

RESOLUTION No. 494

**AMENDMENTS TO THE REGULATIONS FOR CONFERRING
INTER-AMERICAN AWARDS IN THE RURAL SECTOR**

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

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/Doc.528(08) Rev.2, "Proposed Amendments to the Regulations for Conferring the Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector",

CONSIDERING:

That experience with the processes for selecting and conferring awards in the rural sector shows that improvements need to be made in the current procedures;

That in 1958, IICA created the Inter-American Agricultural Medal to which another three awards were added in 1979;

That the purpose of these awards is to bring to the attention of the international community the work of citizens and institutions in Member States of IICA that have made outstanding contributions to the development of agriculture and the improvement of rural life in the Americas;

That by means of Resolution IICA/JIA/Res.174(V-O/89), adopted at its Fifth Regular Meeting, the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) approved the Regulations for Conferring the Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector;

That the selection process may be improved by a more ample publication and distribution of information about the awards offered by IICA and by establishing national awards in each country that recognize at the local level the contributions of individuals, groups, and institutions to sustainable agriculture and rural life;

That the current regulations governing such awards require modification for the purpose of stimulating a greater interest in the awards and implementing improvements in the selection process,

RESOLVES:

1. To approve the amendments to the current Regulations for Conferring Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector proposed in document IICA/CE/Doc.528(08) Rev. 2, attached to this Resolution.
2. To authorize the Director General to put into effect, as of this date, the version of the regulations that includes the approved amendments as the basis for the process for conferring Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector.
3. To urge Member States, with the support of the IICA offices, to promote the selection of candidates and the granting of national awards that recognize individuals, groups and institutions for their outstanding contributions to the development of sustainable agriculture and rural life.
4. To establish as a transitory provision, only for the present biennium, that the members of the Awards Selection Commission be selected in the preparatory session of the next Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee.

**REGULATIONS FOR CONFERRING THE INTER-AMERICAN
AWARDS IN THE RURAL SECTOR**

Corresponding Articles of Current Text	Proposed Text
	CHAPTER I: INTRODUCTION¹
<p>INTRODUCTION</p> <p>The Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector should be an instrument for recognizing the outstanding contributions made by individuals, institutions and enterprises to bring about sustainable development of agriculture and the improvement of rural life.</p> <p>It also contains a “Guide of the Selection of Candidates,” which provides instructions to be followed for the presentation of candidates and the key requirements of each award.</p>	<p>INTRODUCTION</p> <p>The Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector recognize the outstanding contributions individuals, institutions and enterprises over time to the development of sustainable agriculture and the improvement of rural life in the Americas.</p> <p>For the purpose of complementing these Regulations, the General Directorate shall prepare a Guide and distribute it to the Member States (“the Guide”). The Guide will contain additional instructions for the selection process.</p>
<p>Article 1</p> <p>The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), by resolution of the Executive Committee, shall bestow awards to bring to the attention of the international community, and especially to the Member States of IICA, the work carried out by citizens and institutions of its Member States who have distinguished themselves through outstanding contributions to the development of agriculture and to the improvement of rural life in the Americas.</p>	<p>Article 1:</p> <p>1.1 The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), by resolution of the Executive Committee, shall confer the Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector to bring to the attention of the international community, and especially to the Member States of IICA, the work and contributions of citizens, institutions and enterprises of its Member States that have distinguished themselves through outstanding contributions to the development of sustainable agriculture and to the improvement of rural life in the Americas.</p> <p>1.2 The Chair of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture shall present the awards in a special ceremony at the Regular Meeting of the Board.</p>
	CHAPTER II: THE AWARDS
<p>Article 2</p> <p>The Inter-American Awards consist of four different awards: i) the Inter-American Agricultural Medal, ii) the Inter-American Agricultural Award for Young Professionals, iii) the Inter-American Award for the Contribution of Women to Rural Development, and iv) the Inter-American Award for Institutional Contributions to Agricultural and Rural Development.</p>	<p>Article 2:</p> <p>2.1 The five Inter-American Awards are: i) the Inter-American Agricultural Medal, ii) the Inter-American Award for Innovative Rural Producers, iii) the Inter-American Agricultural Award for Young Professionals, iv) the Inter-American Award for the Contribution of Women to Rural Development, and v) the Inter-American Award for Institutional Contributions to Agricultural and Rural Development.</p>

¹ Titles affixed by the General Directorate to facilitate use of these regulations.

