

RESOLUTION No. 429

ACTIONS IN THE AREA OF BIO-ENERGY

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

HAVING SEEN:

The presentations on Brazil's experience in the area of bio-fuels, made by the Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Supply, His Excellency, Dr. Roberto Rodrigues, and an expert in the field, Mr. Luiz Carlos Correa Carvalho,

CONSIDERING:

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

That bio-fuels offer a viable alternative to, and could partially replace, imports of oil and natural gas, making it possible to save more foreign exchange;

That the production of bio-fuels is 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 IICA and the Government of Brazil have taken the initiative to present to the Executive Committee information on Brazil's experience, which has led to savings of foreign exchange and to the modernization of areas which, given their ecology and soils, are highly suitable for shifting their production structure toward the production of bio-fuels derived primarily from the cultivation of sugar cane, grains and other plant species;

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 America, 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 determined to produce them,

RESOLVES:

1. To congratulate the Government of Brazil on the important results generated by its successful bio-fuel program, and the State of São Paulo, especially the region of Riberão Preto, on progress in this field..
2. To thank the Government of Brazil for its offer to promote, in cooperation with IICA, horizontal cooperation actions with the countries committed to developing their agro-energy sector.
3. To entrust the General Directorate of IICA with the presentation of a draft resolution on horizontal cooperation in the area bio-fuels for the consideration of the Thirteenth Regular Meeting Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), to be held in Guayaquil, Ecuador.