strategic pillars in fighting poverty, creating employment, safeguarding social stability, and providing citizens with a tangible stake in the development of their local communities and their countries.

Importance of Agriculture in the Rural Economy

Even though growth in agriculture in the Americas has slowed, the region is determined to design and implement policies aimed at the improvement of rural development, taking into consideration its economic, social and environmental dimensions and impacts.

When all the backward and forward linkages with agriculture, including transportation, shipping, and agribusiness are taken into account, the contribution of agriculture to countries' Gross Domestic Product is even more significant than national statistics would suggest. IICA's innovative research shows that agriculture and agribusiness account for 32% of GDP in Argentina, 38.5% in Brazil, 15% in Canada, 16% in Ecuador, 13% in Jamaica, and 30% in Nicaragua.

Even with this scenario, we are aware that many countries in our Hemisphere, especially the more vulnerable economies of the Caribbean, are facing huge challenges to their agricultural sector and, by extension, their entire economies. This includes the annual threat of natural disasters. The phasing out of preferential agreements with respect to bananas, sugar and other commodities has seriously impacted agro-based economies such as those of the Windward Islands.

It is true that the international economic order has changed. At the same time, we must recognize that threats to economic livelihoods create threats to social order, stability and indeed democratic governance. This is therefore cause for concern and action. We should do everything possible to ensure that the changed dynamics worldwide and in our own region do not result in the social and economic marginalization of countries and/or groups.

Ladies and Gentlemen, as partners in the Inter-American System, we must find innovative ways to remain competitive and to provide vulnerable economies with the tools to adjust to the changing global marketplace. A new vision of agricultural issues which includes a broader range of linkages between production and trade competitiveness must be achieved. This vision must embrace a balance between an export-based development model and sustainable rural development. The available stock and quality of agricultural trade services, such as research, technology, financing, and sanitation policies, are deficient in our region and must be revitalized.

We must also develop the necessary public and private capacity to incorporate modern concepts of management associated with new farming technologies in order to improve production and the quality of work of our rural workers. IICA's role in this process of modernization and adjustment is of critical importance.

IICA and the Summit Process

The Organization of American States believes in the importance of continuing to promote medium and long-term national strategies toward sustainable improvement in agriculture and rural life. As Presidents and Heads of Government agreed at the Third Summit of the Americas in Quebec City, all actors – parliamentarians, civil society organizations and the scientific and academic sectors – should be working along with governments to accomplish this goal. At that Summit, IICA was charged with fostering dialogue and consensus building on critical aspects of agricultural development, along with the continued provision of technical cooperation services. Again, at the Special Summit of the Americas in January 2004 in Monterrey, governments reaffirmed their support for a “sustained effort to improve living conditions for inhabitants of rural areas

by promoting investment and creating a favorable environment to achieve sustainable improvements in agriculture.”

As we prepare for the IV Summit of the Americas in Argentina, the challenge for that encounter at the highest political level will be to demonstrate unity and solidarity, continue the process of consensus building and further the hemispheric political agenda of tackling poverty, creating jobs and enhancing trade.

OAS Development Agenda

While the OAS agenda revolves around democracy, security and development, we are fully aware that, if development is to be inclusive, then economic reforms, trade agreements and business initiatives must provide benefits that are accessible to all. Seventy percent (70%) of the world's poor live in rural areas. In our Hemisphere, this large population includes large numbers of traditionally underserved communities, including indigenous peoples, women and youth. Almost 240 million citizens of the Americas have to survive with less than a dollar a day, a significant percentage of whom reside in rural areas.

We applaud the spread of democracy in the Hemisphere. However, all of us are painfully aware that countries have not always been successful in delivering the promised fruits of democracy and economic reform. This failure, in turn, threatens the social and political fabric, and creates unstable environments that threaten the ability of governments to govern. We must realize that the results of democratic weaknesses, economic crises and social unrest will ultimately result in problems for all, as many of our challenges and problems are inter-related and internationalized. I call upon all the countries in the Hemisphere to use their national assets to collectively fight against poverty, illiteracy, inequality and social injustice.

Ecuador, like many countries, faces its own challenges in this regard. I encourage the continuation of constructive dialogue and call for a renewed commitment on the part of the Executive and Legislative Branches as well as all other political, economic and social forces to work together to address important issues in this country.

In accordance with the Inter-American Democratic Charter, the General Secretariat of the OAS is supporting the efforts of the Government of Ecuador to strengthen the country's democratic institutions, in particular, the Supreme Court selection process now underway.

In the past week, the OAS has had observers on the ground in Ecuador meeting with ministers of government, political parties, diplomats, UN observers, NGOs and other key actors. It is our hope that OAS engagement will help solidify the judicial selection process, and assist the country in moving forward with its democratic consolidation and development agendas. Secretary Insulza and the OAS appreciate the support our mission has received from President Palacio, and we are satisfied with the results of the mission.

Before I end my presentation, Mr. Vice President, I take this opportunity to extend to you and the people of Ecuador my sympathy on the recent tragic loss of lives of Ecuadoran nationals at sea. The loss of each one of these individuals is a tragedy and the OAS stands in solidarity with you and the Ecuadoran people in mourning their loss. This terrible event is also a tragedy for the Americas, where accidents such as these are becoming all too common. It is incumbent upon us as a region to take steps to address the underlying causes that lead to such desperate acts and result in these awful tragedies.

Mr. Vice President, Ladies and Gentlemen, here, as in other countries, agriculture will play a key role in rural development. In the next decade, we hope that every rural family in the Americas will have the tools with which they can have access to education, clean water and health care, and become full participants in the social, cultural, political and economic life of the countries in which they live.

The agricultural sector remains a driving force behind the national economic engine. We need to look ahead and design strategic policies to develop and maintain the productive capacity in rural areas. We also need to support equitable access to education, finance and credit, supportive infrastructure and market access so as to promote growth in production, trade and employment.

The new OAS leadership believes that we can build a Hemisphere that is characterized by prosperity, stability and solidarity. We possess the knowledge, the human and natural resources, as well as the capacity to identify and allocate the required financial resources. What we need is political will and commitment to work toward hemispheric objectives of eliminating poverty, and giving equal rights and opportunity to those who are marginalized. What we need is structural and constructive engagement amongst ourselves.

IICA's work in the Hemisphere has demonstrated the great things that can be accomplished when governments, non-governmental organizations, private companies and civil society work together for the common good. The OAS is committed to creating partnerships for action and I look forward to working with IICA, the ministers and high authorities represented here as we move forward.

Thank you.

**ADDRESS BY PABLO RIZZO PASTOR,
MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK OF ECUADOR**

It is an honor for me to be here with you this afternoon and to welcome you most cordially to our country. I do so aware of the responsibility this entails for the 34 ministers of agriculture of the Americas, who have gathered here shortly before the scheduled meetings of the highest political leaders of the world and of the Americas.

In about two weeks, the Heads of State and Government of the world will be meeting, from September 14-16, under the aegis of the United Nations, to review progress vis-à-vis the agreements reached at the Millennium Summit. Also, we are just two months from the Fourth Summit of the Americas, which is scheduled to take place on November 4 and 5 in Mar del Plata, Argentina, under the slogan "*Creating jobs to fight poverty and strengthen democratic governance.*"

Five years have passed since the Heads of State and Government of the world adopted the Millennium Development Goals for which the Government of Ecuador has already prepared its Action Plan, which we call "Vision 2020." In addition, more than four years have passed since the Heads of State and Government of the Americas reiterated their commitment to make additional efforts to reach the Development Goals, especially to halve, by the year 2015, the proportion of people living in extreme poverty. Our government is also working to reduce the percentage of people living in extreme poverty by pursuing the goals set out in the Shared Vision 2015 component of the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan of Action. The Government of Ecuador, through our Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, will soon be presenting the Agricultural Strategies for 2005-2015 to the sector, which will be regarded as State policies.

It was at the Third Summit of the Americas, held in Quebec City in April 2001, that the Heads of State and Government of the Americas pledged to promote programs to improve agriculture and rural life and to foster agroindustry as a key contribution to efforts to reduce poverty and promote integral development.

All the political support we have received from our leaders commits us to action. This support was confirmed a little more than a year and a half ago at the Special Summit when the Heads of State and Government gave their political support to the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan of Action for Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas, which we approved at our Second Ministerial Meeting in Panama, in November 2003. This support from the leaders of the Americas further strengthens our resolve because it changed the AGRO Plan from a ministerial agreement into a presidential mandate and a strategic framework for orienting action in the agricultural sector of the Americas.

At this our Third Ministerial Meeting, being held in Guayaquil, and in preparation for the Fourth Summit of the Americas, to take place in Mar del Plata, Argentina, we must focus on reducing poverty, creating jobs, and promoting rural prosperity in the Americas.

Therefore, we must work to ensure a different future for all those people who have placed their trust in us, who must understand that there will be hope for a better life, which will be borne out by the signing of the Ministerial Agreement of Guayaquil.

Natural resources are regarded as the principal source of wealth in all countries; businesses based on them move US\$400 billion per year, which is of strategic importance to all economies.

Ecuador is one of the ten countries of the world with the greatest biodiversity. Its great agro-ecological reserve includes 5,000 tree species and 18,000 higher species, which reveal the amazing biodiversity of its flora. Its hydrographic map includes 31 watershed systems, 79 basins, and 114 sub-basins, and it has an agricultural frontier of 12 million hectares of arable land.

The agricultural sector in Ecuador plays a very important role in the country's economy, with bananas being our second most important export after oil. Our rural communities, including the Montubio people, indigenous groups, and Afro-Ecuadorians, constitute a highly disparate population. As a result, it is necessary to strike a balance between rural and urban areas, which is key to democratic governance. We should also mention that agribusinesses will be a key factor in promoting economic development in Ecuador.

We must also acknowledge that, like most of the countries represented here today, we face serious problems vis-à-vis rural poverty, and I am certain we share this great concern with each of them.

For this reason, we must not forget that we are responsible for implementing our leaders' decisions, which will enable us to make the changes they have called for so the lives of all the men and women living in rural areas can be more humane, offering their families a home where they can live with dignity, and guaranteeing them fair and equitable trade to their products.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Director General of IICA for the support we have received throughout the year in organizing this meeting.

In this regard, the Thirteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture, which will immediately follow the Third Ministerial Meeting, will be an opportune moment for recognizing IICA's important work as an institutional partner of the Summits process, following its designation as such by our Heads of State and Government in the Declaration of Quebec City. On the basis of our agreements, it will adjust its Medium-Term Plan for the Director General's new term in office, once he has been reelected in our second important meeting.

We have worked hard to provide a suitable setting for these meetings, ensuring the provision of appropriate facilities, equipment and staff, so that we may fulfill the mission entrusted to us by the Heads of State and Government in Quebec and subsequently ratified in Monterrey, Mexico.

Finally, I would like to conclude by saying that Ecuador is both proud and satisfied to welcome you so that we may renew our commitment to setting a new course for agriculture and rural life in our countries. May all our words become a reality so that the future will be a new dawn for agriculture in the Americas.

Thank you very much.

**ADDRESS BY DR. CHELSTON W.D. BRATHWAITE,
DIRECTOR GENERAL OF IICA**

On behalf of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, I have the honor to extend to you a most cordial welcome to the inauguration of the Third Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas and the Thirteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture. We are deeply honored by the presence of His Excellency, Dr. Alejandro Serrano Aguilar, Constitutional Vice President of the Republic of Ecuador.

On behalf of IICA, and personally, I would like to begin by expressing our sincere gratitude for the warm welcome and hospitality we have received, and for the kind reception and comfortable accommodations you have arranged for our stay in Guayaquil.

We meet in the shadow of the majestic Andes, two degrees south of the equator, in a city of cultural diversity, a city of renewal that has been recognized by the United Nations Development Programme as a city of the future.

Two years ago, in Panama City, the ministers and secretaries of agriculture of the hemisphere accepted the cordial invitation of the Government of Ecuador to hold this hemispheric meeting in the vibrant city of Guayaquil.

This generous offer will allow us to enjoy the warmth of the people and the climate of Ecuador, and to learn more about the development of this bountiful region of the country. We are aware that the climate here is temperate thanks to a soft breeze off the Pacific Ocean. Also, we recall that it was not far from here that Charles Darwin came up with his theory of evolution, in the Galapagos Islands, a place for reflection, a place for inspiration and a place to think about the past and the future.

Mr. Vice President, we come to your country to reflect on and discuss the strategic future of the agricultural sector in the Americas. We come to continue building a bridge to the future so that many more of our people may cross over from a life of despair to a life of rural prosperity.

We are aware that, despite our recent efforts, 225 million of our people still live in poverty, which is reflected in urban and rural crime, in the traffic of illicit drugs and in violence. Poverty threatens democratic governance and the rule of law in our countries. Our societies will not be sustainable unless we solve this problem in our lifetime. We

come to examine the progress that has been made in promoting rural prosperity, and to plan for the future, a future that promises to be the most exciting of all times if we continue to pursue policies of social inclusion aimed at enabling everyone to be a part of that future.

I am pleased to share with you some of our foremost thinking vis-à-vis our responsibilities –current and future– with regard to agriculture in the 21st century.

We have a shared vision of the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan of Action, and we face challenges in fulfilling its laudable purposes; at the same time, we pursue the overarching objectives of the Millennium Development Goals. For all these reasons, we must assume new responsibilities and play a more dynamic and strategic role in helping to bring greater prosperity to the rural communities of our countries.

Why a new vision of agriculture?

As stated at the Second Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Rural Life, the many dimensions involved and the magnitude of the actions required within the systemic concept of agricultural production chains and rural territories justify a change of vision.

I would like to mention just three of many reasons for a change:

First, the current development model needs more specific strategies for improving the living conditions of the least advantaged groups.

Secondly, I would like to reiterate what IICA has been emphasizing in several of its documents during the last few years: given the true contribution of agriculture to the overall economy, it deserves a greater share of public and private resources for the implementation of modern policies.

IICA has demonstrated that agriculture's contribution is generally larger than that reflected in official statistics. This has been confirmed by recent research findings of other international agencies, such as the World Bank, and some of the countries of the region. For example, a document on agriculture in Ecuador, to be presented during this meeting, shows that national statistics claim that agriculture accounts for 9% of the economy of the country. The true contribution, on the other hand, is 23%.

Thirdly, while globalization and trade liberalization offer opportunities to many sectors, they also pose enormous challenges in the areas of competitiveness, technology and innovation, and job creation.

How do we view the new vision?

Our vision is that agriculture should be viewed more broadly, as a systemic sector that transcends the traditional concept of agriculture as a means of primary production.

