



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Twenty-first Regular Meeting
San Jose, Costa Rica
25-27 July 2001

**THE ELEVENTH REGULAR MEETING OF THE
INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (IABA)
AND THE MINISTERIAL MEETING ON
AGRICULTURE AND RURAL LIFE**

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The Eleventh Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) will be held at the Conference Center of the Barceló Hotel Complex, located at Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, from November 26-30, 2001.

In March of this year, the Director General informed the governments of the Member States of the date and venue of the meeting, and will issue the formal call to same in accordance with the Rules of Procedures of the Board.

According to its Convention, IICA is the specialized agency for agriculture of the Organization of American States (OAS). It was established under an inter-American treaty in 1942 and comprises three organs: the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), the Executive Committee and the General Directorate. The latter consists of Headquarters, five Regional Directorates, and Cooperation Agencies in 34 countries of the hemisphere.

At the thirtieth session of the OAS General Assembly, the Ministers of Foreign Relations resolved:

To confer a new dimension on the IABA and recognize it as: "... the primary ministerial forum within the OAS for analyzing and building consensus on policies and strategic priorities for the improvement of agriculture and rural life in the Hemisphere."

And "To instruct IICA to develop and strengthen mechanisms of cooperation and exchange with other organs, agencies, and entities of the inter-American system for proposing, coordinating, and executing policies and programs relating to the improvement of agriculture and rural life in the context of the inter-American system and the Summits of the Americas process."

Similarly, at the Third Summit of the Americas, the leaders resolved to make IICA a **partner institution** in the Summits of the Americas process, and welcomed the involvement of the six institutional partners (OAS, IICA, PAHO, ECLAC, IDB and World Bank) in all stages of the Summits process.

Pursuant to the decision of the thirtieth session of the OAS General Assembly, and the mandate issued by the Heads of State and Government to the Ministers of Agriculture, the decision has been made to hold the First Ministerial Meeting for the Implementation of the Mandates of the Third Summit of the Americas, as one of the key elements of the Inter-American Week of Agriculture and Rural Life. The ministerial meetings are seen by the Heads of State and Government as mechanisms *"that in different areas of government are the fundamental pillars of hemispheric cooperation."*

The Institute and the Government of the Dominican Republic have signed the corresponding agreement and are working together to organize the meeting.