Corresponding Articles of Current Text	Proposed Text
<p>Article 3</p> <p>The Inter-American Agricultural Medal is bestowed upon professionals who have received the National Agricultural Medal in the respective countries and 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.</p>	<p>Article 3:</p> <p>3.1 The Inter-American Agricultural Medal is for those individuals who have distinguished themselves through outstanding—contributions to the development of sustainable agriculture and to the improvement of rural life, in their own countries and, in particular, those will be contributions that have had an impact in other countries of the Americas and/or other parts of the world. In evaluating the candidates, the utmost consideration is given to the impact of the candidate’s contributions on progress in sustainable agriculture and on the improvement of rural life.</p> <p>3.2 The award for the Inter-American Agricultural Medal consists of a gold medal and a certificate and US\$10,000.</p>
	<p>Article 4</p> <p>4.1 The Inter-American Award for the Innovative Rural Producer is for producers (individuals or groups). It recognizes producers whose experience and contributions, especially in the area of innovation in production, have served as an example for producers in their own countries and other countries of the Americas.</p> <p>4.2 The Inter-American Award for Innovative Rural Producers consists of a medal, certificate and US\$5,000.</p>
<p>Article 4</p> <p>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 received in their country the National Agricultural Award for Young Professionals, 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.</p>	<p>Article 5:</p> <p>5.1 The Inter-American Agricultural Award for Young Professionals is for those professionals who are under thirty-five years of age at the time of nomination, have distinguished themselves through their professional contributions and have demonstrated an outstanding willingness to serve, exceptional initiative and dedication in working for the development of sustainable agriculture and the well-being of rural communities.</p> <p>5.2 The Inter-American Agricultural Award for Young Professionals consists of a medal, a certificate and a scholarship to participate in IICA’s Program for Young Leaders. Nevertheless, if a winner has already participated in that Program, he/she shall receive a US\$10,000 scholarship to attend an equivalent program for the development of his/her leadership capabilities, in accordance with conditions set out in the Guide.</p>
<p>Article 5</p> <p>The Inter-American Award for the Contribution of Women to Rural Development shall be awarded to those women who have received in their country the National</p>	<p>Article 6:</p> <p>6.1 The Inter-American Award for the Contribution of Women to Rural Development is for those women who have distinguished themselves through outstanding</p>

Corresponding Articles of Current Text	Proposed Text
<p>Award for the Contribution of Women to Rural Development and 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.</p>	<p>contributions to the process of involving women in rural development, in general, and to improving the quality of life, in rural communities.</p> <p>6.2 The Inter-American Award for the Contribution of Women to Rural Development shall consist of a medal and a certificate and US\$5,000.</p>
<p><u>Article 6</u></p> <p>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. This institution or enterprise shall be elected from among those that have received a National Award for Institutional Contributions to Agricultural and Rural Development.</p>	<p>Article 7:</p> <p>7.1 The Inter-American Award for Institutional Contributions to Agricultural and Rural Development is conferred upon the public or private organization, enterprise, university or nongovernmental organization in the Member States of IICA that has made significant contributions to improving sustainable agriculture and rural life in one or more countries of the Americas.</p> <p>7.2 The Inter-American Award for Institutional Contributions to Agricultural and Rural Development consists of a hand-punched bronze wall hanging and a certificate.</p>
<p><u>Article 7</u></p> <p>The Executive Committee shall select the candidates for each award at the meeting it holds immediately prior to the biennial meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), based on the results of the pre-selection processed conducted by the General Directorate.</p>	<p>Article 8:</p> <p>8.1 In its Regular meeting held in the year that the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) celebrates its Regular Biennial Meeting, the Executive Committee shall select the-winners of the Inter-American Awards</p>
<p><u>Article 8</u></p> <p>The awards shall be conferred biennially to only one person for each of the awards for individuals, and to only one organization in the case of the institutional award. The qualifications established for each award shall be the only criteria used in the selection of awardees.</p>	<p>Article 9:</p> <p>9.1 The Inter-American Awards shall be conferred for the corresponding biennium. There will be no more than one winner for each award. No person shall receive more than one award for the same biennium.</p>
<p><u>Article 9</u></p> <p>The Institute, through its Offices in the Member States, will receive nominations from government and private institutions, enterprises, universities, nongovernmental organizations and trade associations for the following National Awards: Agricultural Medal, Award for Young Professionals, Award for the Contribution of Women to Rural Development, and Award for Institutional Contributions to Agricultural and Rural Development.</p>	<p>[Text of Current Article 9 Eliminated in Proposed Regulation]</p>
<p><u>Article 10</u></p>	<p>[Text of Current Article 10 Eliminated in Proposed Regulations]</p>

