



# *Executive Committee*

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## **2009-2010 JOINT IICA-CATIE PROGRAM OF ACTION**

**San José, Costa Rica**



## **1. Introduction**

The strategic partnership between el IICA and CATIE has facilitated more than three decades of joint effort through various initiatives designed to bring agricultural and rural development to their Member States. Here, the two institutions have provided mutual support to each other through technical, financial and administrative actions.

These joint initiatives have been carried out within the existing legal framework and in accordance with the spheres of action established in that framework, and with the nature and areas of competence of each institution.

Both IICA and CATIE have been engaged in joint activities to support the efforts of Member States to achieve the sustainable development of agriculture, cattle-raising and forestry, in which environmental sustainability is a major component.

The Executive Committee established, in Resolution No. 496, adopted at its Twenty-eighth Regular Meeting in 2008, that given the new challenges confronting the States of the Americas, it is essential to step up cooperation between both institutions where their respective areas of expertise and strengths would enable them to better meet the cooperation needs of Member States and maximize the use of resources..

In view of the foregoing, the following general guidelines have been agreed upon as part of a shared working strategy for the biennium 2009-2010.

## **2. Overall Objective**

Given global hemispheric and regional challenges, both institutions recognize the need for the technical cooperation they provide to generate greater impact through joint effort. To do so requires putting in place effective mechanisms to facilitate further joint cooperation actions and the strengthening of institutional capabilities to meet the needs of Member States.

The overall objective of the joint 2009-2010 Program of Action is, therefore, to define the most appropriate strategy and effective management mechanisms to ensure the required continuity and maximize results in the areas of (i) territorial rural development, natural resource management, environment, climate change; and (ii) technological innovation, value chains and competitiveness.

One of the areas on which the two institutions are now focusing is the updating of the regulatory framework to govern relations between IICA and CATIE.

### ***Establishment of a new IICA-CATIE Cooperation Agreement***

Based on the contract signed between the Government of the Republic of Costa Rica and IICA on CATIE, approved by Law No. 6873, of June 17, 1983, both institutions signed, on August 30, 1984, a Cooperation Agreement to govern their relations and promote joint effort.

In October of 2000, a decree passed by the Legislative Assembly of the Republic of Costa Rica went into effect. Under that decree, a number of amendments to the contract signed between the Government and IICA in 1983 were approved. Accordingly, both institutions have started to prepare a new Cooperation Agreement which addresses the conditions established in the new law and responds to the new challenges facing Member States through joint technical cooperation initiatives and institutional support.

### **3. Areas of cooperation**

In accordance with the determination of the Executive Committee in Resolution No. 496 adopted during its Twenty-eighth Regular Meeting in 2008, the new Cooperation Agreement between the two institutions will give priority attention to the following areas of cooperation:

- a) *Territorial rural development, natural resource management, environment and climate change;*
- b) *Innovation, technology, value chains and competitiveness;*
- c) *Information and knowledge management.*

These areas of cooperation will be managed through various joint initiatives and working strategies coordinated by the respective authorities. The following coordination mechanisms are accordingly established for the purpose.

### **4. Coordination mechanisms**

#### ***Working Group for IICA-CATIE Relations***

At the end of 2008, the Working Group for IICA-CATIE Relations was established. The chief mandate it was given is to define and implement joint policies and strategies.

The group consists of three representatives from each institution and is led by their respective Deputy Directors General. However, depending on the nature of the agenda items, the composition of the group can vary and be expanded to include authorities and/or specialists from both institutions.

The meetings of the group are held every two months, alternately at IICA Headquarters and CATIE. They focus on various topics of interest to the two organizations, such as ongoing

initiatives, the identification of new joint areas of work, the development of cooperation actions in Member States, information exchange and follow-up of activities carried out, matters of an institutional and administrative nature, etc.

During 2009, the working group is focusing on preparing the new cooperation agreement between IICA and CATIE, and following up on a series of ongoing initiatives.

### ***Working Group on Food Security***

At its Twenty-eighth Regular Meeting, the Executive Committee acknowledged that many Member States had been affected in different ways by a number of factors that impact food security. Among these are rising food prices, limited food supply, adverse climate conditions, increased costs of energy and fertilizers, alternative uses of food crops and other factors directly or indirectly related to food production (Resolution No. 482)

While this situation poses a challenge for the countries of the region, at the same time it represents an opportunity to build up agriculture and the capability of Member States. This means promoting research and the development and transfer of appropriate technologies to increase productivity, employment and the income of small- and medium-scale farmers.

In light of this situation, the Committee instructed IICA to work with strategic institutions to promote and support training and technology transfer as one of the key mechanisms to increase food production, particularly for small- and medium-scale farmers. Accordingly, during 2009 and 2010, IICA and CATIE will work together on various aspects related to the subject of food security and establish a working group on this subject for the purpose.

The Working Group for IICA-CATIE Relations therefore started out by getting together all of those persons with responsibility for the topic at both institutions. It then proceeded to develop a work plan on food security, which outlines the following steps: 1) identification of representatives from IICA who could develop a joint working strategy for food security - -it was decided that the coordinators of the three strategic lines could serve as representatives of IICA-- as well as the three coordinators of this topic at CATIE; 2) exchange of information on the strategic lines of each institution in relation to this topic; and 3) preparation of a joint “*concept document*” on food security.

