



Thirty-sixth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee

**Achievements in the Development of Technical
Capabilities and Leadership
2012-2016**

Information Document no. 04 (16) Original: Spanish

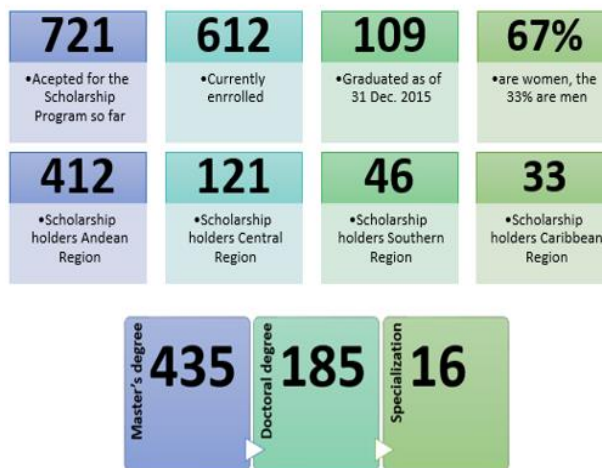
San Jose, Costa Rica
23-24 August 2016

Achievements in the Development of Technical Capabilities and Leadership 2012-2016

1. IICA-CONACYT Scholarship Program

The IICA-CONACYT Scholarship Program has been successful in enhancing the expertise of young professionals from all regions of the continent, and in helping them to acquire new knowledge. The program got under way in January 2012, with 27 people awarded scholarships that same year. In 2013, the program achieved its goal of granting 100 scholarships per year, the target originally set with CONACYT, while in 2014 the figure exceeded that goal for the first time, with 107 scholarships awarded. In 2015, a record number of 301 applicants were accepted at more than 50 universities and research centers across Mexico. As many as 105 new scholarships were awarded in the first half of 2016, with the program set to reach the figure of 1000 scholarship holders and more than 100 graduates by the end of the year.

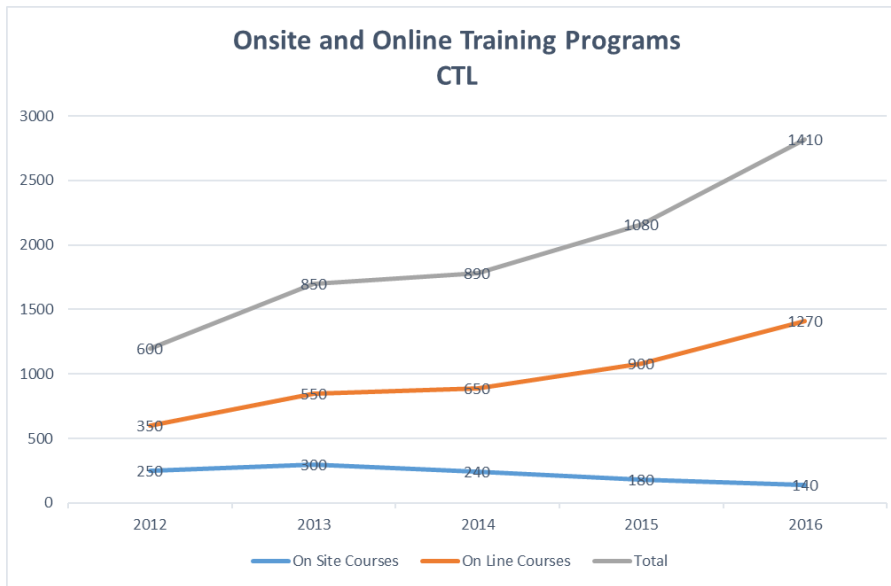
IICA-CONACYT Scholarship Program, 2012-2016



2. Visiting Professionals Program

The Visiting Professionals Program strengthens IICA's technical cooperation with specialists from academic and research institutions, international centers, government agencies, the private sector, and nongovernmental organizations. It is another opportunity for young professionals that we have implemented, aimed at matching the areas of expertise of professionals and students interested in IICA's activities with the requirements of the projects and delegations. Since 2012, there has been increasing interaction with doctoral and master's degree students and professionals, who have shared their knowledge and experience and enhanced their expertise working with IICA's technical teams. Between 2012 and June 2016, we received **35 Visiting Professionals, an average of seven per year, at Headquarters and in two countries**. The program has enjoyed sustained growth, with annual increases in the number of professionals, the length of their visits, and the number of countries taking part. We are firmly convinced that this is an effective tool for enhancing the expertise of new agricultural professionals in the Americas.

3. Onsite and Online Training Programs



Since 2012, the CTL has held 98 online and onsite courses on 19 subjects of interest to IICA and our strategic partners. The training courses and programs were implemented for different institutions and in cooperation with well-known educational organizations and institutions, as well as internally, for the Institute's collaborators. Since 2012, we have been

engaged in the continuous professionalization and modernization of our training resources, especially online methods and virtual education. **Some 3720 people have taken part in the online programs implemented and supervised by the CTL, and 1110 in onsite activities, amounting to 4830 participants during the period in question.** The substantial increase in the number of participants involved in online courses has significantly enhanced the impact of the training in the different regions of the Americas. In addition to strengthening partners and co-workers in technical areas, developing online and onsite training programs has also enabled IICA to forge strategic partnerships with educational and research institutions, and, in turn, enable those partners to strengthen their capabilities for the development of online education and have a bigger impact in the areas in which they specialize. The programs focus on topics such as transformational leadership in agriculture; the development of strategic plans with associations and educational groups; and the strengthening of outreach programs and support in developing online distance learning courses.