Corresponding Articles of Current Text	Proposed Text
<p>The Institute will propose to an ad-honorem National Panel of Judges a list of three candidates for each of the awards. Based on the background of the candidates, the National Panel of Judges will confer the national awards, which will consist of a certificate and a metal plaque. The winners of the national awards will be automatically designated as candidates for the inter-American awards in their respective categories.</p>	
	<p>CHAPTER III: THE AWARDS SELECTION COMMISSION AND ITS SECRETARIAT</p>
<p><u>Article 11</u></p> <p>The selection of candidates for the IICA awards shall be the responsibility of a committee of the Executive Committee (the Awards Selection Committee) consisting of five representatives from countries sitting on the Executive Committee in the years in which a regular meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture will be held. Each nominee shall represent one of the areas of IICA (Andean, Caribbean, Central, Northern and Southern). The voting shall take place in alphabetical order by country and in accordance with the aforementioned criteria. The Director General shall appoint an IICA official to serve as Secretary of the Awards Selection Committee. The Secretariat of the Committee shall be responsible for keeping the Committee informed of the nomination of candidates, organizing all the information to be examined by the Committee, and facilitating the meetings of the Committee.</p>	<p>Article 10:</p> <p>10.1 The Executive Committee shall constitute the Awards Selection Commission (“the Commission”) to review and evaluate the candidates for the Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector, and to recommend to the Executive Committee the most worthy candidate for each award. The Commission shall consist of three Member States, who shall be appointed and serve as further specified below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The three members of the Commission shall be elected by the Executive Committee during the preparatory session of its Regular Meeting in the first year of the biennium. b. The Member States selected shall be responsible for assigning a principal delegate and an alternate to represent it on the Commission for the entire biennium; c. The term of membership shall be the biennium. No member state may be elected for consecutive terms. d. One member shall be nominated by and elected from among the six major contributors of Regular Fund of the Institute; another shall be nominated by and elected from among the remaining Member States of the Institute; and the third member shall be nominated by and elected from among all the Member States other than those states elected from among the first two groups. e. In electing each member, the Executive Committee shall give due regard to the principles of equitable geographical representation and rotation. f. The Commission shall conduct one Regular meeting each biennium which shall coincide with the Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee in the year of the Regular IABA meeting for the biennium. That meeting shall begin at least one day prior to the preparatory session of that Executive Committee meeting so that the Commission may timely submit its report and recommendations for the awards to the Executive

Corresponding Articles of Current Text	Proposed Text
	<p>Committee.</p> <p>g. The Commission may also meet at other times during the biennium either in the presence of each other in the same place or through teleconferencing and other electronic means, subject to the availability of funds as determined by the Director General.</p> <p>h. The Commission shall elect a Chairperson to preside over its meetings, and it may elect such other officials it deems necessary from among its members.</p> <p>i. The Commission may meet with a quorum of at least two Members and take decisions by a vote of a majority of its Members. The Commission may adopt additional rules of procedure for its meetings and electing its officers, provided those rules of procedure are consistent with these Regulations and other pertinent norms of the Institute.</p> <p>10.2 The Director General shall appoint two IICA staff members to serve as the Technical Secretariat of the Awards Selection Commission. The Secretariat shall be responsible for: i) organizing the documentation on the candidates; ii) informing the Commission's members of the progress in the nomination of the candidates; iii) supporting them in the performance of their duties.</p>
<p><u>Article 12:</u></p> <p>Members of the Selection Committee shall serve two-year terms, to begin January 1 of the year following their election. Once their term is concluded, these countries will not be eligible to sit on the Committee again until all the countries of their area have served a two-year term.</p>	<p>Article 11:</p> <p>11.1 The Awards Selection Commission, after studying the documentation for each candidate systematized by the Technical Secretariat, shall recommend to the plenary of the Executive Committee the candidates who, in its judgment, should receive the Inter-American Awards.</p> <p>11.2 Also, the Commission shall present to the Executive Committee a Report setting out the reasons for its recommendations and explaining the process by which it arrived at them.</p> <p>11.3 The Commission may recommend that no award be conferred for the corresponding period because, in its judgment, the candidates nominated do not meet the requirements. Nevertheless it may recommend one honorable mention for each category.</p>
	<p>CHAPTER IV: RESPONSABILITIES OF THE GENERAL DIRECTORATE</p>
<p><u>Article 13:</u></p> <p>The Committee shall appoint a Chairperson from among its members.</p>	<p>Article 12:</p> <p>12.1 The Commission's Chairperson shall present the Commission's Report and Recommendations to the</p>