It is necessary to recognize the potential of agriculture and rural territories to be involved in different ways of producing the goods and services needed by society.

It is based on a harmonious relationship between agriculture, society and the environment which will boost productivity, improve competitiveness, and strengthen social responsibility, and is founded on equity, ethics, and natural resource conservation.

Under this approach, in addition to the traditional goods produced by agriculture, the sector will provide society with access to other strategic goods, including bio-energy, environmental services, biodiversity, the landscape of rural areas, cultural identity, and social and demographic stability.

These goods and services, if properly used, have great potential for stimulating the economy as a whole, and rural economies in particular, creating jobs, reducing poverty, and contributing to the conservation of the environment and biodiversity.

According to this vision, what are our new responsibilities?

The first has to do with energy. Given the current oil crisis, the potential of agriculture as a source of energy that can be used to replace petroleum-based products is taking on strategic importance.

In the 21st century, agro-energy is emerging as an alternative that will help reduce spending on oil in many countries and have a positive impact on preserving the environment and creating jobs.

The second responsibility has to do with food security. Food security in a globalized world poses a great challenge for the countries of the Americas as the only net food-exporting region in the world. This region still has the capacity to expand the amount of

agricultural land, and will be of key importance in feeding the more than 7 billion people who will have higher incomes and better living conditions by the year 2015.

In this sense, we must give more thought to food safety and the nutritional and social value of food. Here, the challenge will be not only to produce the amount of food that will be needed, but also to ensure that the food produced will satisfy the tastes and preferences of markets and stand up to the demands of an increasingly discriminating consumer.

The third responsibility to be assumed by the agriculture of the 21st century is to contribute to providing rural inhabitants with dignified and well-remunerated employment. Agriculture must contribute to creating more and better jobs in rural territories as a means of creating rural prosperity and reducing rural poverty. Accordingly, policies and actions need to be promoted to foster ties between agriculture and other sectors of the economy, and to strengthen the ties between the rural patrimony and agriculture.

The fourth responsibility is that agriculture should play a more important role in ensuring social equilibrium, the aim being unequivocally to reduce the gap between rich and poor, and between urban and rural areas. To accomplish this, priority should be attached to increasing public and private investment in rural territories, which continue to exert pressure on cities and to swell urban populations as a result of migration from the countryside to the cities.

All of the foregoing will be of little value if we do not strengthen two assets that are necessary for overcoming problems in the countryside: social capital and human capital. It is important to point out that 80% of all companies in Latin America are medium- and small-sized and micro-enterprises, which makes their contribution to job creation, production and wealth a matter of key importance. Efforts will also have to be made to improve the quality of social capital and the capacity of the institutions that provide support, which are called upon to find innovative ways to remove the hurdles to development.

The fifth responsibility of the new vision is to consider that agriculture should contribute to integration among nations.

Mr. Vice President, it is important that the meeting that we are inaugurating today serve as an instrument for dialogue and consensus building in the process to define more ambitious regional and hemispheric agendas.

While we cannot ignore our differences, we can certainly build on our similarities to define sound positions for future meetings on trade, health, poverty, and development in general.

For this reason, we insist on the need to intensify dialogue, share experiences and promote horizontal cooperation, with a view to improving the competencies of the less-developed countries and their stakeholders, enabling agriculture and rural development to fulfill an integrating, and not divisive, role among the nations of the planet. This meeting can serve as a golden opportunity to address important topics in the context of the next WTO meeting, to be held in Hong Kong, especially as concerns the topic of trade integration.

In this connection, we must urge all our countries to make their best effort and focus all their creativity on building a system of fair trade for all, and on translating into reality the aspiration set forth in the Doha Declaration, that international trade contribute to economic development and poverty alleviation.

We are convinced that modernization of the agricultural sector and priority attention to rural areas are the key to reducing poverty, ensuring food security and fostering sustainable development in the Americas.

I respectfully urge that we pool our efforts to implement new strategies, policies, actions, and investments to foster growth in agriculture and the rural milieu, so that we can continue making a noble and sustained contribution to the economies of our nations.

I would not want to conclude my remarks without expressing the sincere gratitude of IICA, and mine personally, to the government of Ecuador, its Ministry of Foreign Affairs, its Minister of Agriculture and Livestock, Pablo Rizzo Pastor, its Deputy Minister, Hernán Chiriboga, and their team, for the support received and their efficiency in organizing this meeting.

I would also like to convey heartfelt thanks to the mayor of Guayaquil, Jaime Nebot, for the hospitality and support we have received since the very first moment he heard about this event.

Finally, I would like to thank you, Mr. Vice President, for your participation in this meeting and for all your support.

Thank you very much.

**OPENING OF THE THIRD MINISTERIAL MEETING
“AGRICULTURE AND RURAL LIFE”**

**ADDRESS BY MR. PABLO RIZZO PASTOR, MINISTER OF
AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK OF ECUADOR AT THE
INAUGURATION OF THE THIRD MINISTERIAL MEETING ON
AGRICULTURE AND RURAL LIFE, HELD WITHIN THE
FRAMEWORK OF THE SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS PROCESS**

It is an honor to chair this Third Ministerial Meeting “Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas”, held within the framework of the Summit of the Americas process.

This is an opportunity to pick up where we left off in our dialogue in 2003, when we came to agreement on the Shared Vision of 2015 for agriculture and rural life in our countries. Two years after approving it, and considering the new scenarios before us, I am very pleased to find that it is still timely and I applaud the vision of the ministers at that time.

To begin with, I must recognize the work of our Ministerial Delegates in updating the Hemispheric Agenda for application in 2006-2007, defining the measures needed to implement it, monitoring its application and, above all, helping us prepare to assess how we can come closer to realizing our vision.

Our Ministerial Delegates selected “Promoting State Policies for Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas” as the slogan for the proposed updated Hemispheric Agenda they are presenting us. Present circumstances in Ecuador convince me that this is the direction in which we should be headed.

Dialogue and negotiation are the hallmark of these times. Ecuador now has a participatory democracy in which we have made firm commitments to agricultural producers. All of our countries are involved in negotiating new trade agreements. Therefore, we must put our commitments to producers and other key actors of the agricultural sector first when negotiating new trade agreements, because in the end, the interests of these actors are the interests of our countries. If these negotiations are to serve as instruments for moving us forward in achieving the Shared Vision of 2015, we need a transparent and concerted strategic framework. That is the role of State policies.

In Ecuador, we are working to integrate concerted strategies and the State policies needed to execute them into our domestic agenda. This has been a constant topic in my discussions with the different stakeholders of the agricultural sector, and is due to the fact that I have pledged to introduce such State policies during the term of this government.

This Ministerial Meeting is of the utmost importance for Ecuador at this particular time. We know that a number of you have had very valuable experiences in this area, and the members of the Community of Agriculture of Ecuador look forward with great enthusiasm and expectation to the information we will glean from your interventions in the ministerial dialogue.

We have arrived at this Third Ministerial Meeting with numerous inputs that were arrived at by consensus among our Ministerial Delegates. This will greatly facilitate our work and leave us time to share experiences, which is what I consider most important at these meetings. Specifically, they moved forward with two of the three mandates we gave them in 2003:

- i) Report on the progress made to implement the 2003-2005 Hemispheric Agenda. To this end, the Secretariat has prepared a report based on the 64 reports presented by our Ministerial Delegates. This very valuable information will be presented to us by the Secretariat.
- ii) Update the Hemispheric Agenda, for application in the 2006-2007 period. This will be covered in the report presented by the chair of the 2005 GRICA meeting. As I already mentioned, having these reports will make it possible for us to devote most of our time to discussing some of the critical topics on the updated Hemispheric Agenda we are to sign.

Regarding the third mandate, the Ministerial proposal to the Fourth Summit is something we will need to define during this meeting.

Returning to the heart of our meeting, the ministerial dialogue, the following topics have been selected as the focus for our discussions:

- i) Strategic topics as we approach 2015: the potential of agro-biotechnologies; the prospects of the agro-energy industry.
- ii) Poverty reduction, job creation, and the promotion of rural prosperity.
- iii) State policies for agriculture and rural life.
- iv) Cooperation among countries and from international organizations.

To delve into any of these topics would be to get ahead of our discussions, which I am convinced will be very enriching due to your presence here.

In concluding, I would like to ask the following question: How can we measure our progress in advancing toward that Shared Vision of 2015? To answer this question, we need an information system on agriculture and rural life that will enable us to monitor and assess the outcomes of our actions.

The first component of the system is the reports from the countries on actions taken to fulfill the commitments assumed in the 2003-2005 and 2006-2007 hemispheric agendas. We need, however, a second component that refers to the real performance of agriculture and the rural environment as a result of our actions.

How can we build such an information system? To do this, we will have the support of the Secretariat of the Ministerial Meetings and certain international organizations. This is a fundamental task we must address.

**OPENING OF THE THIRTEENTH REGULAR
MEETING OF THE INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF
AGRICULTURE (IABA)**

**ADDRESS BY DR. CHELSTON W.D. BRATHWAITE, DIRECTOR
GENERAL OF IICA, AT THE THIRTEENTH REGULAR MEETING
OF THE INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

Leading Change and Institutional Reform at IICA

I wish to thank you for accompanying me during the last four years in the arduous task of institutional modernization which we began together in 2002.

Today, I wish to share with you the achievements of the Administration to date and some thoughts for the future.

Introduction

At the Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) held in Bavaro, Dominican Republic, on November 26, 2001, I stated in my acceptance speech that IICA in the 21st Century must embrace a new style of technical cooperation that emphasized operational efficiency, prudent financial management, better use of human resources, expanded international strategic partnerships and a new relationship with Member States based on participation, transparency and accountability.

When I took up the office of Director General on January 14, 2002, I initiated a process of institutional reform to make IICA a modern development institution at the service of the Member States, focusing on strengthening the Institute to maintain its place of technical excellence and leadership in the agricultural community of the Americas. The cornerstone of the reform process was the implementation of a new technical cooperation model aimed at strengthening the relationship between the Institute and its Member States.

Today, therefore, I wish to speak about our efforts to promote:
operational efficiency;

1. prudent financial management;
2. better use of our human resources;
3. expanded strategic partnerships; and
4. a new relationship with our Member States based on participation, transparency and accountability.

At the Third Summit of the Americas, held in Quebec City, in April 2001, the Heads of State and Government of the Americas recognized that agriculture and rural life have a key role to play in reducing poverty and fostering integral development in the countries. IICA's role was expanded beyond the provision of technical cooperation services to include fostering dialogue and consensus building on critical aspects of agricultural development, the environment and the rural milieu, within the framework of integration and the search for hemispheric prosperity. The Institute also became one of six institutions which were given responsibility for following up on the mandates of the Summit process.

Against this backdrop, it was, therefore, agreed in the 2002-2006 Medium-Term Plan that we should transform IICA into an institution that promotes the sustainable development of agriculture, food security and the prosperity of rural communities in the Americas.

When this Administration assumed responsibility for the Institute in 2002, our major goal was, therefore, to contribute to a process of institutional reform so that we could convert IICA into a modern organization at the service of the Member States.

The reform process was led by a deep conviction that:

- The challenges we face in the Twenty-first Century demand that either we reform existing institutions or we create new ones.
- Our job in this Administration is not only to manage the Institute, but also to look into the future and see IICA not only for what it is today, but also for what it can become tomorrow.
- The Institute needs to maintain its place of technical excellence and technical leadership in the agricultural rural community of the Americas.
- Technical cooperation in the 21st Century must be based on partnership and shared responsibility between international institutions and the recipient countries.
- The application of local knowledge is a critical requirement for success in development projects, and

- Organizations of the 21st Century must move beyond the task of self-preservation, must be accountable and transparent, and must assume a higher responsibility of service to stakeholders and social responsibility to society.

A modern institution

The Administration also concluded that there are 10 characteristics that a modern institution must have for success in the 21st Century:

1. A strategic vision and an appropriate implementation strategy;
2. An appropriate management structure;
3. Appropriate mechanisms for performance management and evaluation;
4. A definition of its clientele, its strategic partners and its competitors;
5. Appropriate human resource management policies;
6. Appropriate financial management policies, procedures and controls;
7. Strategies for the promotion of corporate communication and promotion of a corporate image;
8. Ethical principles and values;
9. Social responsibility; and
10. The capacity to think and to anticipate the future.

I would like to define how these ten characteristics were addressed in the IICA reform process over the past three years.

1. Strategic vision and implementation strategy

1.1. Strategic Vision

The specific thematic initiatives to implement the plan were classified in the following strategic areas:

- Promotion of Agribusiness Development;
- Support to Trade Policies and Trade Negotiations;
- Promotion of Technology and Innovation in Agriculture;
- Support to Agricultural Health and Food Safety Programs;
- Promotion of Sustainable Rural Development.

1.2 Implementation Strategy

In response to new mandates received by the Institute, and considering the challenges that lie ahead for agriculture and rural life in the 21st century, this administration adopted a new model for the provision of technical cooperation.

Through the Offices in the Member States, IICA developed national technical cooperation agendas based on an ongoing dialogue with national authorities and other key stakeholders in the agricultural sector (public organizations, the private sector, civil society, NGOs, academia, etc.) in order to bring IICA's actions in the countries in line with national priorities and development plans, taking into account the Institute's strategic areas of action and strengths.

Preparation of these agendas represents a new approach to technical cooperation, one that emphasizes participation, partnership, cooperation and demand-driven efforts.

The National Agendas recognize the unique nature of each of the Institute's Member States, and the approach used in preparing them is holistic and inter-thematic. They afford an opportunity for the principal actors in agriculture and rural development to contribute significantly to developing IICA's technical cooperation programme, and take ownership of the program, based on mutually agreed upon human and financial resources.

1.3 Regional Agendas

The second major component of the model is the development of regional agendas for technical cooperation, which also involves a broad-based process of consultation and consensus building. Every effort is made to encourage the active participation of the key stakeholders involved in IICA's technical cooperation actions at the regional level. Existing institutional regional mechanisms, such as CORECA in Central America, the CAS in South America and the Caribbean Alliance for the Sustainable Development of Agriculture and the Rural Milieu in the Wider Caribbean, are key players in this process.

Preparation of the Regional Agendas includes two important components:

- Analysis of the National Agendas of the countries in each given region, in order to develop and promote actions of regional scope to solve problems shared by a group of countries, and
- The Institute's commitment to continue supporting integration processes through existing mechanisms operating at the regional and sub-regional levels.

Taking into consideration the specific characteristics and needs of each region, the first step in preparing the regional agendas is to coordinate the Institute's efforts and to align IICA's actions with regional priorities in order to achieve significant impact.

