

RESOLUTION No.446

HEMISPHERIC PROGRAM ON AGRO-ENERGY AND BIO-FUELS

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

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/Doc.481(06) "Hemispheric Program on Agro-energy and Bio-fuels,"

CONSIDERING:

That the current worldwide energy crisis has led to ever-increasing prices for fossil fuels and has had a negative impact on the finances of nations, which must spend huge sums of money to acquire petroleum and petroleum-based products;

That bio-fuels offer a viable alternative for partially replacing imports of oil and natural gas, which would have a favorable impact on foreign exchange savings;

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

That technological innovation, a key factor in modernizing agriculture and making it more competitive in a context of globalization and the creation of free trade areas in the Americas, can be strengthened through horizontal cooperation, which will enable countries that are more advanced in the field of bio-fuel production to cooperate with those that have entered this field only recently,

RESOLVES:

1. To approve the bases of the Hemispheric Program on Agro-energy and Bio-fuels as set forth in document IICA/CE/Doc.481(06).
2. To instruct the Director General to form a working group, to include representatives from Member States, and to charge it with presenting recommendations for implementing the Hemispheric Program on Agro-energy and Bio-fuels.

3. To instruct the Director General to present to the Executive Committee at its next Regular Meeting, based on the recommendations of the working group, a proposal for funding the Program from 2008-2010 with resources from the Program-Budget and from the collection of quota arrearages, as well as a plan for implementing the Program.
4. To urge the Member States to make voluntary contributions of financial resources and qualified human resources as support for implementation of the Program.