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**INTER-AMERICAN AWARDS
IN THE RURAL SECTOR**

La Antigua Guatemala, Guatemala

RESOLUTION No. 475

**2006-2007 INTER-AMERICAN AWARDS
IN THE RURAL SECTOR**

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

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/Doc.508 (07), "2006-2007 Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector" and the report presented by the Selection Committee for Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector (Selection Committee) and its recommendations for granting the awards for 2006-2007,

CONSIDERING:

That as can be seen from the Selection Committee's report, that Committee has conducted a thorough review of the nominations received in the light of the existing Regulations governing inter-American awards in the rural sector and has recommended granting the awards in the various categories; and

That the persons and institutions recommended by the Awards Committee meet the requirements and have the distinction that warrant the granting of the Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector as international public recognition of their worthy contribution to the development of agriculture and the improvement of rural life in the Americas,

RESOLVES:

1. To grant the:
 - a. Inter-American Agricultural Medal for 2006 to Jorge Leon Arguedas from Costa Rica;
 - b. Inter-American Agricultural Medal for 2007 to Egbert Miller from Jamaica;
 - c. Inter-American Award for the Contribution of Women to Rural Development for 2006-2007 to Mayra Roxana Falck Reyes from Honduras;

- d. Inter-American Award for Institutional Contributions to Agricultural and Rural Development for 2006-2007 to the *Fundación Hondureña de Investigación Agrícola (FHIA)* (Honduran Agricultural Research Foundation).
2. To declare the Inter-American Award for Young Professionals void for 2006-2007.
3. To grant the following honorable mentions:
 - a. The Inter-American Agricultural Award for Young Professionals for 2006-2007: to Luke Lee from Jamaica;
 - b. The Inter-American Agricultural Award for Young Professionals for 2006-2007: to Carlos Maria Arrechea Ortiz from Paraguay;
 - c. The Inter-American Award for the Contribution of Women to Rural Development for 2006-2007: to Rosita Benitez Portillo from Paraguay.
4. To thank Member States for their active and significant participation in the process for identifying and nominating an outstanding group of candidates to receive the Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector.
5. To instruct the Director General to organize the awards ceremony within the framework of the Fourteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture.

REPORT OF THE SELECTION COMMITTEE FOR THE AWARDS
IN THE RURAL SECTOR (AWARDS COMMITTEE)

The Awards Committee comprised Philippa Forde from Trinidad and Tobago, as Chair; Carmen Galdona from Paraguay; and Gabriela de Morales from Panama.

We reviewed the curricula vitae of 33 candidates based on the regulations governing the Inter-American Awards. We note that nominations were received from only 16 of the 34 countries that make up the Inter-American System.

Inasmuch as the main purpose of the Inter-American Awards is to serve as an instrument for recognizing the outstanding contributions made by individuals and institutions to bring about the sustainable development of agriculture and the improvement of rural life, this Committee wishes to make certain recommendations regarding improvement of the process for selecting candidates and the work of the Awards Committee.

Below are the recommendations of this Committee:

- To update and improve the regulations governing the selection of candidates for the national and the Inter-American awards by defining more precisely the requirements for each award;
- To design a mechanism to encourage greater participation by the countries;
- To establish a standardized format for the presentation of curricula vitae. This will enable the Awards Committee to learn more about what the candidates have accomplished and how they have contributed to agriculture and the improvement of rural life;
- All nominations should be accompanied by a formal letter introducing the candidate, along with a brief justification for the nomination. This letter could come from the government, business, academic or nongovernmental sector;
- To design a mechanism to encourage prize laureates to continue to work on behalf of agriculture and the improvement of rural life;
- To entrust the Director General with publicizing the accomplishments and contributions of the laureates and to share them with other countries of the Inter-American System;
- To create a new category intended to recognize the contributions made by innovative producers and the impact they have on their communities.

We recommend to the Executive Committee that it set up a working group to implement these suggestions and recommendations. That working group would comprise representatives of IICA and the member countries of the IABA.