IICA's Directors of Regional Operations report to the respective regional Council of Ministers, or their equivalent, and organize an annual seminar to present them with the Regional Annual Report on the actions taken by IICA during the year at the regional level. This opportunity is also used to review and adjust the Agendas.

As a result of this new strategy, we have:

- **Improved relationships with our Member States**

The development of the National Agendas, the preparation of national annual reports, the presentation of these national reports in an annual seminar and the incorporation of ideas and suggestions from the seminar into our work plans for the next year have greatly improved our relationship with the Member States. This approach generates partnership, accountability and transparency, and builds confidence and trust.

- **Increased Technical Cooperation Actions**

We have successfully changed the actions in several of our Offices which were primarily focused on administering financial resources and which are now providers of technical cooperation services. Almost all new agreements which we have signed incorporate technical cooperation components.

- **Increased technical cooperation in Canada and the United States**

Technical cooperation activities in biotechnology, information and agricultural health were increased in Canada and the United States, countries that were once only providers of financial resources to the Institute. We have also promoted greater regional integration between the NAFTA countries by strengthening regional mechanisms such as PROCINORTE and the Tri-national Council.

- **Increased Private-Sector Participation**

Improved relationships with the private sector at national and regional levels, and the establishment of the 36th Office of the Institute in Miami, which is focused on agribusiness development in the hemisphere, will enhance private-sector participation in the future.

- **Increased horizontal technical cooperation**

Horizontal technical cooperation between and among countries, between and among the regions has increased as a result of the elimination of the Regional Centres and the building of the hemispheric team of national specialists, regional specialists, country Representatives and Directors of Thematic Areas.

- **Increased inter-sector linkages**

The vision of expanded agriculture makes it possible to strengthen linkages between agriculture and other activities in the economy, rural society, natural resources and the environment.

There is great potential for developing the links among agriculture, rural communities and the environment, which can serve as the basis for rural prosperity and job creation in rural areas. Examples are agro-tourism, ecotourism, environmental services, forest products and food processing.

In this regard, IICA promoted a regional agro-tourism linkages centre, based in Barbados, to explore opportunities for effectively linking the tourism market to locally produced food and promote the concepts of quality and reliability in food production in the Caribbean. This organized relationship has been financially beneficial for both the farmers and hotels. This result has far-reaching implications as, with the necessary governmental and political will and resolve, this model can be replicated in the rest of the hospitality industry and the supermarket chains.

It is important to think of the expanded agricultural sector not only as a source of employment, water, food and energy, but also as a source of landscapes and opportunities for recreation and adventure.

Another example relates to agriculture as a source of energy. Faced with a new oil crisis, the countries are again beginning to look at alternative energy sources. Brazil already produces alcohol-based fuel from sugarcane, and other countries are starting to use grains, especially sorghum, while bio-diesel fuel is beginning to be marketed. Agriculture holds great promise for providing sustainable energy for the future.

2. An appropriate management structure

We implemented a new institutional structure based on an integrated management framework which was simpler and more horizontal.

We eliminated the regional centers and allocated US\$1.2 million of savings from this exercise to technical cooperation activities in the national Offices in 2003 and 2004. We have been able to institutionalize these allocations in the 2004-2005 budget.

We created a new unit for budget preparation and control.

We strengthened the Institute's internal audit function with the appointment of a new internal auditor and a deputy auditor.

We distributed new guidelines for budget preparation and financial accountability to all managers.

We established a Directorate for Performance Management and Evaluation to ensure that proposed actions are implemented in a cost-effective manner.

We created a Directorate for Follow-Up of the Summit of the Americas process to provide appropriate follow-up to the mandates issued at the Quebec Summit and the OAS General Assembly.

We established a new program on trade, agribusiness and food safety and established an office in Miami to coordinate the program.

We created the Agro-tourism Linkages Centre for the Caribbean, based in Barbados.

We appointed Regional Directors at Headquarters, for the management and coordination of our regional agendas and regional actions.

We created an annual hemispheric forum called “Representatives’ Week” to facilitate strategic planning, promote dialogue and facilitate hemispheric horizontal cooperation between and among countries.

We prepared national reports in each Member State based on the advances in the implementation of the national agendas.

3. Appropriate mechanisms for performance management and evaluation

One of the most important internal factors that supports this new model for technical cooperation is the Institute’s monitoring, supervision, evaluation and follow-up system, which links planning, programming, budgeting, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and follow-up activities within the Institute. This is managed by our newly established Directorate for Performance Management and Evaluation. In addition, it ensures that the IICA Offices in the countries and relevant Directorates and Units at Headquarters work in an integrated and holistic fashion.

The system is designed to be supportive, and embodies an essential part of the Institute’s responsibility to provide leadership, management, coordination, control and accountability in the use of its resources. It is also designed to foster relationships that contribute to improving individual skills and performance, and to bringing people and resources together, based on clear objectives and priorities defined in IICA’s work plans, and in the national, regional and hemispheric agendas.

The system has the following main responsibilities:

- a. To provide management at the IICA Offices in the countries with relevant orientation and inputs for achieving results and improving performance.

- b. To provide inputs in a timely manner for the General Directorate's decision-making process so as to improve the Institute's performance and accountability.
- c. To conduct regular reviews, analyses and evaluations of the actions executed by the Offices in the countries and by the Units at Headquarters.
- d. To support the improvement of the administrative system in the Offices in the countries and Units at Headquarters so as to facilitate achievement of the Institute's goals and objectives.
- e. To support efforts to promote an institutional culture based on performance and the achievement of results.

These functions provide essential support for the implementation of IICA's new technical cooperation model, and promote a results-based organization.

4. A definition of clientele, strategic partners and competitors

In this area, we focused our efforts on strengthening strategic partnerships.

The problems that hinder agricultural and rural development in the Americas are so vast and complex that they surpass the efforts and capabilities not only of national governments, but also of any single development agency or international organization. This is why international organizations and agencies must combine their capabilities and experience with those of their allies and partners in order to optimise contributions and bring solutions that have real impact on the Community of Agriculture and Rural Life of the Americas.

IICA considers the "working-together" approach as indispensable to achieving its objectives. To this end, it established the Directorate of Strategic Partnerships in Washington, D.C. to strengthen its work with international strategic partners as part of the fundamental strategy for promoting sustainable agricultural development, food security and prosperity in the rural communities of the Americas.

4.1 Strategic Alliances

We have strengthened our strategic partnerships with the World Bank through the Global Development Learning Network, with the Inter-American Development Bank through FONTAGRO, with the Pan-American Health Organization through joint

actions on BSE (mad cow disease) and FMD (foot and mouth disease) and with FAO through joint actions at the national and regional levels in information and agricultural health and food safety.

4.2 Relations with the Organization of American States

We returned the IICA Office in Washington D. C. to the OAS building as part of a strategy to build a new relationship with the OAS, and we are developing specific initiatives at the operational level.

4.3 IICA-CATIE relations

We have improved our relationship with CATIE as we seek to ensure greater complementarities in our actions in the areas of education, technology and innovation and rural development. We continue to pursue the ultimate goal of CATIE and IICA working together as a single institution.

4.4 Trade and AHFS

We have facilitated increased participation of the Member States in the Meetings of the World Trade Organization in Geneva to promote greater awareness of the global trading system and we have launched a new instrument for modernizing agricultural health and food safety systems in the Hemisphere.

5. Appropriate human resources management policies

As an institution promoting the development, transformation and transmission of knowledge, the Institute developed a three-year plan for the improvement of our human resources, including:

- a) Reviewing the Institute's classification and compensation system and its recruitment practices;
- b) Developing a language training program to strengthen staff's language capabilities, and an orientation program for new employees;
- c) We have reduced international management positions at Headquarters from 36 to 20 and reduced Headquarters costs by 10%;

- d) There has been an increase in the number of local professional personnel who have been promoted to international professional positions, and several local professionals now manage key support units of the Institute;
- e) There is a new sense of purpose, commitment and dedication among our staff, and those who are not aligned with the mission, vision and objectives of the Institute are encouraged to take early retirement;
- f) We have linked the new individual performance evaluation system to the work plans of the units of the Institute to ensure that individual performance is aligned with institutional goals;
- g) We have appointed new professionals in Agribusiness Development, Biotechnology, Agro-tourism, Trade Policy and Trade Negotiations and Food Safety to support programs in the countries in these technical areas;
- h) We redefined the role of our Representatives at the country level, emphasizing leadership and management capacity and, based on this new profile, we appointed new Representatives in Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay, Chile, Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, Jamaica, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Mexico, USA and Canada; and
- i) In spite of the changes in human resources management policies, our Institute continues to face difficulty in promoting excellence and recruiting and retaining outstanding professional staff because of a compensation package and salary scale that were approved back in 1993. The frozen quota budget since 1995 makes growth of the Institute difficult, as it represents a substantial decline in financial resources in real terms.

5.1 *Promotion of a culture of excellence*

One of the cornerstones of the new IICA model is the pursuit of excellence at all levels. To this end, the Director General's Award for Excellence Program was created to contribute to shaping an institutional culture of recognition for creativity, outstanding performance, leadership and teamwork.

For many years the Institute has provided awards to its staff for years of service. It is the view of this administration that, in addition to awarding years of service, we needed to award superior performance of our staff. We therefore initiated, in 2002, the Director General's awards for excellence.

6. Appropriate financial management policies, processes and controls

6.1 External Audit

For the first time since 1995, in 2004, the External Auditors approved the financial statements of the Institute without qualification. This reflects, in our view, that the measures which have been taken to promote financial prudence, including the establishment of the Unit for Budget and Control and the strengthening of the Internal Audit, have produced positive results. It is also a reflection of the responsible attitude of our Representatives and Unit Managers and I thank them for their cooperation and support.

6.2 Payment of outstanding quotas

Through resolution No. 392, the administration obtained the approval of the Inter-American Board to implement a number of actions to collect outstanding quota payments. The application of these measures has resulted in several countries paying their outstanding quotas, including Brazil, Venezuela, Ecuador, Peru, Suriname and Argentina. In spite of these payments, the financial situation of the Institute is still critical and I have asked for a continued commitment to financial prudence in the use of our financial resources.

7. Strategies for the promotion of corporate communication and corporate image

Under the new model, IICA attaches special importance to information, communication and the projection of its institutional image. The promotion of the Institute's new global dimension and image is of fundamental importance in efforts to position the Institute as an international development organization that is recognized and respected as a reliable strategic partner that can make a major contribution to the development of agriculture and rural life in the Americas.

IICA's new information and communications policy facilitates dialogue with the Community of Agriculture and the Member States and keeps them informed of the activities and results of the Institute's work.

Publications of the National and Regional Technical Cooperation Agendas, IICA's Annual Reports, IICAconnection (an electronic bulletin), COMUNIICA *online* and the Director General's Infoletter, together with the improvement of the Institute's new website (www.iica.int), are examples of this policy.

8. Ethical principles and values

We also developed a new code of ethics which takes into account the standards of the Institute, as set out in the Rules of Procedure of the General Directorate, the Staff Rules and the Financial Rules.

The purpose of this code is to build an ethical system that recognizes the value of the individual and of diversity, and to foster an environment characterized by high moral integrity, so that staff members can realize their full potential.

It also highlights those IICA values which govern staff members' work at the Institute, so that all members observe the highest values of ethical conduct, namely: impartiality, integrity, professionalism, flexibility, discretion, loyalty, financial prudence and responsibility to the Institute.

It sets standards for staff members' conduct within and outside the Institute, relations at work, personal business and moral issues, as well as the use and disclosure of information, conflicts of interest, and political activity.

The code must be interpreted as a clear signal that this administration will not tolerate corruption, improper conduct or political activity within the Institute.

9. Social responsibility

The Institute cannot dissociate itself from the social problems of unemployment, lack of shelter, education and health care, poverty and social injustice that afflict the majority of our peoples. Those social problems are reflected in urban and rural crime, trafficking in illicit drugs, personal insecurity and lawlessness, all of which represent a threat to peace and prosperity and the process of democratic governance.

Consequently, in the future, the Institute should embrace greater social responsibility and a development agenda that allows it to play a more dynamic and strategic role in the promotion of prosperity in the rural communities of the Americas.

Such a role takes us beyond the traditional support to agricultural production and makes us partners in the development process of increasing the competitiveness of the entire agrifood chain, and fostering linkages between the chain and other sectors of the economy, such as tourism, health, nutrition, infrastructure, education and the environment.

IICA's National Agendas must reflect a holistic integrated approach to agricultural and rural development that responds to the reality of the national agricultural community and national circumstances, and must link macro-policy to territorial reality.

10. The capacity to think and to anticipate the future

The new Unit for Strategic Planning and Institutional Modernization has made great advances in themes which relate to the future of agriculture in the Americas.

10.1 New Vision for Agriculture

We have promoted the concept that agriculture is more than primary production, and we have shown in our studies that when all the backward and forward linkages are taken into consideration agriculture's contribution to national development is greater than reported in national statistics. According to this analytical model, agriculture's contribution to national development is three to seven times higher than the percentages reported in national statistics when all the backward and forward linkages in the commodity chain are considered.

In Argentina, the official statistics indicate that agriculture's contribution to GDP is 4.6%, but when we consider all the backward and forward linkages, this figure increases to 32.2%. In Brazil, the figure grows from 4.3% to 26.2%; in Chile, from 5% to 32.1%; in Mexico, from 4.6% to 24.5%; and in Costa Rica, from 11.3% to 32.5%. We are currently extending this study to all countries of the Hemisphere.

In addition, these analyses demonstrate that approximately 74% of the primary products of agricultural production are inputs for other sectors of the economy, such as agro-industry and manufacturing.

These results are documented in our report "More Than Food on the Table: Agriculture's True Contribution to the Economy."

10.2 A common hemispheric agenda for agriculture and rural life in the Americas

We have assisted the Ministries of Agriculture in the development of a strategic futuristic vision for Agriculture and Rural Life in this hemisphere through the Agro 2003-2015 Plan of Action which, when implemented, can assist the Americas in achieving the Millennium Development Goals of reducing poverty, promoting environmental sustainability and fostering a global partnership for development.

Conclusion

1. Our goal is to make IICA the premier institution in agricultural technical cooperation in the Americas and the partner of choice for the Member States.
2. We will succeed in these efforts only if the countries and the General Directorate work as part of a team dedicated and committed to the goals of the Institute.
3. The reform process at IICA has been recognized not only in the Institute but throughout the Hemisphere and in the Inter-American System. For example, the former Secretary General of the Organization of American States, in his report to the Presidents and Heads of States at the Extraordinary Summit of the Americas in Monterrey, Mexico, in January last year noted that:

“The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) is another example of the impact of the Summits on the work of the Inter-American institutions. The IICA restructured its operation to focus on the Summits process; It called on Ministers of Agriculture to develop a coherent overview of needs, to design plans, and to mobilize resources for implementing these plans. The result was a clear consensus on the actions necessary to create opportunities for agricultural producers, to improve food security and compete in international markets.”

