



INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE - IABA

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**REPORT ON THE PROCESS OF GRANTING THE INTER-
AMERICAN AWARDS IN THE RURAL SECTOR**

Guayaquil, Ecuador

1. **The 2003-2005 Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector**

The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), by Executive Committee Resolution IICA/CE/Res.439 (XXV-O/05), granted the 2003-2005 Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector. These awards, in addition to giving recognition to those who receive them, help to bring to the attention of the international community and, in particular, the Member States of the Institute, the work of their citizens and institutions that have distinguished themselves by their outstanding contributions to the development of agriculture and the improvement of rural life in the Americas.

The following Inter-American Awards are granted:

- A. Inter-American Agricultural Medal
- B. Inter-American Agricultural Award for Young Professionals
- C. Inter-American Award for the Contribution of Women to Rural Development
- D. Inter-American Award for Institutional Contributions to Agricultural and Rural Development

The Inter-American Agricultural Medal is bestowed upon professionals who have distinguished themselves through outstanding contributions to the development of agriculture and to the improvement of rural life, both in their own countries or in other countries of the Americas. In granting these awards, consideration will be given, essentially, to their work and their contributions.

The Inter-American Agricultural Award for Young Professionals is a distinction granted to those professionals who are under thirty-five years of age at the time of nomination, who have distinguished themselves through their professional contributions and who have demonstrated an outstanding willingness to serve, exceptional initiative and dedication in working for agricultural development and the well-being of the rural population. In granting these awards, consideration will be given, essentially, to the candidates' concrete contributions.

The Inter-American Award for the Contribution of Women to Rural Development shall be awarded to those women who have distinguished themselves through outstanding contributions to the process of involving women in rural development, in general, and to improving the quality of life, in particular, both in their own country or in other countries of the Americas.

The Inter-American Award for Institutional Contributions to Agricultural and Rural Development is conferred on a public or private organization, enterprise, university or nongovernmental organization of the Member States of IICA that has made significant corporate contributions to improving agriculture and rural life in one or more countries of the Americas.

2. The new process for nominating candidates for the Inter-American Awards

Given the small number of candidates nominated for the 2002-2003 awards, the IABA, at its Twelfth Regular Meeting, approved Resolution No. 398, declaring the awards void.

The Executive Committee, in response to concerns expressed by the IABA, drafted modifications in the Regulations intended to overcome difficulties experienced in the past in their application. In Resolution IICA/CE/Res.376(XXII-O/02), the amendments to the Regulations were approved. The fundamental changes were:

- a. *A new award was added to acknowledge institutional contributions to agricultural and rural development.*
- b. *The process of identifying and nominating candidate, which was limited to the public sector in the past, has been opened up to enterprises, trade associations and the community of agriculture and rural life in each country.*
- c. *Procedures are clearer and simpler and a guide for the selection of candidates has been provided.*
- d. *The primary criterion for nomination is the real contribution the person or institution has made to the modernization of agriculture and the improvement of living conditions in the countryside. In the past, the emphasis placed on a candidate's curriculum vitae gave preference to those in academia and research.*
- e. *Priority is attached to the candidate's commitment to serving rural inhabitants; the award being granted in recognition of his/her initiative, dedication and accomplishments.*
- f. *Procedures have been improved by actively involving the Offices in the countries in the identification and nomination of candidates.*
- g. *The awards are recognized at the national and regional levels. It is the top candidates for the awards at the regional level (one per region) who compete for the Inter-American Awards.*

Because these hemispheric awards are honorary (except the award for young professionals, which also includes a scholarship) it is necessary to restore the prestige of same. This is only possible if the candidates presented meet the criteria.

Also, improvements have been proposed in the procedure for delivering the awards at the Ministerial Meeting, which is held every two years.

3. The process of granting the 2003-2005 Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector

In several Member States, honorary committees were set up to grant the national awards. Those committees, comprising one representative each of the public agricultural sector, of private institutions linked to agriculture and rural development, of academia and of trade associations in the rural sector, selected the winners in each country.