## **5. Initiatives in the pipeline**

During 2009 and 2010, IICA and CATIE will concentrate their efforts on the priority areas for cooperation defined by the Executive Committee in its Resolution No. 496, and described in section 3 of this document. Additionally, they will facilitate the necessary conditions for beefing up specific initiatives that could lead to future incentives to engage in further joint undertakings. These initiatives could include:

- Design of a regional cacao strategy in the Andean Region;
- On-line courses introducing agro-forestry systems and agro-forestry with annual and perennial trees; in the framework of the Letter of Understanding for the Development

and Promotion of Digital Content Distance Learning Materials (CECADI), of IICA, and the Education and Training Program (PEDECO), of CATIE;

- Implementation of the IICA-CATIE-ADEC proposal on “Development and Use of Distance Education in Latin America to Strengthen Agricultural Innovation, Competitiveness and Sustainable Development”;
- Training of local leaders in rural territories in Member States;
  
- Continuity of the Central American Cacao Project for the next three years;
- Holding of the Second National Cacao Symposium in Belmopan, Belize;
- Training of national inspectors in Belize in organic production and its protocols, with a focus on the local market and export;
- Design of the methodology for evaluating field schools in the cacao chain in Honduras and subsequent execution;
- Development of the strategy to promote organic agriculture in Honduras;
- Continuation of the international course on leadership for the development of eco-agriculture in Costa Rica, in partnership with the University of California, Berkeley, and Eco-agriculture Partners.
- Implementation of the cooperation agreement between the Central American Agricultural Technology Integration System (SICTA) and CATIE (2009-2012) for the promotion of technological change in the agricultural and agroforestry sector in Central America.

## **6. Summary of joint IICA-CATIE activities in 2008**

During the course of 2008, various joint activities were carried out throughout the hemisphere, in the regions and in the individual countries. Some of these are described below:

### ***At the hemispheric level***

- The partnership between Google, IICA and CATIE has afforded the world population free access to more than 9,000 books on agriculture, a figure that will increase to over 20,000. The collection represents an important reservoir of knowledge on topics such as agricultural and forest policy, agricultural health and food safety, agricultural and agroforestry technology and innovation and natural resources, etc. In the first three months of 2009, as a result of this initiative, the request for information on agriculture

has increased on the Web site [www.sidalc.net](http://www.sidalc.net) from 3,000 hits a month to 20,000 to 40,000 a day.

- In support of *alliances with strategic partners*, technical inputs were provided on the subject of natural resources and agriculture in the course of working meetings with the University of Nebraska. The project document “Alliance against Climate Change” was prepared, and opportunities were identified for joint work with CATIE and other partners such as the Tropics Foundation and the American Forum on Climate Change and Capacity Building International, which is made up of GTZ, KFW, CIM and INVENT.
- At its twenty-fifth session, held in Quito, Ecuador, the Latin American and Caribbean Forestry Commission (LACFC) worked on the regional agenda as it relates to natural resources and their eco-systems and climate change, in behalf of IICA. That agenda also included the topics of food security and poverty alleviation. In the framework of the meeting, and in conjunction with CATIE, a meeting was held with Forestry Directors of Central America to determine areas for joint collaboration in the region and in the countries.
- A widespread awareness campaign has been waged in regard to natural resources and environmental management through technical missions to Mexico, El Salvador, Panama, Argentina, Uruguay, Brazil, Ecuador and Venezuela. The missions were also helpful in promoting the alignment of public technical cooperation policies and building sustainability indicators. Initial steps were also taken to form strategic partnerships in some cases, and in others, partnerships were strengthened with CATIE, the University of Nebraska, EARTH University and the Chapingo Postgraduate College in the areas of natural resources and environmental management. New and additional topics were thereby defined for future joint effort.
- In the area of the management of technical information, the joint administration of the Orton Commemorative Library continues. This library has spearheaded initiatives such as the Agricultural Information and Documentation Service of the Americas (SIDALC). The library completed an initial phase of modernization through the CATIE ARS project which is intended to preserve the Orton collection and improve its current infrastructure. Both institutions participated actively in the course on leadership in agricultural information management, financed by CTA, which provides for participation for more than 40 professionals from 12 Caribbean countries; in the identification and promotion of the Global Forest Information Service (GFIS); and in the development of the new center for information resources on cacao, trees, woods and environment.
- In conjunction with the Postgraduate School, IICA and CATIE prepared project proposals to improve the Orton Library’s services, which have been presented for the consideration of donors such as the Elsevier Foundation and USAID-ASHA. The Orton Commemorative Library already has a new 2008-2010 work plan and celebrated its 65th anniversary.

