



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Twentieth Regular Meeting
San Jose, Costa Rica
1-3 November 2000

**THE NEW INSTITUTIONAL DIMENSION, THE MODERNIZATION
PROCESS, AND THE STRENGTHENING AND REVITALIZATION OF LINKS
BETWEEN THE INSTITUTE AND OTHER OAS BODIES**

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The Inter-American Board of Agriculture, at its Tenth Regular Meeting, held in October 1999, in Salvador, Bahia, Brazil, approved Resolution No. 341 "New Institutional Dimension," in support of the Director General's recommendation to transform the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) into the hemispheric ministerial forum for analyzing and coordinating policies for the sustainable development of agriculture and the rural milieu, and addressing other significant related issues of interest to the Member States.

The General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS), at its thirtieth session, held in Windsor, Canada in June 2000, approved the draft resolution "Strengthening and Revitalizing the Linkages between the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture and other Organs of the OAS for Addressing Issues of Hemispheric Concern Involving Agriculture," thus approving abolition of the Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture and recognizing the Inter-American Board of Agriculture as the principal ministerial forum for analyzing and building consensus on policies and strategic priorities for improving agriculture and rural life in the hemisphere.

The IABA also approved creation of the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues as a mechanism of consultation and support for the Director General. This Commission met for the first time at Institute Headquarters in June this year.

The General Directorate continues its efforts to strengthen the process of institutional modernization and transformation, and has begun working to organize the Ministerial Forum to be held as part of the Eleventh Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture, scheduled to take place in the Dominican Republic during the second semester of 2001.