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**RESOLUTION No. 376**

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

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

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/Doc.414(02) "Proposed Amendments to the Regulations Governing the Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector,"

CONSIDERING:

That recognition of outstanding accomplishment in the agricultural sector is of great importance for motivating talented individuals in the Member States to devote a large part of their lives to improving agriculture through scientific research, government service and other professional activities;

That Article 19 of the regulations governing the Awards, and Article 3(h) of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee authorize the Executive Committee to amend these regulations;

That, taking into consideration the concerns expressed on this matter by the Inter-American Board of Agriculture ("IABA"), at its Eleventh Regular Meeting, amendments were drafted for the aforementioned regulations, aimed at resolving the difficulties faced in the past by the Awards Selection Committee,

RESOLVES:

1. To approve the amendments to the Regulations Governing the Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector proposed by the Director General, which, among other things, establish a new award recognizing the outstanding contributions of enterprises and institutions to agricultural and rural development in the Americas.
2. To entrust the Director General with applying, effective immediately, the new procedures set out in Document

IICA/CE/Doc.414(02) "Proposed Amendments to the Regulations  
Governing the Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector."

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

## **INTRODUCTION**

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.

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.

### **Article 1**

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.

### **Article 2**

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.

### **Article 3**

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.

### **Article 4**

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.

#### Article 5

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 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.

#### Article 6

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.

#### Article 7

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.

#### Article 8

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.

## Article 9

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.

## Article 10

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.

## Article 11

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.

## Article 12:

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.

## Article 13:

The Committee shall appoint a Chairperson from among its members.

Article 14:

The General Directorate shall have the following duties:

- a. To broadly disseminate the call for the presentation of candidates for the National and Inter-American Awards in the Member States.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- h. To submit a report to the Awards Selection Committee on the process to publicize and certify the qualifications of the institutional and individual candidates.
- 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.

#### Article 15

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 *motu proprio*, to declare any or all of 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).

#### Article 16

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 a 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.

#### Article 17

The award for the Inter-American Agricultural Medal shall consist of a gold medal and a certificate.

#### Article 18

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.

#### Article 19

The Inter-American Award for the Contribution of Women to Rural Development shall consist of a gold medal and a certificate.

#### Article 20

The Inter-American Award for Institutional Contributions to Agricultural and Rural Development consists of a gold medal and a commemorative metal plaque.

#### Article 21

On recommendation of the Awards Selection Committee, the Executive Committee may confer honorable mentions with certificates.

#### Article 22

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.

#### Article 23

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.

#### Article 24

These regulations may be amended or altogether revoked by the Executive Committee.

## **GUIDE FOR THE SELECTION OF CANDIDATES**

### NOMINATION

The governments, public institutions, enterprises and trade associations of the Member States making up, in each country, the community of agriculture and rural life, may nominate candidates for the national awards.

### **DOCUMENTATION NEEDED TO NOMINATE CANDIDATES**

The following documents and any other information deemed useful in determining to what extent a candidate meets the basic requirements should be submitted along with the nomination:

1. The curriculum vitae or presentation of the institution or enterprise, on the form prepared by the General Directorate.
2. A three-page summary of the reasons justifying the nomination and describing the most important work carried out by the candidate.
3. The physical address of the individual or institution, along with the mailing address, electronic address (if available) and telephone and fax numbers.

### BASIC REQUIREMENTS FOR CANDIDATES

#### A. Inter-American Agricultural Medal

1. The candidate's essential occupations should be in a technical, scientific, entrepreneurial or institutional field associated with agriculture or rural life.
2. The candidate must have carried out activities in one or more countries of the hemisphere.
3. The candidate must have made scientific, technical, managerial or organizational contributions which are recognized in their particular area of competence as being relevant contributions to agricultural development and to improving living conditions in the countryside.
4. The candidate must enjoy national and international prestige and the respect of the community of agriculture and rural life in his/her country.
5. In exercising his/her responsibilities, the candidate must have shown outstanding creativity, innovation and dedication in service to the rural population.

#### B. Inter-American Agricultural Award for Young Professionals

1. The candidate must be less than 35 years of age.
2. The candidate must be a professional working in a technical, scientific, managerial or institutional field directly related to agricultural development or rural well-being.
3. The candidate must have demonstrated an outstanding willingness to serve, exceptional initiative and dedication in working for the well-being of the rural population, and must have made significant contributions to this purpose. contributed

C. Inter-American Award for the Contribution of Women to Rural Development

1. The candidate must have worked in Latin America or the Caribbean in fields directly related to the development of agriculture and to improving the conditions of rural life.
2. The candidate must have made important contributions to facilitating or improving the participation of women in rural development and to improving the quality of life of the rural population.
3. These achievements must have been recognized, at least in the area in which they were made, as valuable contributions to the effort to improve the position and participation of women.

D. Inter-American Agricultural/Rural Award for Institutions

Documents and additional information on the institution or enterprise considered useful for assessing the degree to which it fulfills award requirements should be submitted.

- It must work to benefit agriculture and the rural population.
- It must have made significant contributions to the development of agriculture and/or to the improvement of living conditions in the countryside.
- The contributions it has made must be documented in such a way as to be able to verify and evaluate the contribution.