Corresponding Articles of Current Text	Proposed Text
	plenary of the Executive Committee.
<p><u>Article 14:</u></p> <p>The General Directorate shall have the following duties:</p>	<p>Article 13:</p> <p>13.1 In order to ensure the effectiveness and transparency of the selection process, the General Directorate, through the IICA Offices in the Member States, shall be responsible for:</p>
<p>a. To broadly disseminate the call for the presentation of candidates for the National and Inter-American Awards in the Member States.</p> <p>b. To review and update the guide for selecting award recipients, specifying the merits of the candidates to be considered in the final selection of the winner of each national and inter-American award.</p> <p>c. To undertake, with the support of authorities in the Member States at the national level, to encourage institutions, public and private agencies, enterprises, universities and trade associations to propose suitable candidates for the different awards.</p> <p>d. To study the information on the institutional and individual candidates, and to ensure that they meet the requirements for the corresponding award, issuing the respective certification.</p>	<p>a. Publicizing the convocation for the presentation of candidates for national and Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector through the Institute’s Offices in the countries and in coordination with the Ministries or Secretariats of Agriculture, in the Member States;</p> <p>b. Prepare and maintain the Guide for the Nomination and Selection of Candidates for the Inter-American Awards;</p> <p>c. In collaboration with authorities in the Member States, encouraging institutions, public and private agencies, enterprises, universities and trade associations at the national level to propose qualified candidates for the awards;</p> <p>[Current Text of Section d Eliminated]</p>
<p>e. To create in each Member State ad-honorem committees for granting the national awards. These committees shall comprise a representative of the public agricultural sector, a representative of the private institutions associated with agriculture and rural development, a representative of academia, and a representative of the trade associations of the rural sector.</p> <p>f. To take responsibility for holding, with the participation of national authorities responsible for agricultural and rural development, the ceremonies for conferring the awards in each country.</p> <p>g. To systematize all additional information, as necessary, in order to adequately document the merits of the candidates proposed by each region (Andean, Caribbean, Central, Northern and Southern) for the Inter-American Awards. This information will serve as a backup for the Awards Selection Committee in bestowing the inter-American awards.</p> <p>h. To submit a report to the Awards Selection</p>	<p>d. Provide support to national authorities for the establishment of a system of national awards for the Rural Sector;</p> <p>[Current Text of Section f Eliminated]</p> <p>e. Organizing in a uniform format all additional information needed for adequate documentation of the merits of the candidates proposed by each country for the Inter-American Awards. This information will serve as a basis for the recommendations of the Awards Selection Commission.</p> <p>f. Publishing biographic sketches of the recipients</p>