4. In addition, in Resolution CP/RES.826 (1338/02) of the Permanent Council of the OAS, which was approved on September 25, 2002, the Council endorsed the reform process at IICA and several delegations congratulated the leadership of the Institute on its new path.
5. En In conclusion, IICA today is better prepared to:
 - Support the countries in the implementation of the 2003-2015 Plan of Action;
 - Promote hemispheric integration and horizontal cooperation;
 - Monitor the state of and outlook for agriculture and rural life in the hemisphere;
 - Promote an inter-agency agenda in support of sustainable rural development.
6. We see the monitoring of agriculture and rural life in the hemisphere and the identification of trends, threats, critical emerging issues and opportunities as an important future role of this Institute as we seek to create societies of knowledge. Implementation of this responsibility will allow the Institute to accompany the

member states in the implementation of the Agro 2003-2015 Plan. Consequently, in 2004, the offices in the member states began a process to define the state of agriculture and rural life in each country in order to identify the critical emerging issues, threats, tendencies and opportunities in the sector.

7. These results have been consolidated into regional, thematic and hemispheric dimensions in order to define the state of agriculture and rural life in the hemisphere. This we hope will result in "Outlook" conferences in the entire hemisphere in the future.
8. We believe that with the implementation of these initiatives, the Institute is well repositioned to play a strategic role in the modernization of the rural sector, the promotion of food security and the promotion of prosperity in the rural communities of the Americas.

In summary, I am pleased to report that in this period we have:

- a) Defined a strategic vision for the Institute;
- b) Developed an appropriate institutional structure;
- c) Improved operational efficiency;
- d) Expanded Strategic Partnerships;
- e) Empowered our people with values;
- f) Developed a new relationship with our Member States based on participation, transparency and accountability; and
- g) Strengthened the financial base of the Institute.

I wish to thank the Inter-American Board of Agriculture and all the Member States for their cooperation and support during this process of Institutional reform.

Thank you very much.

CLOSING SESSION

CLOSING REMARKS AT THE MINISTERIAL MEETING AND THE IABA³

We have come to the close of the Third Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas, and I wish to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support and cooperation in making this meeting a success.

We leave Guayaquil with a renewed vision and strong determination to continue to create a shared hemispheric agenda to promote agriculture and rural life in the Americas: an agenda based on the promotion of competitiveness, sustainability, equity and good governance.

This vision has been reinforced over the last two days thanks to the agreement we have reached on a work plan for 2006-2007 and on the proposal the ministers will present at the Presidential Summit to be held in Argentina in November. Also, we renewed our commitment to continue working together to achieve the ultimate goal of a prosperous rural sector in the Americas where the benefits of democracy are obvious.

Today, our planet continues to move in the direction of a globalized world, and as globalization proceeds so do the challenges for cooperation and integration.

Many of today's problems, for example, transboundary diseases, poverty, climate change and terrorism, are not national problems, but rather multinational problems which require multinational solutions.

In this sense, multinational organizations such as ours, which bridge the gaps among countries with regard to their diversity, power, wealth and race, have a crucial role to play in finding shared solutions to our complex problems.

This year, the world has another opportunity to move ahead with the universal agenda for international cooperation to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and bring to fruition a world trade agreement.

Our leaders will meet at the United Nations in September to review progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals, and in Hong Kong in November to continue the Doha Round negotiations, in search of a global trade agreement.

³ Guayaquil, Ecuador, September 1

The proposed Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA), which alone has the potential to create a hemisphere-wide market of 800,000,000 people, and a capital market of some US\$20 billion, provides the countries with both challenges and opportunities.

The concept of a new inter-American economy where no country will be constrained because of its size, but rather will have the potential to create businesses that can function in the new regional, hemispheric and world environment, is an exciting reality for development in our countries.

However, the potential will only translate into reality if globalization and trade liberalization are controlled and governed by transparent and scientifically-based rules, with instruments and institutions that maintain an equitable distribution of the benefits of the new world economy. In this regard, the concerns that have been voiced about the treatment given to small economies, environmental considerations and the destiny of those who stand to be sidelined by the process, are appropriate.

In my opinion, the success of the FTAA, from the standpoint of agriculture, requires an institution that:

- Promotes consensus and hemispheric dialogue on agricultural issues;
- Promotes agricultural trade in the hemisphere, agribusiness and food safety;
- Combats hunger and poverty in rural communities;
- Promotes horizontal cooperation and the exchange of experiences;
- Develops competitiveness in the agricultural sector;
- Supports regional integration;
- Promotes the effective management of natural resources;
- Is structured in such a way as to involve the big and small countries of the hemisphere equally and equitably;
- Helps Member States adapt their agricultural sectors to the realities of free trade;
- Focuses on promoting trade based on science and the elimination of non-tariff barriers to trade, and
- Facilitates the harmonization of trade rules and regulations.

IICA must take on these responsibilities and be the hemispheric institution for world cooperation in agriculture in the Americas. We have the mandate from the Summit of the Americas. We have the infrastructure (a network of 34 offices in the hemisphere). And we have an operating framework to make this a reality.

Our Institute must therefore continue to:

- Assist the countries with fulfilling mandates related to agriculture and rural life in the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan of Action, through national and regional agendas and a hemispheric agenda that are the result of true consultation and dialogue with the agricultural community in each of the 34 Member States.
- Go forward with the process of strategic institutional alignment to ensure that IICA's institutional structure and the processes are tailored to and consistent with the new demands for a modern and proactive institution.
- Coordinate our activities with those of other international organizations that are involved in agriculture and rural life in the Americas to ensure an integral approach to solving problems and promote the coordination and complementarity of our efforts "working together."
- Participate actively as an institution associated with the Summit of the Americas Process in building a new architecture for agriculture and rural life in the Americas. We must continue, therefore, as part of the Group for the Implementation and Coordination of the Agreements on Agriculture and Rural Life of the Summits Process (GRICA) and prepare the agricultural sector to participate in the Summit of Heads of State and Government, to be held in Argentina in November 2005.

I said last year that the decisions of the Heads of State and Government –which are stated in detail in the Declaration and Plan of Action of the Summit of the Americas– have changed the role of our Institute forever. Not only must the Institute provide technical cooperation for agriculture in the hemisphere, but also it must take on a broader mandate of leadership in agriculture and rural life. In my opinion, this mandate means that our Institute must continue to work out a process for an international strategic repositioning and adopt a development agenda.

The work of internal reorganization and of projecting a new external dimension which we have accomplished in the last four years is but an initial step in this process. This process was a response to 15 mandates which I accepted when I became Director General, and which I explained in my report yesterday.

The needs of today's societies and the changing world picture require a new level of maturity for our Institute. Two years ago, we celebrated our Institute's 60th anniversary. But anniversaries are not only about celebration. They are also decisive moments for us to look to the future.

The new world scene characterized by international trade negotiations, communication and information technologies, biotechnology and interconnected economies suggests that the countries must commit more than ever to reinforcing and deepening the integration process in the Americas.

The emerging picture suggests that 2005-2010 will be critical for the future of the countries of our region. The countries are starting to adjust to the certainty of a change in the rules of international trade which will inevitably be accompanied by greater international competition.

The trade agenda and world trade regimes

Current debates at the regional and hemispheric level concerning world trade and recent agricultural policies in the European Union, where there has been a certain "de-linking" with regard to subsidies for agriculture and production, suggest that there could be some progress towards creating a trade regime that is more people-oriented and that takes into account the realities of the poor developing countries.

Moreover, the recent report by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on "making global trade work for people," which suggests that the special and differential treatment accorded to developing countries transcends the traditional spheres of trade and includes education, health, gender equality, environmental protection and respect for cultural diversity, proposes that the rules of the WTO should be more flexible and focused on development.

Regardless of the panoramas that might emerge in the future, it is our responsibility to continue to assist the Member States of our Institute with the negotiations and subsequent management of these trade agendas. It is in this context that our Hemispheric Trade, Agribusiness and Food Safety Program, which endeavors to support the hemispheric trade agenda and promote food security in our hemisphere, is of critical and strategic importance.

We must refocus our initiatives and redouble efforts to adopt a development agenda, while at the same time respecting our basic task of promoting an agricultural sector that is competitive, technologically prepared, environmentally managed and socially equitable for the people of the Americas. This will ensure that we display the new level of maturity that our Member States demand and deserve.

I wish you all a safe trip back home and look forward to your continued support for our joint efforts to built a better world.

Thank you.

**CLOSING REMARKS BY MR. PABLO RIZZO PASTOR, MINISTER
OF AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK OF ECUADOR AND
CHAIRMAN OF THE THIRD MINISTERIAL MEETING HELD
WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS
PROCESS AND OF THE THIRTEENTH REGULAR MEETING OF
THE INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (IABA)**

It has been a high honor for me to lead the deliberations of the Third Ministerial Meeting held within the framework of the Summit of the Americas Process and the Thirteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture. The meetings coming to a close today were remarkably successful, given the important results we have achieved thanks to the dedication, effort and inter-American spirit that have prevailed during these three intensive days of work.

First of all, I would like to thank the Ministers of State and other senior officials of the countries of the hemisphere who had to leave their heavy work agendas in their countries to come to Ecuador, to this beautiful and dynamic city of Guayaquil, to deliberate on and propose solutions for problems facing our Americas. We also came together to identify the opportunities that are opening up for us, which we can take advantage of in a spirit of hemispheric solidarity, which should distinguish these new times and underpin joint and collective action among the 34 countries represented here.

During these three days of work, we have been able to bring our positions and proposals closer together, and to reach consensus on key matters pertaining to the modernization of agriculture and the search for well-being for rural inhabitants. This has been set down in the Ministerial Agreement of Guayaquil, which we hope will be an important milestone in the history of the peoples of the Americas who seek a better future for those who dwell in this wonderful part of the world.

We have also reached important agreements on matters that are especially meaningful for the life and future of IICA, an institution that we created together thanks to the vision of Henry Wallace and those who joined him 64 years ago to establish a center for agricultural research and training for the Americas in Turrialba, Costa Rica. Today we are proud and satisfied to have an institution whose prolific work and capacities provide the institutional platform we need for dialogue and action. So I feel confident saying that if IICA did not exist, we would now have the imperative need to create it.

The Commitment of Guayaquil, beyond its formal and ceremonial language, is a text that reflects the integrated vision of an agenda for the future, one that embodies the viewpoints of the countries of the Americas on agriculture and rural life. It spells out the hopes of those of us who believe we can create the economic and political conditions needed to modernize agriculture, fight rural poverty and take new opportunities to the countryside, to help overcome backwardness, isolation, and a lack of hope for a better world.

Not too long ago, a fishing vessel was shipwrecked and 94 Ecuadorians from rural areas and the poverty belts surrounding the cities lost their lives. People who risk their lives every day in search of a better future deserve to find in their own native countries conditions that enable them to give their families a better standard of living. Tragedies like that should never recur and this is why governments and peoples must build new opportunities. We must offer farm workers and their families a world with a future; we have to fuel their hopes with opportunities and with decent and well-remunerated work so that their effort and sacrifice are not in vain.

As we said earlier, State policies are needed to underpin efforts to build an agriculture that is modern and competitive, respectful of natural resources, and the basis for a feasible and prosperous future in rural areas. We have to combine forces and capacities so that the actions of governments, public and private institutions, trade associations, producers, agroindustry, exporters and all economic agents involved in agri-food chains are framed by a coordinated set of State policies. We cannot build a prosperous agriculture with short-term measures that respond only to immediate circumstances.

For this reason, I think that the Ministerial Agreement of Guayaquil will be like a beacon that sheds light on our efforts and will constitute another step along the path set out in the Ministerial Declaration of Bavaro and the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan, which was signed in Panama. The same goes for the proposal we will be delivering, with full consensus, to the Heads of State and Government to ensure that, at the Fourth Summit, the priority of agriculture and rural life are consolidated on development agendas and in government policies in the region.

With regard to IICA, the Inter-American Board of Agriculture adopted a series of important decisions. We reelected Dr. Chelston Brathwaite to the position of Director General of the Institute, giving him the mission to consolidate the process to modernize and transform the Institute and to strengthen technical cooperation in the Americas. We hope that in the new term, which begins on 16 January 2006, the Institute will complete its transformation process with new capacities and a renewed mandate. We also hope for a continuation of the important efforts led by Dr. Brathwaite to ensure

accountability and transparency, which have been the cornerstone of his administration and enabled the Institute to fulfill the complex mission entrusted to it.

We look forward to a renewed effort in the priority areas of work, especially in agro-biotechnology and biosafety, in the new and promising field of bio-energy, in efforts to strengthen agricultural health and food safety, which, in the future, will ensure our countries' access to and conquest of new markets. We hope that the Technical Committee that we have established helps IICA, with well-thought out and sound advice, to design new cooperation strategies and successfully address those new fields both in theory and practice.

We approved the Institute's budget and a special budget to promote cooperation in the aforementioned areas, and to renew the Institute's physical infrastructure. Also, we authorized the Executive Committee to approve the Institute's new Medium-Term Plan for the 2006-2010 period.

I wish to make special mention of the process to bestow the Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector, through which the Inter-American Board of Agriculture recognizes the contributions of people who have devoted their lives to modernizing agriculture and to improving the living conditions of rural women. Institutions that have gone beyond the call of duty and their own commercial purposes were also recognized for their commitment to rural men and women, by opening up new opportunities and supporting those most in need.

Finally, I wish to thank the Director General and the staff of the Institute for organizing the tribute to former Ecuadorian employees of IICA. These are people who left their families and native country behind and made a commitment to the common destiny of the Americas, giving the best of themselves and their knowledge to the noble task of cooperation, leaving their knowledge and expertise, and the imprint of their actions, in other lands. They are a worthy example for new generations to follow. To all of them, I also convey the gratitude of the Constitutional Government of Ecuador, in the name of our President Alfredo Palacios Gonzalez, for ennobling the name of their native country throughout the Americas.

Ladies and gentlemen, I am pleased to say that we fulfilled the agenda and objectives of this Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Rural Life, and therefore, as chairman, I hereby close the Third Ministerial Meeting held within the framework of the Summit of the Americas Process and the Thirteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture.

May all our efforts contribute to bringing a new dawn to agriculture in the Americas.

Thank you very much.