### *At the regional level*

- In Central America, IICA joined the project entitled “Harmonization of Support Initiatives for Economic Progress for Rural Women in the framework of Value Chains in the Central American Region”, in cooperation with the Council of Ministers of Women's Affairs (COMMCA), RUTA, GTZ, UNIFEM, UNDP, the Arias Foundation, CATIE, the State National Institute for Women (INAMU), FODEMIPYME and the PROMES project (from the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation -AECID/EARTH). As a result, it was possible to harmonize strategic actions and expected products in relevant topics and proceed with the application of the gender approach in value chains for the 2008-2009 period, in projects promoted by partner institutions.
  
- As a result of the implementation of the first agreement between the Central American Agricultural Technology Integration System (SICTA), IICA and CATIE, signed in 2003, it has been possible to reassess the value of the role of technology through the upgrading of research institutes in the region, the integration of mechanisms for thematic coordination, the marshalling of external resources for research and the training of new professionals. As a result of this partnership, ten knowledge networks have been formed with the participation of researchers from the national institutes; US\$1.0 million dollars have been harnessed for regional projects for study of the tomato virus and for the adaptation of materials such as potato seeds; researchers have participated in Master's and doctorate-level programs at CATIE, the directors of the INIAs have received refresher training in topics such as leadership for technological innovation and technical assistance has also been updated in this area.

### *At national level*

#### *Mexico*

- The Chiapas, Mexico, Integrated Social and Sustainable Development Project was completed, as agreed, thanks to the IICA-CIRAD-CATIE consortium. That project was financed by the government of the State of Chiapas and the European Community. Direct technical cooperation within the framework of the project entitled “Development of Sustainable Production Systems, Micro-enterprises and Finance Systems” was provided through activities in support of micro-enterprises, agro-ecology and natural resource management.
  
- The First International Meeting for the Integrated Management of Moniliasis of Cacao” was held in Mexico with the participation of SAGARPA, INIFAP, CATIE, CIRAD, the government of the State of Chiapas and IICA. The Institute organized this event jointly with INIFAP, within the framework of support provided by the Director General to Mexico, as a result of the Tabasco flooding in 2007.



### *Belize*

- Through our participation at the National Cacao Task Force, IICA provided support to CATIE for the presentation of Cacao History and Future in Belize at a workshop. This is in support of the Central American Cacao Improvement Project and the National Cacao Industry Evaluation.

### *Costa Rica*

- The Second International Course entitled “Leadership for the Development of Eco-agriculture: Integrated Management of Rural Territories in Central America”, organized by IICA Costa Rica, in partnership with the University of California in Berkeley, Eco-agriculture Partners (EP) and the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE), was held in Turrialba from November 16 through 26, 2008. This course enabled 31 leaders –11 women and 20 men from Central America to upgrade their expertise in the design and stewardship of multisectoral participatory initiatives to contribute to agricultural development and the conservation of biodiversity in the region.
- Improvements were made in the process for bringing international cooperation into line with national priorities and for pooling resources from the agencies and IICA, especially OIRSA, CATIE, FAO, IUCN, Berkeley and EP.

### *El Salvador*

- In collaboration with CATIE, training was provided to 35 public and private stakeholders in the cacao chain.
- Three projects have been put into operation in the High Zone: “Organic Agriculture”, “Development of Agro-tourism in the High Zone” and “Certified Potato Seed Production”. In addition, the partnership with CLUSA and interactions with FOMILENIO and CATIE have reinforced community actions at the economic and financial levels, and in terms of knowledge.

### *Paraguay*

- The know-how of professionals from the SEAM, the MAG and the universities has been increased as a result of their participation in the Workshop Course on “Planning for Watershed Management”, held jointly by CATIE and IICA.

### *Venezuela*

- Various staff members from INIA came on a technical mission to IICA Headquarters and CATIE, thereby upgrading national efforts in the area of knowledge management, information management and reciprocal cooperation.

## 7. Joint IICA-CATIE Publications in 2008

Noteworthy are the following main publications by IICA-CATIE:

- Muschler, R. Gutiérrez Montes, I, Galileo Rivas- Platero, G. 2008. *Taller de Ordenamiento Territorial Comunitario*. Training handbook. Tapachula, Chiapas, MX, *Escuela de Campo para Promotores y Promotoras de la Selva*, CATIE-IICA. 72 p.
- Sánchez Garita V; Gutiérrez Montes, I; Galileo Rivas-Platero, G. 2008. *Producción ecológica de cultivos anuales comerciales: chile y tomate*. Training handbook. Tapachula, Chiapas, MX, *Escuela de Campo para Promotores y Promotoras de la Selva*, CATIE-IICA. 63 p.
- Muuschler, R; Gutiérrez Montes, I; Galileo Rivas-Platero, G. 2008. *Producción ecológica de cultivos anuales básicos: maíz, frijol y calabaza*. Training handbook. Tapachula, Chiapas, MX, *Escuela de Campo para Promotores y Promotoras de la Selva*, CATIE-IICA. 59 p.
- Pareja, M.R. 2008. *Generación, adaptación y validación de programas de manejo integrado de plagas para hortalizas en Centroamérica: la experiencia del CATIE*. Pages 201- 218 In: Hilje, L. y J.L. Saunders (Compilers) *Manejo Integrado de Plagas en Mesoamérica: Aportes Conceptuales*. Editorial Tecnológica de Costa Rica, 2008. In Spanish.