The names of the winners at the national level have been sent to IICA Headquarters as candidates for the Inter-American Awards. All the information submitted was systematized to assist the Executive Committee in making the final selection. The basic criterion applied throughout the selection process has been the importance of the contributions the candidates have made to agricultural and rural development.

The General Directorate sent the information on the candidates to the 12 Member States that would be sitting on the Executive Committee at its Twenty-fifth Regular Meeting, for review.

During the preparatory session, the Executive Committee set up the Selection Commission, comprising representatives of Argentina, Mexico and the Dominican Republic. After studying the pertinent documentation, the Commission proposed the best candidate for each award to the Plenary, justifying the selection of each candidate. The Commission also recommended persons and institutions that should receive honorable mention in each award.

The Director General designated the Director of Operations for the Andean Region, Martin Ramirez, and the Director of Operations for the Southern Region, Guillermo Toro, to serve as Secretaries of the Selection Commission. The Secretariat informed the members of the Commission regarding the process for presenting candidates. They also provide support in organizing all the information analyzed by the Commission and helped in the organization of its meeting.

Pursuant to the proposal from the Commission, the Executive Committee adopted the following resolution:

RESOLUTION No. 439

2003-2005 INTER-AMERICAN AWARDS IN THE RURAL SECTOR

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Twenty-fifth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/Doc.469(05) "2003-2005 Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector" and the report presented by the Selection Committee for the Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector, and its recommendations concerning the conferral of the Awards for 2003-2005,

CONSIDERING:

That, as shown in the aforementioned document, the Selection Committee conducted a thorough study of the nominations received, taking into consideration the Regulations of the Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector currently in force, and has recommended that awards be granted in the different categories;

That Miguel Holle Osterdart was nominated by the International Potato Center (CIP) as a candidate for the 2003-2005 Inter-American Agricultural Medal;

That Fresia Enriqueta del Carmen Zuñiga Perez was nominated by the National Jury for the Inter-American Awards of Chile as a candidate for the 2003-2005 Inter-American Award for the Contribution of Women to Rural Development;

That Ximena Rocio Cadima Fuentes was nominated by the National Jury for the Inter-American Awards of Bolivia as a candidate for the 2003-2005 Inter-American Award for Young Professionals; and,

That the Artificial Insemination Center of the Universidad Austral was nominated by the National Jury for the Inter-American Awards of Chile as a candidate for the 2003-2005 Inter-American Award for Institutional Contributions to Agricultural and Rural Development;

That all the persons and institution mentioned above are fully qualified to receive the Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector, in public international recognition of their outstanding contributions to agricultural development and the betterment of rural life in the Americas,

RESOLVES:

1. To bestow:
 - a) The 2003-2005 Inter-American Agricultural Medal on Miguel Holle Osterdart, from Peru;
 - b) The 2003-2005 Inter-American Award for the Contribution of Women to Rural Development on Fresia Enriqueta del Carmen Zuniga Perez, from Chile;
 - c) The 2003-2005 Inter-American Agricultural Award for Young Professionals on Ximena Rocio Cadima Fuentes, from Bolivia;
 - d) The 2003-2005 Inter-American Award for Institutional Contributions to Agricultural and Rural Development on the Artificial Insemination Center of the Universidad Austral of Chile;
2. To award the following honorable mentions;
 - a) For the 2003-2005 Inter-American Agricultural Medal: Mr. Nelson Estrada Ramos, from Colombia;
 - b) For the 2003-2005 Inter-American Award for the Contribution of Women to Rural Development: Mrs. Grace Cereceda Sangster de Cabanilla, from Ecuador;
 - c) For the 2003-2005 Inter-American Award for Institutional Contributions to Agricultural and Rural Development: Sandals Resort International of St. Lucia;
3. To thank the Member States for their active and meaningful participation in identifying and nominating a group of outstanding candidates for these awards.