SPECIAL SPEECH

**ACCEPTANCE SPEECH BY DR. CHELSTON W.D. BRATHWAITE
FOR THE POSTION OF DIRECTOR GENERAL OF IICA**

I accept with humility the honour which you have bestowed on me today in giving me the opportunity to complete a mission we began together in November of 2001 when you elected me as the ninth Director General of this noble institution.

Thanks for your confidence and trust

I wish to thank all of you, Ministers of Agriculture of the Member States of the Americas for your confidence and trust which I promise again, today, I will never compromise.

Your decision today is an honour for me, for my family, for my country, Barbados, and for the Caribbean. But above all, Mr. Vice President, this is an honour for the staff of our Institute, for the men and women who work tirelessly to promote the ideals of this institution with dedication, loyalty and commitment. I take this opportunity to thank the staff of IICA for their contribution to our success during the past four years.

But, Mr. Vice President, there are others to thank also.

- a. Thanks to the Government and people of Ecuador for their hospitality and warm welcome which we have received in the beautiful city of Guayaquil.
- b. Thanks to the Member States of the Americas for continued trust, confidence and support.
- c. I wish to thank the Prime Minister of Barbados, the Right Honourable, Owen S. Arthur, the Cabinet of Barbados, our Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dame Billie Miller, and her Ministry, our Minister of Agriculture, Senator Erskine Griffith, and his Ministry for their endorsement of my re-election and their continued support.
- d. I wish to thank the Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community and Ministers of Foreign Affairs of CARICOM for their trust, their endorsement of my candidacy and their confidence in my ability.

- e. Thanks to our strategic partners for cooperation and their contribution to the vision of “working together” which we have pursued in the last four years.
- f. Thanks to friends, well wishers in CARICOM and the wider Caribbean for support and cooperation.
- g. Mr. Vice President, allow me to pay tribute also to past Directors General of the Institute and thank them for their advice and support during the last four years. I speak of our Dr. Armando Samper, Dr. José Emilio Araujo, Dr. Francisco Morillo, Dr. Martin Piñeiro, and Dr. Carlos Aquino, all of whom have given me words of wisdom during the last four years.
- h. Thanks to my family, especially my wife, Rosanna, and our children, Andre and Rhea, for their support and understanding.
- i. Thanks to my parents for the gifts of discipline, honesty and integrity.
- j. And, finally, thanks to God for health and strength.

The leaders of agriculture in the Americas have spoken and I am humbled by your trust and your confidence, a trust that will allow us to continue to work to make this Institute an important instrument for the promotion of rural prosperity in the Americas.

A modern agricultural sector

Development of a modern agricultural sector and the promotion of rural prosperity are keys to development because we can no longer accept the migration of rural poor to cities as a solution for rural poverty. The associated social and economic difficulties continue to threaten social stability and the progress being made toward democratic governance.

It is important to recognize also that in spite of our progress in the service sectors, manufacturing, high technology, financial services and tourism, food and agricultural production still contribute more than 25% of the region’s gross domestic product and more than 40% of its exports.

It is also important to note that Latin America and the Caribbean possess 23% of the world’s arable land, 46% of the tropical forests, 31% of the fresh water, but only 10% of the population of the world.

In addition, Latin America and the Caribbean region are host to more than 40% of all known plant and animal species of the tropical forests, more than in Asia or Africa. Of the 250,000 species of higher plants, identified at least 90,000 are found in our region.

In spite of these resources, poverty continues to be a scourge in Latin America and the Caribbean. According to statistics from the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), in 2003, 44 per cent of the population, that is to say, 225 million people, lived in poverty, and 20 per cent of the population lived in extreme poverty, i.e., 100 million people.

Recent reports from the FAO estimate that during the period 2000-2002, malnutrition decreased slightly. However, close to 10 per cent of the population in Latin America and the Caribbean (approximately 53 million inhabitants) is under-nourished.

World Bank statistics confirm that this region --where the richest 10 per cent of the population earns almost one-half of the income, and the poorest 10 per cent earns a mere 1.6 per cent--is the most inequitable in the world.

This is why one of the Millennium Development Goals adopted by world leaders at the United Nations, to reduce by 50% in the year 2015 the levels of poverty and hunger prevailing in 1990, is of great significance for our hemisphere.

Institutional Reform

As I mentioned in my earlier presentation, during the last four years, we have carried out a process of institutional reforms in IICA, which has resulted in:

- a. increased operational efficiency;
- b. reduction in the bureaucracy;
- c. new human resources policies;
- d. financial prudence and accountability;
- e. a new relationship with member states based on dialogue consultation and partnership.

These reforms provide an appropriate platform for us to continue to support our Member States in efforts to promote sustainable rural development, food security and prosperity in the rural communities of the Americas.

The need for a global partnership for development

However, Mr. Vice President, as I indicated previously, the problems that burden rural development and agriculture in the Hemisphere are so challenging in their scope and complexity that they require strategic and operational partnerships among and between governments, international agencies, the NGO community and private sector to maximize the opportunity for achieving lasting solutions. This is the only way in which a real and sustainable impact on the rural areas can be attained. Therefore, today I call for the establishment of a Hemispheric Partnership for Rural Development to alleviate poverty and bring prosperity to the poor of the rural Americas.

Such partnership must be based on:

- a. the identification of core competences of our national, regional and international institutions to intervene in the sector;
- b. strengthened intersectoral linkages;
- c. strengthened inter-institutional cooperation and joint programming;
- d. identification of synergistic relations and complementarity of capacity and capability;
- e. national forums for the discussion of joint action and the presentation of results, and
- f. cooperation with the private sector, civil society academic and financial institutions.

A National Rural Development Agenda

The result should be a National Rural Development Agenda in each country of the hemisphere where the key stakeholders representing a cross-section of the country and rural sector set the agenda based on national goals, policies and priorities.

We cannot and should not continue to work in an uncoordinated manner, for this will not achieve the goal. And so today, Mr. Vice President, I call again on all agencies of the Inter-American System, the United Nations System, national and regional organizations to join hands in a coordinated agenda, for only then can we deliver the benefits of democracy in support of the rural and urban poor.

Given the mandates that we received in Quebec, Bavaro, Panama and Monterrey, we are committed in the next four years:

- a. to strengthening the National Cooperation Agendas as instruments of true dialogue, consultation, cooperation, partnership and transparency;
- b. to continuing to fine-tune the organizational structure and to promote administrative efficiency, accountability and prudent financial management;
- c. to promoting our offices in the Member States as centres of information, training and technology;
- d. to monitoring the state of and outlook for agriculture and rural life in the hemisphere;
- e. to supporting the efforts of the Member States to implement the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan;
- f. to continuing to strengthen and deepen our relationships with strategic partners at the national, regional and hemispheric levels;
- g. to assisting our member states in the process of institutional modernization of the agricultural and rural system to permit it to foster growth, opportunity and the creation of employment;
- h. to continuing to act as an instrument and forum for hemispheric integration and dialogue, horizontal cooperation, joint action and a platform for exchange of experiences between and among the countries of the Hemisphere;
- i. to continuing to promote the agricultural sector as a strategic sector for development that contributes more to the economy than is recorded in national statistics.

The Environmental Dimension

Progress in agricultural development in the past has often resulted in environmental degradation – polluted water supplies, degraded soils, loss of biodiversity and wildlife habitats and displacement of rural people.

Over the next 30 to 50 years, world food requirements will more than double. The challenge to agriculture will be to provide for the food needs of the vastly increased population on reduced acreages of farm land with water shortages and the switch to food consumption based on more livestock products, fruits, vegetables and processed foods. In addition, the recent evidence pointing to the potentially disastrous consequences of global warming and the serious situation of our water supplies for agriculture, suggest that environmental issues will be a major challenge to the agriculture of the future.

In summary, Mr. Vice President, ladies and gentlemen, in the future, the Institute should embrace greater social responsibility and a rural development agenda in cooperation with other development organizations that allows it to play a more dynamic and strategic role in the promotion of sustainable rural development.

The development agenda must be designed to support the Member States in six key strategic areas:

- a. **Trade and Integration** - To support the countries of the hemisphere in their efforts at integration, cooperation and participation in the global economy.
- b. **Agricultural Health and Food Safety** - To support the Member States in ensuring the safety of food supplies and removing sanitary and phytosanitary barriers to trade.
- c. **Agribusiness Development** - To support agro-industrial and agri-business development of the sector by promoting the incorporation of new technology (biotechnology, bioenergy and telecommunication technologies) and business principles into the enterprises of the sector in order to promote competitiveness and the development of a global agri-business environment.
- d. **Environmental Management** - To promote sustainable use of natural resources and to assist the Member States in responding to natural disasters and climate change as these affect the agricultural sector.

- e. **Institutional Modernization** - To support the Ministries of Agriculture in the process of transforming their role, structure, and functions in order to face the new realities of globalization and modernization of the State.
- f. **Human Capital Development** - To support the process of agricultural educational transformation, so as to produce scientists, technicians and entrepreneurs that can effectively develop and reposition the agricultural and rural sectors.

These areas will be supported by appropriate technological and information resources.

This role will take us beyond the traditional support to agricultural production and makes us partners in the development process of increasing the competitiveness of the entire agrifood chain and fostering linkages between the chain and other sectors of the economy, such as tourism, health, nutrition, infrastructure, education and the environment.

We have started the process towards these goals. Now is the time to consolidate the changes made and move our Institute into the 21st Century as a modern, flexible institution at the service of its Member States.

We need to prepare ourselves so that when the doors of globalization open, we will all be able to enter, large countries and small countries alike, to take our place at the table of global policy-making and prosperity.

But, Mr. Vice President, I cannot end this presentation without calling for more investment in agriculture and the rural economy. We need investment in rural infrastructure, education, technology and basic services. We must change the existing paradigm where the bulk of our financial resources is invested in the cities, leaving less, every year, for the rural areas. This model of development does not generate rural prosperity, but generates social imbalance and rural-to-urban migration. We believe that sound investments in the rural economy provide the basis for successful economic development of a nation.

A new development model

Increased investment in the rural economy will only occur if we change the current development models which have an anti-rural bias and in which the true contribution of agriculture to development is under-estimated.

We have promoted the concept that agriculture is more than primary production, and we have shown in our studies that when all the backward and forward linkages are taken into consideration agriculture's contribution to national development is greater than reported in national statistics as I mentioned earlier. Indeed, agriculture is a principal driver of the economies in our Member States.

Still, there is a large, disproportionate allocation of public investment funds for urban centers. Recent information indicates that although 40% of the hemispheric population lives in rural areas, average budgetary allocation of public funds is about 6.6%.

Clearly there is continued inequality between urban and rural areas, despite economic reforms implemented in the mid-1980s and during the 1990s.

This vicious cycle of public investment must be re-examined, particularly in light of increasing migration from the rural areas, which results in less agricultural production, leading governments to import more food (normally cheap food) to satisfy urban demands, which further undermines the capacity of the rural sector to produce. This results in another vicious cycle – the vicious cycle of food insecurity.

It is therefore essential to adopt a new development model that facilitates:

- Better rural-urban balance through integral development of both urban and rural areas, and
- Greater investments in rural areas that are essential to:
 - a. Ensuring social and political stability;
 - b. Promoting the competitiveness of agriculture and rural economic activities;
 - c. Creating rural agricultural and non-agricultural employment that supports an acceptable level of livelihood in rural areas.
- Productivity increases and an expansion in food supply to meet the growing food needs and market requirements.

Furthermore, it is necessary that appropriate policies and strategies be adopted to:

- Increase investments in the rural sector so as to facilitate the profitable and sustainable use of natural resources;

- Support investments in infrastructure and services that will make both agriculture and non-agricultural activities in rural areas competitive, profitable and sustainable;
- Support investment for the development of human capital in the rural sector (rural education) so as to increase the skills of the population and improve their standard of living, and
- Boost investment in the development of rural enterprises and institutions that strengthens rural-urban linkages and the generation of value-added activities and higher incomes.

A recent report by the World Bank indicates that “during the 1990’s, researchers and policy-makers largely neglected the agricultural sector, while favouring modernization through the development of the manufacturing and service sectors. Declining official investment in agricultural development provides evidence for this trend. Interestingly, this shift away from agriculture went hand in hand with a lower rate of poverty reduction. The main reasons why the sector’s potential has been relatively ignored for a decade appear to be a steady decline in commodity prices, in tandem with the increased competition that developing economies face from large agricultural subsidies in the developed world and the related problems of market access”.

Conclusion

For four years, now, I have traveled the length and the breadth of the Americas visiting our 34 Member States, I have listened to the leaders of our countries, I have spoken to the people of the agricultural sector, I have heard the voices and I have seen the faces of the poor and I have a deep conviction, that it is urgent that we work together to overcome the threats to development of our countries, viz: hunger, poverty, disease and environmental degradation.

There can be and must be no nobler goal than that of leaving this world a better place than when we came here.

I am convinced that a better world is possible if we forget our fears and give people a chance to live their dreams. The dream to be educated, the dream to be properly fed, the dream of good health and clean water, the dream of shelter and a sustainable livelihood.

These dreams are attainable in our time if part of the 900 billion dollars which we spend on arms are devoted to development, if the 56 billion dollars we spend on development are focused on real problems and if we can unleash the real talent and creativity of our people, then we can have a better world.

We have a responsibility to leave our children a legacy of hope, not a legacy of despair. We have a responsibility to aim for the higher purposes of social equity, transparency, participation and good governance. There is absolutely no logical or moral justification for the continuation of hunger, poverty and misery in our hemisphere.

I ask you to continue to build IICA of the 21st Century into an institution of excellence that can help us educate our farmers so that they may break the cycle of poverty and dependence, learn to protect the environment and be able to participate effectively in the global economy.

Let me conclude by leaving you with three thoughts:

- a. Higher rural incomes are essential for meeting the Millennium Development Goal of reducing poverty in our hemisphere.
- b. Rural prosperity is vital for social stability and democratic governance in our countries.
- c. The rural poor will not wait. Their problems are urgent.

With your support we will continue to build IICA into an institution which can effectively assist in reducing poverty and promoting rural prosperity in the Americas. Let us all help the rural poor live their dreams.

I thank you.

ANNEXES

**RESULTS OF THE THIRD
MINISTERIAL MEETING**

**RESULTS OF THE THIRD MINISTERIAL MEETING
“AGRICULTURE AND RURAL LIFE IN THE AMERICAS”
WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE SUMMITS OF THE
AMERICAS PROCESS:
GUAYAQUIL, ECUADOR, 30-31 AUGUST 2005**

Introduction

In advance of the Fourth Summit of the Americas, the ministers of agriculture of the hemisphere met in Guayaquil, Ecuador, from August 30-31, 2005, at the Third Ministerial Meeting “Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas” held within in the framework of the Summit of the Americas Process, the watchword of which was “*Working to reduce poverty, create jobs and promote rural prosperity.*”

In preparing the agreements of the Ministerial Meeting, the Group for the Implementation and Coordination of the Agreements on Agriculture and Rural Life of the Summits Process (GRICA), comprising the Ministerial Delegates of Agriculture and Rural Life, held working sessions in Costa Rica and Ecuador.