Corresponding Articles of Current Text	Proposed Text
Committee on the process to publicize and certify the qualifications of the institutional and individual candidates	and disseminating throughout the hemisphere information on their contributions to agriculture and rural life in their countries and in the Americas.
i. The Awards Selection Committee, after examining the information certified by IICA, shall propose to the plenary of the Executive Committee the most appropriate candidate for each award. The proposal must be accompanied by the considerations presented by the Committee to justify its choices.	[Current Text of Sections h and I Eliminated]
	CHAPTER V: FINAL SELECTION
<p><u>Article 15</u></p> <p>The Executive Committee, at its regular meeting in the year in which the Board will meet, shall study the report of the Awards Selection Committee and, based on the same, shall select the candidates who they consider should receive the inter-American awards. The Executive Committee may decide, on the basis of the Committee's report or by <i>motu proprio</i>, to declare any or all the awards void for the corresponding biennium. In this event, the competition shall be reopened for the following biennium and only new candidacies shall be considered, pursuant to the procedure set out in Articles 8 (new), 9 (amended, previously 8) and 14 (amended, previously 12).</p>	<p>Article 14:</p> <p>14.1 The Executive Committee during a Plenary Session of its Regular Meeting in the year in which the IABA meets, shall study the report of the Awards Selection Commission.</p> <p>14.2 Based on the conclusions and recommendations in the Report, the Executive Committee shall take the corresponding action.</p>
	CHAPTER VI: NOTIFICATION OF CONFERRAL AND PRESENTATION OF THE AWARD
<p><u>Article 16</u></p> <p>The General Directorate of IICA shall communicate the pertinent resolution to the candidates selected and to the governments of the countries of the award winners, within fifteen days of the conclusion of the Executive Committee meeting held in the year of an IABA meeting. The awards shall be granted within six months of the decision, in coordination with the corresponding government. The awards shall be conferred in a solemn ceremony, preferably in the country of the individual or the institution that won the award, and broad national and international publicity shall be given to the awards themselves and to the recipients of the awards. IICA shall publish a document containing the speeches made at the ceremonies and biographical sketches of the recipients of the awards.</p>	<p>Article 15:</p> <p>15.1 Within thirty days of the conclusion of the Executive Committee meeting in which the winners of the Inter-American Awards are selected, the General Directorate of IICA shall notify the winners and their governments</p> <p>15.2 The IABA shall present the Inter-American Awards to the recipients during its regular meeting.</p> <p>15.3 The honorable mentions for each award shall be presented in a solemn ceremony in their country of residence.</p> <p>15.4 Broad national and international publicity shall be given to the awards themselves and to the qualities of the recipients.</p>
<p><u>Article 17</u></p> <p>The award for the Inter-American Agricultural Medal shall consist of a gold medal and a certificate.</p>	[Current text of Article 17 incorporated in new article 3]

Corresponding Articles of Current Text	Proposed Text
<p><u>Article 18</u></p> <p>The person granted the Inter-American Agricultural Award for Young Professionals is awarded a certificate and a scholarship of US\$10,000, which may be used in the country of origin of the recipient of the award, or in the another country mutually agreed to with IICA, to complete his/her professional training or to conduct research. The scholarship shall expire one year after the professional in question has been notified in writing of the resolution of the Executive Committee granting him/her the award.</p>	<p>[Current text of Article 18 incorporated in new article 4]</p>
<p><u>Article 19</u></p> <p>The Inter-American Award for the Contribution of Women to Rural Development shall consist of a gold medal and a certificate.</p>	<p>[Current text of Article 19 incorporated in new article 5]</p>
<p><u>Article 20</u></p> <p>The Inter-American Award for Institutional Contributions to Agricultural and Rural Development consists of a gold medal and a commemorative metal plaque.</p>	<p>Article 20</p> <p>[Current text of Article 20 incorporated in new article 6]</p>
<p><u>Article 21</u></p> <p>On recommendation of the Awards Selection Committee, the Executive Committee may confer honorable mentions with certificates.</p>	<p>[Current Text of Article 21)</p>
	<p>CHAPTER VII: GENERAL CONDITIONS</p>
<p><u>Article 22</u></p> <p>The General Directorate of IICA shall disseminate these regulations among the governments, national institutions and trade associations, and shall inform international institutions that work in support of agriculture and rural communities in the hemisphere of same.</p>	<p>Article 16:</p> <p>16.1 The General Directorate of IICA shall disseminate these regulations among the governments of the Member States, national institutions and trade associations, and shall inform the leaders of the community of agriculture and rural life in each Member State country of the importance of the Inter-American Awards as a means of recognizing the outstanding contributions of individuals and organizations to the development of agriculture and to the improvement of rural life.</p>
<p><u>Article 23</u></p> <p>These regulations shall take effect once approved by the Executive Committee, and render null and void all earlier provisions concerning the Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector.</p>	<p>16.2 These regulations shall enter into force once approved by the Executive Committee, and render null and void all earlier provisions concerning the Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector.</p>
<p><u>Article 24</u></p>	

Corresponding Articles of Current Text	Proposed Text
These regulations may be amended or altogether revoked by the Executive Committee.	16.3 These regulations may be amended or altogether revoked by the Executive Committee.