This special section summarizes the key aspects of the ministerial process “Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas” for 2005, and the results of the Third Ministerial Meeting.⁴ At that meeting, the ministers reaffirmed their commitment to continue implementing the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan. Furthermore, they analyzed the Plan, complementing it with new strategic actions and measures for implementing and following up on it in 2006-2007. Also, they agreed on actions to be taken in connection with preparations for the Fourth Ministerial Meeting, with the development of an information system for following up on the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan, and with the presentation to the SIRG of the proposal on agriculture and rural life for the Declaration and Plan of Action of the Fourth Summit of the Americas (Mar del Plata 2005).

1. The 2005 Ministerial Process: Progress in implementing and updating the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan for Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas

At their Second Ministerial Meeting, in 2003, the ministers decided to implement and provide follow-up to the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan by means of six biennial agendas.

⁴ A report on the Third Ministerial Meeting and the full text of all its agreements can be found in the document “Hemispheric Ministerial Agreements. AGRO 2003-2015 Plan of Action for Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas: Bavaro 2001 – Panama 2003 – Guayaquil 2005.”

They also agreed to review the countries' progress in implementing the Plan's strategic actions for 2003-2005 and to use the information obtained to update the agenda for 2006-2007. Therefore, during the 2005 ministerial process the countries focused on preparing the corresponding progress reports and updating the Plan. The 2005 ministerial process involved the preparation of information by the countries, the hemispheric dialogue and consensus building during the 2005 GRICA meeting and the Ministerial Meeting. The results achieved were due to the successful outcome of these activities.

The progress reports showed that the countries are implementing a variety of efforts to improve agriculture and rural communities as part of the strategic actions of the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan. Their efforts include national studies, proposals, plans, programs and sectoral and State policies, as well as regional programs, agreements and policies. The countries also face new challenges in their efforts to improve agriculture and rural life and implement the Plan. Considering the above, the Secretariat of the Ministerial Meeting, facilitated by IICA, assisted the Ministerial Delegates in preparing the national progress reports, implementing the Plan and identifying the challenges facing the countries.

The process of information gathering and consultation got under way at the end of 2004. The countries responded very positively. A total of 29 countries shared the following 66 reports with each other via an electronic system facilitated by the Secretariat: 28 national progress reports, 14 executive summaries on the implementation of the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan, pursuant to mandate 43 of the Declaration of Nuevo Leon (Special Summit of Americas - Monterrey 2004) and 24 reports on challenges. In this way, the Ministerial Delegates were able to learn more about the actions each country is carrying out to improve agriculture and rural life.

To begin the hemispheric dialogue aimed at building consensus among the Ministerial Delegates regarding the updating of the Plan, the Secretariat prepared an input entitled *Base Document for the 2005 Hemispheric Dialogue*. The delegates used it to focus the virtual dialogue and give direction to the sessions of the 2005 GRICA, with a view to building consensus on the updating of the AGRO 2003- 2015 Plan.⁵

Following a wide-ranging, frank and constructive dialogue, the Ministerial Delegates reached consensus on the **complementary strategic actions** needed to

⁵ The Secretariat of the Ministerial Meeting set up a forum for virtual dialogue at <http://www.iica.int/cumbres>, based on two documents for the GRICA's work: Background information for the 2005 Hemispheric Dialogue and Base Document for the 2005 Hemispheric Dialogue.

update the AGRO Plan for the 2006-2007 biennium and on how they would set about implementing them and providing follow-up. The ongoing national actions, the continued existence of the challenges identified in the 2003 ministerial process and the new challenges pinpointed, all set out in the national reports, showed the relevance of the strategic actions of the AGRO Plan adopted in 2003 and the need to update the Plan with complementary strategic actions.

Specifically, in the sessions held 7-8 July in San Jose, Costa Rica, and 29 August in Guayaquil, Ecuador, the Ministerial Delegates involved in the 2005 GRICA approved, by consensus, four proposed ministerial agreements, including the updating of the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan for the 2006-2007 biennium and the ministerial proposal for the Fourth Summit of the Americas (Mar del Plata 2005). As Ecuador was to host the Ministerial Meeting, its Vice Minister of Agriculture and Livestock, Jorge Hernan Chiriboga, chaired the 2005 GRICA.

As a result of the consensus reached by the 2005 GRICA, at the Third Ministerial Meeting, the ministers and secretaries of agriculture renewed their commitment to the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan in the Ministerial Agreement of Guayaquil and adopted provisions related to its implementation and follow-up.

2. The Third Ministerial Meeting

Mr. Pablo Rizzo Pastor, Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Ecuador, chaired the meeting. Mariano Ernesto Salaverría, the Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of El Salvador, served as the Deputy Chair.

2.1 The hemispheric context of the Ministerial Meeting

The following presentation was made on this subject:

- *The role of the ministerial meetings in the Summit of the Americas Process.* Luis Alberto Rodríguez, Director of the Summit of the Americas Secretariat of the Organization of American States.

The presentation underscored the contribution made by the ministerial meetings held under the umbrella of the Summit of the Americas Process to the decisions adopted by the Heads of State and Government in the Summit declarations and plans of action, and to the implementation of those decisions. He commented on the timeliness of the Ministerial Meeting “Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas,”

as the ministers would be able to submit their Ministerial Proposal to the Chair of the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG), the unit preparing the documents for the Fourth Summit of the Americas.

2.2 Reports of the Secretariat

The Secretariat of the Ministerial Meeting, facilitated by IICA, submitted two reports:

- *Building today the Agriculture and Rural Life of 2015. Opportunity for a renewed institutional framework, joint action and cooperation.* Lizardo de las Casas, Director of Follow-up to the Summit of the Americas Process of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture.⁶

Based on the national reports, the report describes progress in the implementation of the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan; reaffirms the need to intensify and speed up the improvement of agriculture and rural communities; gives details of the new hemispheric dynamic that has developed as a result of the mandates on agriculture and rural life of the Summits of the Americas; and highlights the opportunity that the development of agriculture and rural life for 2015 offers to the Community of Agriculture and Rural Life of the Americas, today and in the near future, for a renewed institutional framework, joint action and cooperation.

- *Building today the future leading up to 2015. Contribution of an information system for the follow-up and evaluation of the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan.* Lizardo de las Casas, of IICA, and Martine Dirven, Head of the Agricultural Development Unit of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).⁷

The presentation begins with an overview of the information system for providing follow-up on and evaluating the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan, comprising the following three components: national experiences and horizontal cooperation, impact on the performance of agriculture and on rural life, and the current perception of the leaders. Isolated, ongoing activities are described for each of the three components. The second part of the presentation contains a summary of the status of the system's second

⁶ The report of the Secretariat of the Ministerial Meeting is available at <http://www.iica.int/cumbres>.

⁷ The report was accompanied by a CD entitled: Developing an information system for following up on the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan. Joint initiative among international organizations in support of the Ministerial Delegates of Agriculture and Rural Life.

component, based on a joint initiative undertaken by international organizations, coordinated by IICA and ECLAC, which enjoys the support of FAO, PAHO, UNESCO and the ILO, aimed at identifying indicators for agriculture and rural life.

2.3 Ministerial dialogue on strategic issues

In line with the watchword of the Ministerial Meeting and the strategic issues taken into consideration in updating the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan with new complementary strategic actions, the discussions at the meeting focused on the following topics:

The potential of agrobiotechnologies (ABT) in agriculture in the Americas. Albert Sasson, international consultant.

The outlook for the agro-energy industry in the Americas

- *The outlook for the agro-energy industry.* Luiz Carlos Correa C., President of the Chamber of Sugar and Alcohol Producers of Brazil

Comments: Argentina, Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay, Brazil and Canada.

Reducing poverty, generating employment and promoting rural prosperity

- *Policies for rural prosperity.* Sergio Sepulveda, IICA Director of Sustainable Rural Development.

State policies for implementing the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan

- *Development and implementation of State policies for agriculture and rural life. Chile's experience.* Arturo Barrera, Under Secretary of Agriculture of Chile.
- *A partnership for the development of the countryside.* Roberto Villeda, Ministerial Delegate for Agriculture and Rural Life of Honduras.

Comments: Costa Rica, Guatemala, Paraguay, Guyana, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Mexico, Jamaica, Bahamas, Dominican Republic and Venezuela.

2.4 Presentation of the Report of the 2005 GRICA

The Chair of the 2005 GRICA presented a report on the results of the sessions of the 2005 GRICA held in San Jose and Guayaquil, containing the proposals agreed on by the Ministerial Delegates for Agriculture and Rural Life for the 2005 Hemispheric Ministerial Agreements on Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas.

These agreements, which complement the agreement on the updating of the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan set out in the Ministerial Agreement of Guayaquil, include actions related to: (i) the implementation of and follow-up to the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan, in preparation for the Fourth Ministerial Meeting; (ii) the development of an information system to provide follow-up to the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan; and (iii) the presentation to the SIRG of the Ministerial Proposal on Agriculture and Rural Life, for inclusion in the Draft Declaration of Mar del Plata and the Plan of Action of the Fourth Summit of the Americas (Argentina, 2005).

2.5 Ceremony for the signing of the Ministerial Agreement of Guayaquil

The Chair of the Ministerial Meeting asked the meeting to approve the *Ministerial Agreement of Guayaquil for Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas*, prepared by the 2005 GRICA, and invited the ministers and heads of delegation to sign the document. The President of Ecuador, Alfredo Palacio G., and IICA Director General Chelston W. D. Brathwaite served as honorary witnesses.⁸ By signing the Ministerial Agreement of Guayaquil, the ministers renewed their commitment to the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan.

3. The 2005 Hemispheric Ministerial Agreements

The Ministerial Meeting, based on the consensus reached by the 2005 GRICA, adopted the following four Hemispheric Ministerial Agreements. They complement those approved in 2001 and 2003, in particular, the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan.

3.1 AGRO 2003-2015 Plan. Ministerial Agreement of Guayaquil for Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas

⁸ The Ministerial Agreement of Guayaquil for Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas is available at <http://www.iica.int/cumbres>.

In the Ministerial Agreement of Guayaquil, the Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan and its components: the Shared Vision 2015, the Strategic Objectives, the Hemispheric Agenda and the implementation and follow-up measures.

Thus, the 2006-2007 Hemispheric Agenda, whose watchword is “*Promoting state policies for agriculture and rural life*,” establishes complementary strategic actions for the following 11 strategic issues:

- Areas of local economic development
- Quality management and certification
- Development of products based on the biotechnologies
- Generation of energy from alternative sources
- Policies for agroindustry
- Environmental services and environmentally sound practices
- Market opportunities for goods and services produced in an environmentally sustainable manner
- Social responsibility in rural enterprises
- Integral development of rural territories
- National policies
- Interinstitutional and multisectoral work

The ministers approved a series of measures related to the implementation of and follow-up to the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan. As well as updating the Plan, they called for the regional mechanisms and strategies for the improvement of agriculture and rural life to be strengthened, for international organizations to support the ministerial process for the implementation of the Plan and joint, coordinated action, and for the development of an information system on agriculture and rural life to provide follow-up to and evaluate the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan.

3.2 Ministerial Agreement on the Implementation of and Follow-up to the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan in Preparation for the Fourth Ministerial Meeting

In this agreement, the ministers: (i) entrusted the Ministerial Delegates and the Secretariat of the Ministerial Meeting with the task of disseminating the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan, updated with the Ministerial Agreement of Guayaquil; (ii) instructed the Ministerial Delegates to prepare, with the Secretariat’s help, the national progress reports on implementation of the Plan and the challenges encountered, and the GRICA to update the Plan for the 2008-2009 biennium; and, (iii) asked the Secretariat to

prepare a report on the status of the AGRO Plan and the actions carried out to coordinate the ministerial process with the Summit of the Americas Process.

3.3 Ministerial Agreement on the Information System for Following up on the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan

The Ministers asked the international organizations that supported the initial effort to develop an information system for providing follow-up and evaluating the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan to continue with this effort, with a view to completing it before the Fourth Ministerial Meeting, in 2007. They also urged other international organizations to take part in this initiative and asked the Secretariat to present this experience to the Joint Summit Working Group.

3.4 Ministerial Agreement on the Proposal for the Fourth Summit of the Americas

The Ministers agreed to submit two paragraphs to the Summit Implementation and Review Group (SIRG), comprising the National Summit Coordinators of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, for possible inclusion in the Draft Declaration and Plan of Action of the Fourth Summit of the Americas, Mar del Plata 2005.

AGENDA

IICA/JIA/Doc.286(05)

1. Schedule of the Meeting

1.1 Provisional schedule IICA/JIA/Doc.287(05)

2. Institutional Policy

2.1 Report on the implementation of the 2002-2006 Medium-Term Plan (Unnumbered)

2.2 Hemispheric biotechnology and biosafety program IICA/JIA/Doc.288(05)

2.3 Draft paper on a hemispheric plan for bioenergy and biofuels in the hemisphere IICA/JIA/Doc.289(05)

2.4 2006-2010 Medium-Term Plan IICA/JIA/Doc.290(05)

3. Budgetary and Financial Matters

3.1 Financial Statements for 2004 and 2003 and Report of the Independent Auditors IICA/JIA/Doc.291(05)

3.2 Tenth and Eleventh Annual Report of the Audit Review Committee (ARC) of IICA IICA/JIA/Doc.292(05)

3.3 Funding the IICA budget: IICA/JIA/Doc.293(05)

- Current status of quota payments and progress in the collection of quotas owed to the institute

• Program-Budget 2006-2007 IICA/JIA/Doc.294(05)

- Proposed 2006-2007 Special Budget Financed with Resources from the General Sub-fund IICA/JIA/Doc.295(05)

4. Interinstitutional relations

- 4.1 Report of the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) 2003-2004 IICA/JIA/Doc.296(05)
- 4.2 Report of the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE) 2001-2002 IICA/JIA/Doc.297(05)
- 4.3 Report on efforts to strengthen relations between IICA and CATIE, and the implementation of joint actions IICA/JIA/Doc.298(05)

5. Matters pertaining to the Governing Bodies of IICA

- 5.1 Election of the Director General of IICA for 2006-2010 (No document)
- 5.2 Status of the resolutions of the Twelfth Regular Meeting of the IABA IICA/JIA/Doc.299(05)
- 5.3 Status of the resolutions of the Twenty-Fourth and Twenty-Fifth Regular Meetings of the Executive Committee IICA/JIA/Doc.300(05)
- 5.4 Date and site of the Fourteenth Regular meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) IICA/JIA/Doc.301(05)

6. Others institutional matters

- | | |
|---|----------------------|
| 6.1 Report on the process of granting the Inter-American Awards in the rural sector | IICA/JIA/Doc.302(05) |
| 6.2 Proposal to renew the mandate of the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues (SACMI) | IICA/JIA/Doc.303(05) |
| 6.3 <u>General Power of Attorney to the Director General-Elect for the 2006-2010 Term</u> | IICA/JIA/Doc.304(05) |
| 6.4 Revised measures for collecting quotas owed the institute | IICA/JIA/Doc.305(05) |

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**MEMBER STATES****ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA**

Charlesworth T. Samuel (*Regular*)
 Minister of Agriculture, Lands, Marine
 Resources and Agro-Industry
 Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Marine
 Resources and Agro-Industry
 St. John's
 kenrob@worldnetconcepts.com

Jennifer Maynard (*Alternate*)
 Liaison Officer, International and
 Regional Organisations
 Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Marine
 Resources and Agro-Industry
 St. John's
 maynard4@candw.ag

ARGENTINA

Miguel Santiago Campos (*Regular*)
 Secretario de Agricultura, Ganadería,
 Pesca y Alimentos
 Secretaría de Agricultura, Ganadería,
 Pesca y Alimentos
 Buenos Aires
 mscampos@mecon.gov.ar

Alejandra Sarquis (*Alternate*)
 Directora Nacional de Mercados
 Secretaría de Agricultura, Ganadería,
 Pesca y Alimentos
 Buenos Aires
 asarqu@mecon.gov.ar

Daniela Raposo
 Asesora
 Dirección Nacional de Mercados
 Secretaría de Agricultura, Ganadería,
 Pesca y Alimentos
 Buenos Aires
 drapos@mecon.gov.ar

Oscar Ghersi
 Auditor Interno
 Instituto Nacional de Tecnología
 Agropecuaria (INTA)
 Buenos Aires
 oghersi@correo.inta.gov.ar

Lilliana Mónica Sola
 Encargada de la Dirección Nacional de
 Servicios Agropecuarios
 Secretaría de Agricultura, Ganadería,
 Pesca y Alimentos
 Buenos Aires
lsola@mecon.gov.ar

Gonzalo Torres Carioni
 Consejero
 Embajada de la República de
 Argentina en Ecuador
 Av. Amazonas 477, 8.º Piso
 Quito, Ecuador
secinar@uio.satnet.net

BAHAMAS

V. Alfred Gray (*Regular*)
 Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and
 Local Government
 Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and
 Local Government
 Nassau
alfredgray@bahamas.gov.bs

Camille Johnson (*Alternate*)
 Permanent Secretary
 Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and
 Local Government
 Nassau
camillejohnson@bahamas.gov.bs

Simeon Pinder
 Acting Director of Agriculture,
 Fisheries and Local Government
 Department of Agriculture
 Nassau
simeonpinder@bahamas.gov.bs

BARBADOS

Erskine Griffith (*Regular*)
 Minister of Agriculture and Rural
 Development
 Ministry of Agriculture and Rural
 Development
 Christ Church
egriffith@hotmail.com

Carston Simmons (*Alternate*)
 Permanent Secretary
 Ministry of Agriculture and Rural
 Development
 Christ Church
cubanks@hotmail.com

Michael King (*Alternate*)
 Permanent Representative of Barbados
 to the OAS
 Washington DC 20008
 Estados Unidos
michaeliking@aol.com

BOLIVIA

Guillermo Ribera Cuéllar (*Regular*)
 Ministro de Asuntos Campesinos y
 Agropecuarios
 Ministerio de Asuntos Campesinos y
 Agropecuarios
 La Paz
despacho@maca.gov.bo

Juan José Castro Guzmán (*Alternate*)
 Asesor General del Ministerio y
 Presidente de la Red de Políticas
 Agropecuarias
 Ministerio de Asuntos Campesinos y
 Agropecuarios
 La Paz
jjcastro2005@yahoo.com

BRAZIL

Roberto Rodrigues (*Regular*)
 Ministro da Agricultura, Pecuária e
 Abastecimento
 Ministerio de Agricultura, Pecuária e
 Abastecimento
 Brasília
gm@agricultura.gov.br

Edilson Guimarães (*Alternate*)
 Diretor do Departamento de
 Economia Agrícola
 Ministério da Agricultura, Pecuária e
 Abastecimento
 Brasília
 edguima@agricultura.gov.br

Ricardo Cotta Ferreira
 Diretor
 Ministério da Agricultura e
 Abastecimento
 Brasília
 ricardocotta@agricultura.gov.br

Maurício E. Cortes Costa
 Assessor Especial do Ministro
 Ministério da Agricultura, Pecuária e
 Abastecimento
 Brasília
 aes@agricultura.gov.br

CANADA

Wayne Easter, P.C., M.P. (*Regular*)
 Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister
 of Agriculture and Agri-Food with
 Special Emphasis on Rural
 Development
 House of Commons
 Ottawa
 easterw@agr.gc.ca

Brian Oak (*Alternate*)
 Canadian Ambassador to Ecuador
 Canadian Embassy in Ecuador
 Quito
quito@international.gc.ca

Paul Murphy (*Alternate*)
 Executive Director
 Programs and Multilateral Affairs
 Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
 Ottawa
 murphyp@agr.ca.ca

Mark Richardson
 Trade Commissioner & Vice Consul
 Canadian Embassy in Ecuador
 Quito
 quito-td@international.gc.ca

Burgoyne Daniel
 International Relations Advisor
 Canadian Food Inspection Agency
 Ontario
 dburgoyne@inspection.gc.ca

Marc Allarie
 Senior Events Planner
 Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
 Winnipeg, Manitoba
 allariem@agr.gc.ca

Felipe Costa Echeverría
 Consul
 Canadian Consulate in Guayaquil
 Guayaquil, Ecuador
 consulc1@espoltel.net

COLOMBIA

Fernando Arbeláez Soto (*Regular*)
 Secretario General
 Ministerio de Agricultura y Desarrollo
 Rural
 Bogotá
farbelaez@minagricultura.gov.co

María Salazar Nicholls (*Alternate*)
 Cónsul de la República de Colombia
 Embajada de la República de Colombia
 en Ecuador
 Quito, Ecuador

COSTA RICA

Rodolfo Coto Pacheco (*Regular*)
 Ministro de Agricultura y Ganadería
 Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería
 San José
asoto@mag.go.cr

Román Solera (*Alternate*)
 Director Ejecutivo
 Secretaría Ejecutiva de Planificación
 Sectorial Agropecuaria
 Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería
 San José
rsolera@mag.go.cr

David Yifong Lifang
 Cónsul
 Consulado de la República de Costa
 Rica en Guayaquil
 Guayaquil, Ecuador
dli@rree.go.cr

Carla Artiñano
 Cónsul
 Consulado de la República de Costa
 Rica en Guayaquil
 Guayaquil, Ecuador

CHILE

Arturo Barrera Miranda (*Regular*)
 Subsecretario
 Ministerio de Agricultura
 Santiago
abarrera@minagri.gob.cl

Héctor Echeverría Vásquez (*Alternate*)
 Jefe de Gabinete del Ministro
 de Agricultura
 Ministerio de Agricultura
 Santiago
marce@minagri.gob.cl

Hugo Lara Torres (*Alternate*)
 Jefe de Gabinete Subsecretario
 Ministerio de Agricultura
 Santiago
hlara@minagri.gob.cl

DOMINICA

Randolph Cato (*Regular*)
 Director, Economic Affairs Division
 OECS Secretariat
 Castries
rcato@oecs.org

ECUADOR

Pablo Rizzo Pastor (*Regular*)
 Ministro de Agricultura y Ganadería
 Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería
 Quito
ministro@mag.gov.ec

Jorge Hernán Chiriboga P. (*Alternate*)
 Viceministro de Agricultura y
 Ganadería
 Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería
 Quito
viceministro_mag.gov.ec

Guillermo Eulogio Ortega (*Alternate*)
 Subsecretario de Direccionamiento
 Estratégico Agroproductivo
 Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería
 Quito
estrategias@mag.gov.ec

EL SALVADOR

Mario Ernesto Salaverría (*Regular*)
 Ministro de Agricultura y Ganadería
 Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería
 Santa Tecla
semilla@mag.gob.sv
mserrano@mag.gob.sv

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

James Butler (*Regular*)
 Deputy Under Secretary for Farm
 and Foreign Agricultural Services
 United States Department of
 Agriculture
 Washington D.C.

Ellen Terpstra (*Alternate*)
 Administrator
 United States Department of
 Agriculture
 Foreign Agricultural Service
 Washington, D.C.
Ellen.Terpstra@usda.gov

William Brant (*Alternate*)
 Deputy Administrator
 International Cooperation and
 Development
 United States Department of
 Agriculture-FAS
 Washington, D.C.
william.brant@usda.gov

Stacy D. Williams (*Alternate*)
 Specialized Organizations Advisor
 United States Department of State
 Washington, D.C.
williamssd3@state.gov

Kevin Herbert
 Consul General
 United States Consulate
 Guayaquil, Ecuador

Melinda Sallyards
 Regional Agricultural Attaché –
 Peru, Ecuador and Bolivia
 United States Embassy
 Office of Agricultural Affairs
 Lima, Perú
melinda.sallyards@usda.gov

Bobby Richey, Jr.
 Deputy Director
 Biotechnology Group
 Foreign Agricultural Service
 United States Department of
 Agriculture
 Washington, D.C.
bobby.richey@usda.gov

Marianne McElroy
 International Relations Advisor
 International Cooperation and
 Development
 Foreign Agricultural Service
 United States Department of
 Agriculture
 Washington D.C.
marianne.mcelroy@fas.usda.gov

Susan Sadocha
 International Relations Advisor
 International Organization Affairs
 Division
 Foreign Agricultural Service
 United States Department of
 Agriculture
 Washington D.C.
Susan.Sadocha@usda.gov

Rene Alarcon
 Agricultural Specialist
 United States Embassy in Ecuador
 Quito, Ecuador
AgQuito@usda.gov

GRENADA

Roland Bhola (*Regular*)
 Minister in the Ministry of Agriculture,
 Lands, Forestry, Fisheries, Public
 Utilities, Energy and Marketing and
 National Importing Board
 Government of Grenada
 St. George's
agriculture@gov.gd

GUATEMALA

Bernardo López Figueroa (*Regular*)
 Viceministro de Agricultura,
 Ganadería y Alimentación
 Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería
 y Alimentación
 Guatemala
lopezbernardo@usa.net

Anabella Osorio (*Alternate*)
 Asesora del Despacho Ministerial
 Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería
 y Alimentación
 Guatemala
aosorio@maga.gob.gt

GUYANA

Satyadeow Sawh (*Regular*)
 Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries
 Crops and Livestock
 Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries
 Crops and Livestock
 Georgetown
minfcl_1@yahoo.com

HAITI

Mathieu Philippe (*Regular*)
 Ministre de l'Agriculture, des
 Ressources Naturelles et du
 Développement Rural
 Ministère de l'Agriculture, des
 Ressources Naturelles et du
 Développement Rural
 Damien
mango.plus@excite.com

François Joseph Delinois (*Alternate*)
 Délégué Ministériel
 Ministère de de l'Agriculture, des
 Ressources Naturelles e du
 Développement Rural
 Damien
 mango.plus@excite.com
 francoisjdelinois@yahoo.com

HONDURAS

Roberto Villeda Toledo (*Regular*)
 Asesor del Secretario de Estado
 Secretaría de Agricultura y Ganadería
 Tegucigalpa
 rvt@honduras.quik.com

Ana Cristina Padgett (*Alternate*)
 Asistente Ejecutiva del Secretario
 de Estado
 Secretaría de Agricultura y Ganadería
 Tegucigalpa
 anapadgett@yahoo.com

JAMAICA

Roger Clarke (*Regular*)
 Minister of Agriculture
 Ministry of Agriculture

Don McGlashan (*Alternate*)
 Chief Technical Director
 Ministry of Agriculture

MEXICO

Víctor Manuel Villalobos A. (*Regular*)
 Coordinador de Asuntos
 Internacionales
 Secretaría de Agricultura, Ganadería,
 Desarrollo Rural, Pesca y
 Alimentación
 México, D.F.
vvilla@sagarpa.gob.mx

Fernando Zuloaga Albarrán (*Alternate*)
 Ministro Agropecuario de México
 en Centroamérica
 Secretaría de Agricultura, Ganadería,
 Desarrollo Rural, Pesca y
 Alimentación
consejaria@inteln.net.gt

Evangelina Beltrán Pimienta
 Directora de Intercambio Académico
 Internacional
 Secretaría de Agricultura, Ganadería,
 Desarrollo Rural, Pesca y
 Alimentación
 México, D.F.
ebeltran.ssag@sagarpa.gob.mx

NICARAGUA

José Augusto Navarro F. (*Regular*)
 Ministro Agropecuario y Forestal
 Ministerio Agropecuario y Forestal
 Managua
jnavarro@magfor.gob.ni

PANAMA

Erick Fidel Santamaría (*Regular*)
 Secretario General
 Ministerio de Desarrollo Agropecuario
 Ciudad de Panamá
 esantamaria@mida.gob.pa

PARAGUAY

Gustavo Nelson Ruíz Díaz R. (*Regular*)
 Ministro de Agricultura y Ganadería
 Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería
 Asunción
ministromag@telesurf.com.py

Mario León Frutos (*Alternate*)
 Director General
 Dirección General de Planificación
 Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería
 Asunción
dgpmag@pla.net.py

Gloria Rolón (*Alternate*)
 Primera Secretaria
 Embajada de la República del
 Paraguay en Ecuador
 Quito
embapar@uio.telconet.net

PERU

Manuel R. J. Manrique U. (*Regular*)
 Ministro de Agricultura
 Ministerio de Agricultura
 Lima
manuel.manrique@minag.gob.pe

Raúl Daniel Loarte Ruiz (*Alternate*)
 Funcionario del Consulado General del
 Perú en Guayaquil
 Consulado General del Perú en
 Guayaquil
conperu@gye.satnet.net

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Amílcar Romero Portuondo (*Regular*)
 Secretario de Estado de Agricultura
 Secretaría de Estado de Agricultura
 Santo Domingo
sub_planificacion@agricultura.gov.do

Leandro M. Mercedes (*Alternate*)
 Subsecretario de Estado de Extensión
 y Capacitación Agropecuarias
 Secretaría de Estado de Agricultura
 Santo Domingo
sub_extension@agricultura.gov.do

SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS

Cedric Roy Liburd (*Regular*)
 Minister of Housing Agriculture,
 Fisheries and Consumer Affairs
 Basseterre
minafclh@caribsurf.com

**SAINT VINCENT AND THE
GRENADINES**

Girlyn Miguel (*Regular*)
 Minister of Agriculture, Forestry
 and Fisheries
 Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry
 and Fisheries
 Kingstown
agrimin@caribsurf.com

Philmore Isaacs (*Alternate*)
 Chief Agricultural Officer
 Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry
 and Fisheries
 Kingstown
 agrimin@caribsurf.com

SAINT LUCIA

Ignatius Jean (*Regular*)
 Minister for Agriculture, Forestry
 and Fisheries
 Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry
 and Fisheries
 Castries
 minister@slumaffe.org

SURINAME

Gerrit Arno Breinburg (*Regular*)
 Director of Agriculture, Planning
 and Development
 Ministry of Agriculture, Animal
 Husbandry and Fisheries
 Paramaribo
 dirlvv@sr.net; gerritno@yahoo.com

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Jarrette Narine (*Regular*)
 Minister of Agriculture, Land and
 Marine Resources
 Ministry of Agriculture, Land and
 Marine Resources
 Port of Spain
 psmalmr@tstt.net.tt

Winston Gibson (*Alternate*)
 Permanent Secretary
 Ministry of Agriculture, Land and
 Marine Resources
 Port of Spain
 psmalmr@tstt.net.tt

URUGUAY

Ernesto Agazzi (*Regular*)
 Subsecretario de Ganadería,
 Agricultura y Pesca
 Ministerio de Ganadería, Agricultura
 y Pesca
 Montevideo
 eagazzi@mgap.gub.uy

Luis Almagro (*Alternate*)
 Director, Unidad de Asuntos
 Internacionales
 Ministerio de Ganadería, Agricultura
 y Pesca
 Montevideo
 lalmagro@mgap.gub.uy

Marcelo Esteban Gerona Morales
 Encargado de Negocios a.i.
 Embajada de la República Oriental del
 Uruguay en Ecuador
 Quito, Ecuador
 embajadauruguay@andinanet.net

VENEZUELA

Freddy Escalona (*Regular*)
 Viceministro de Desarrollo Rural
 Integral
 Ministerio de Agricultura y Tierras
 Caracas
act@iica.int.ve

Eleazar Salazar (*Alterno*)
Director General de Apoyo
Tecnológico e Innovación
Ministerio de Agricultura y Tierras
Caracas

Lennys Beatriz Rosales Palacios
Directora General de Relaciones
Internacionales
Ministerio de Alimentación
Caracas
oriminalven@yahoo.com

Rafael José Coronado Patiño
Viceministro de Gestión Económica
Ministerio de Alimentación
Caracas
rcoronadop@yahoo.br

IICA ASSOCIATE OBSERVER

SPAIN

Antonio Crespo García
Consejero de Agricultura, Pesca y Alimentación
de las Embajadas de España en Centroamérica y
República Dominicana
Ministerio de Agricultura, Pesca y Alimentación de España
San José, Costa Rica
mapaesp@racsa.co.cr

PERMANENT OBSERVERS

GERMANY

Michael Deckwitz
Head of Division
German Federal Ministry of Consumer
Berlin, Germany
deckwitz@bmvel.bund.de

FRANCE

Olivier Huot
Primer Consejero
Embajada de Francia en Ecuador
Quito, Ecuador
francie@andinanet.net.ec

ISRAEL

Daniel Saban
Embajador de Israel
Embajada de Israel
Quito, Ecuador

Galit Efraim
Cónsul
Embajada de Israel
Quito, Ecuador
info@quito.mfa.gov.il

DIRECTORS EMERITUS

José Emilio Araujo
Tijuca, RJ, Brasil
Tel.: (55 21) 2571 1451

Martín Piñeiro
Capital Federal, Argentina
mpineiro@mol.com.ar

Francisco Morillo
Caracas, Venezuela
francisco.morillo@iica.net

***PARTNER INSTITUTIONS IN THE SUMMIT
OF THE AMERICAS PROCESS***

WORLD BANK

Eduardo Somensatto
Gerente para Ecuador del
Banco Mundial
World Trade Center
Quito, Ecuador
esomensatto@worldbank.org

**ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR
LATIN AMERICA AND THE
CARIBBEAN (ECLAC)**

Martine Dirven
Jefa, Unidad de Desarrollo Agrícola
Santiago, Chile
martine.dirven@cepal.org

**ANDEAN DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION (ADC)**

Juan Bernardo Requena
Director de Desarrollo Social
Corporación Andina de Fomento
Caracas, Venezuela
brequena@caf.com

**ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN
STATES**

Ambassador Albert R. Ramdin
Assistant Secretary General
Washington D.C., Estados Unidos
agroehnkick@oas.org

Luis Alberto Rodríguez
Director
Secretaria de Cumbres de las
Américas/OEA
Washington, D.C., Estados Unidos
lrodriguez@oas.org

Carolina Santa Maria
Specialist
OAS Summit of the Americas
Secretariat
Washington, D.C., Estados Unidos
csantamaria@oas.org

Sherry Tross
Advisor
Office of Asst. Secretary General
Organization of American States
Washington D.C., Estados Unidos
stross@oas.org

Carlos María Ocampos A.
Director, Oficina de la OEA
en Ecuador
Quito, Ecuador
oea1@oea.org.ec

**PAN AMERICAN HEALTH
ORGANIZATION (PAHO)**

Albino Belotto
Chief, Veterinary Public Health Unit
Washington D.C., Estados Unidos
belottoa@paho.org

REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

**CARIBBEAN AGRICULTURAL
RESEARCH AND
DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE
(CARDI)**

Francis H. Asiedu
Representative, Jamaica Unit
Kingston, Jamaica
cardi2@cwjamaica.com

**CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY
(CARICOM)**

Sam Lawrence
Advisor, Regional Transformation
Programme for Agriculture
CARICOM Secretariat
Georgetown, Guyana
saml@caricom.org

**TROPICAL AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH AND HIGHER
EDUCATION CENTER (CATIE)**

Pedro Emilio Ferreira Rossi
Director General
Turrialba, Costa Rica
ferreira@catie.ac.cr
www.catie.ac.cr

**REGIONAL AGRICULTURAL
COOPERATION COUNCIL
(CORECA)**

Róger Guillén Bustos
Secretario Ejecutivo
San José, Costa Rica
roger.guillen@iica.int

Óscar Quesada
Especialista en Relaciones
Internacionales
San José, Costa Rica
oscar.quesada@iica.int

**CENTRAL AMERICAN
FEDERATION OF
AGRICULTURAL AND
AGROINDUSTRIAL
ASSOCIATIONS (FECAGRO)**

Ricardo Esmahan
Presidente
Maquilishuat, El Salvador
r.esmahan@camagro.com

**INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR
AGRICULTURAL
DEVELOPMENT (IFAD)**

Robert Haudry de Soucy
Country Portfolio Manager
Lima, Perú
r.haudry@ifad.org

Raúl Hopkins
Economista Regional
División de América Latina y el Caribe
Roma, Italia
r.hopkins@ifad.org

**INTERNATIONAL REGIONAL
ORGANIZATION FOR
AGRICULTURAL HEALTH
(OIRSA)**

Óscar Gutiérrez R.
Director Ejecutivo
OIRSA
San Salvador, El Salvador
dejecutiva@oirsa.org

Óscar José Umaña
Asesor de la Dirección Ejecutiva
San Salvador, El Salvador
adejecutiva@oirsa.org

**FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS**

Gustavo Gordillo de Anda
Assistant Director-General
Regional Representative
FAO of the United Nations
Santiago, Chile
Gustavo.GordilloDeAnda@fao.org

Lucas Silva
Consultor
Santiago, Chile
lucas.silva@fao.org

Fernando Soto Baquero
Jefe Subdirección de Asistencia
para las Políticas
Oficina Regional para América
Latina y el Caribe
Santiago, Chile
Fernando.Soto.Baquero@fao.org

Luis Lobo
Oficial Técnico
FAO Naciones Unidas
Santiago, Chile
luis.lobos@fao.org

Iván Antonio Angulo Chacón
Representante de FAO en Ecuador
Quito, Ecuador
ivan.angulo@fao.org

**UNITED NATIONS
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
(UNDP)**

Verónica Quintero
Manager Poverty Unit
United Nations Development
Programme (UNDP)
Ecuador
veronica.quintero@undp.org

**GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF
THE ANDEAN COMMUNITY
(CAN)**

Jorge Tello Coello
Coordinador
Lima, Perú
jtello@comunidadandina.org

OTHER ORGANZATIONS

WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME

Lautaro Andrade
Program Officer
Quito, Ecuador
lautaro.andrade@wfp.org

**ASOCIACIÓN DE GRADUADOS
DE LA ESCUELA AGRÍCOLA
PANAMERICANA (AGEAP)**

Rafael Verduga Verduga
Presidente
AGEAP Ecuador
Quito, Ecuador
rverduga@texcumar.com

Juan Sebastián Borja
Presidente
Asociación de Zamoranos, AGEAPLE
Guayaquil, Ecuador
jsborja@interactive.net.ec

**COLEGIO DE INGENIEROS
AGRONÓMOS DE PICHINCHA**

Marcelo Alvear
Presidente
malvearv@yahoo.com

**CONSORCIO DE CONSEJOS
PROVINCIALES DEL ECUADOR
(CONCOPE)**

Gustavo Nicolás Abdo López
Director Ejecutivo
San Isidro del Inca, Ecuador
gabdo@concope.gov.ec
gustavoabdo@yahoo.com

ECOELECTRIC - NOBIS

Jorge Chang
Presidente
Executive Center
Guayaquil, Ecuador
jchang@nobis.com.ec

**FUNDACIÓN PARA LA CIENCIA
Y LA TECNOLOGÍA
(FUNDACYT)**

Patricio Yépez
Director Ejecutivo
Quito, Ecuador
pyopez@fundacyt.org.ec

**FUNDACIÓN PARA EL
DESARROLLO AGROPECUARIO
(FUNDAGRO)**

Jorge Nelson Muñoz Torres
Presidente
Quito, Ecuador
jmunoz@grupowong.com

**FUNDACIÓN PRIVADA WILSON
POPENOE**

Rodolfo Arambulo Arambulo
Director
Quito, Ecuador
fram620@impsat.net.ec

Roberto Mollison Mollison
Presidente
Quito, Ecuador
roberto.mollison@agrotropical.com

Luis K. Valverde
Director Ejecutivo
Quito, Ecuador
lvalverde@fundacionpopenoe.org

**INSTITUTO NACIONAL
AUTÓNOMO DE
INVESTIGACIONES
AGROPECUARIAS (INIAP)**

Julio Delgado
Director General
Quito, Ecuador
jdelgado@iniap-ecuador.gov.ec

Víctor Hugo Cardoso
Director de Transferencia
Quito, Ecuador
vcardoso@iniap-ecuador.gov.ec

**SERVICIO ECUATORIANO DE
SANIDAD AGROPECUARIA
(SESA)**

Abel Viteri
Director Ejecutivo
Quito, Ecuador
direcsesa@mag.gov.ec

José Sotomayor
Asesor Jurídico
Quito, Ecuador
direcsesa@mag.gov.ec

PRONACA

Luis Bakker
Presidente
PRONACA
Ecuador
magallardo@pronaca.com

**SECRETARÍA DE
IMPLEMENTACIÓN PL-480**

Luis Antonio Sánchez C.
Director Ejecutivo
Quito, Ecuador
pl480@punto.net.ec

Sergio Eduardo Seminario
Soniconti S.A.
Ecuador
soniconti@gruposeminario.org

ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS

**ESCUELA AGRÍCOLA
PANAMERICANA – ZAMORANO**

Kenneth Hoadley
Presidente
Tegucigalpa, Honduras
khoadley@zamorano.edu

Rick Falck
Chairman of the Board of Trustees
Zamorano University
Ithaca, NY, Estados Unidos
ffalck@twcny.rr.com

César Terán
Vicepresidente Sudamerica
Zamorano Alumni
Quito, Ecuador
ceteran@ecutel.net

UNIVERSIDAD DE GUAYAQUIL

Emilio Calle Eguiguren
Director del Centro de Transferencia
de Tecnología
Guayaquil, Ecuador
ecalle@ug.ed.ec

Wilson Orlando Pozo Guerrero
Director
Maestría en Agricultura Tropical
Sostenible
Guayaquil, Ecuador
wpozo@jupiter.espoltel.net

**UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST
INDIES**

Dyer Narinesingh
Dean
Faculty of Science and Agriculture
St. Augustine, Trinidad y Tobago
dnarinesingh@fsa.uwi.tt

**UNIVERSIDAD TÉCNICA DE
COTOPAXI**

Vladimir Marconi Ortiz Bustamante
Docente
Latacunga, Ecuador
webmaster@ceypsa.utc.edu.ec

SPECIAL GUESTS

Luiz Carlos Corrêa Carvalho
 Speaker
 Brazilian Sector Chamber of Sugar and
 Etanol Productive Chain
 CANAPLAN, Consultoría Técnica
 São Paulo, Brasil
 luiz.carvalho@altoalegre.com.br

Albert Sasson
 Speaker
 París, Francia

Salomón Larrea Rodríguez
 Entrepreneur
 World Trade Center
 Guayaquil, Ecuador

AWARD WINNERS

Miguel Holle Osterdart
 Inter-American Agricultural Medal

Víctor Cubillos
 Decano
 Universidad Austral de Chile

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Nelson Estrada Ramos
 Honorable Mention Inter-American
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Ximena R. Cadima Fuentes
 Inter-American Agricultural Award for
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Grace Cereceda Sangster de Cabanilla
 Honorable Mention Inter-American
 Award for the Contribution of
 Women to Rural Development
 2003-2005

Centro de Inseminación Artificial,
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 Inter-American Award for Institutional
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Sandals Resort International de Santa
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Document translation

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Orlando García (on line)

French
Ivonne Bellion
Michelle Le Maître (on line)

English
Paul Murphy
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Portuguese	Marilia Álvarez Carlos Ramírez (on line)
------------	---

Text correction and follow-up

English-French	Marta Arias
Spanish-Portuguese	Laura Cartín

Simultaneous interpretation

Spanish	Consuelo Núñez Angélica Márquez
French	France Fontaine Giovana Ruggiero
English	Carmen Huneus de Espinoza Mercedes Reyes
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