4. IICA-SAGARPA Program to strengthen capabilities in agriculture in the member countries

With support from SAGARPA and the SRE, since 2014 the Institute has been implementing the most important program in the Americas aimed at enhancing the expertise of agricultural professionals in areas that are new and important for IICA's member countries.

The most important element of this program is the use of the technology, experience, technical capabilities, and human talent of Mexican university and research institutions in the agricultural field. Onsite training programs have been held in Spanish and English in Mexico and various Caribbean and Central American countries; and, at very little extra cost, online courses and diploma courses have also been held. **In the two-and-a-half years of the program's existence, 28 courses and 25 training and technical assistance actions involving 2250 participants in 33**

countries have taken place. The following table lists the training activities, numbers of participants, and countries involved to date.

| IICA-SAGARPA Training Program 2014-2016 | | | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|-------------|---|-------------------------------|--|---|
| | Academic/Technical Institution | Year | Name of the Training Course | Number of Participants | Location of the Training | Directed to |
| 1 | COLPOS-Puebla | 2014 | Training Course on Family Farming | 25 | Mexico, St Lucia and Bahamas | Caribbean Nationals |
| 2 | COLPOS-Córdoba | 2014 | Rural Tourism Diploma | 69 | Mexico, Haití, Dominican Republic and Jamaica | Caribbean Nationals |
| 3 | Chapingo | 2014 | Training Course on Sheep Production | 26 | Mexico, Barbados and Jamaica | Caribbean Nationals |
| 4 | IMTA | 2014 | Training on Soil and Water Conservation | 73 | Mexico, Dominican Republic and Trinidad and Tobago | Caribbean Nationals |
| 5 | CRESIAP | 2014 | Training in Protected Agriculture | 23 | Mexico, Trinidad & Tobago, Antigua & Barbuda | Caribbean Nationals |
| 6 | CICY | 2014 | Plant Pathology Techniques (Phytopathology Techniques) | 79 | Mexico, Guyana and Jamaica | Caribbean Nationals |
| 7 | SENASICA | 2015 | Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service in ports, airports and borders | 31 | Mexico | Caribbean and Central America Nationals |
| 8 | COLPOS-Córdoba | 2015 | Introduction to Rural Tourism | 81 | Haiti | Haitians |
| 9 | CICY | 2015 | In Vitro Clonal Propagation of Tropical Plants Training Course | 23 | Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago | Caribbean Nationals |
| 10 | Chapingo | 2015 | Training Course in Sheep Artificial Insemination and Design of Blackbelly Sheep Breeding Programs | 24 | Bridgetown, Barbados | Barbadians |
| 11 | CINVESTAV | 2015 | Biotechnology and its application in Agriculture (Attendance mode on campus) | 22 | Irapuato, Mexico | Caribbean and Central America Nationals |
| 12 | CATIE | 2015 | Development Planning for Climate Change on Adaptation and Integration Diploma | 62 | On-line | Caribbean and Central America Nationals |
| 13 | IMTA | 2015 | Efficient Use of Rainwater and Runoff in Agricultural Activities | 43 | Chitré, Panamá | Caribbean and Central America Nationals |
| 14 | IMTA | 2015 | Soil and Water Conservation | 42 | San Salvador, El Salvador | Caribbean and Central America Nationals |
| 15 | CREFAL | 2015 | Graduate Diploma of Public Policy on Agriculture | 101 | On-line | Caribbean and Central America Nationals |
| 16 | UNAD | 2015 | International Master of Food Security | 121 | On-line | Mexico, Caribbean and Central America Nationals |
| 17 | IICA | 2015 | "Integrated Management Of Water Resources And Adaptation Of Family Farming To Climate Change" | 23 | Guyana | Caribbean and Central America Nationals |
| 18 | UNAD | 2015 | International Master of Food Security (second generation) | 70 | On-line | All Countries |
| 19 | UNAD | 2015 | Innovation Management in the Agricultural Sector Diploma | 400 | On-line | All Countries |
| 20 | IICA | 2015 | Training on virtual learning environments | 17 | Colpos -Córdoba | Online Tutors from Colpos |
| 21 | CICY | 2016 | In Vitro Clonal Propagation of Tropical Plants Strengthening Lab's Capacity | 9 | St. Vincent/Belize/Bahamas/TT | St. Vincent/Belize/Bahamas/TT |
| 22 | CRESIAP | 2016 | Protected Agriculture Training Course (Distance Learning via Multimedia Material) | 123 | On-line | All Countries |
| 23 | COLPOS-Córdoba | 2016 | Graduate Diploma on Rural Tourism | 125 | On-line | Spanish Speaking Countries |
| 24 | CINVESTAV | 2016 | Biotechnology and its application in Agriculture (Distance Learning) | 281 | On-line | Spanish Speaking Countries |
| 25 | IICA-CATIE | 2016 | Adaptation to Climate Change Integrated on Development Planning (MOOC mode) | 84 | On-line | Spanish Speaking Countries |
| 26 | CREFAL | 2016 | Graduate Diploma of Public Policy on Agriculture | 57 | On-line | Caribbean Countries |
| 27 | SENASICA | 2016 | Animal and Aquatic Health on High Demand Products (Prevention and control) | 17 | MEXICO | Central America Nationals |
| 28 | OIRSA | 2016 | Training for trainers in agricultural good practices | 199 | On-line | Central America Nationals |
| TOTAL | | | | 2250 | | |

5. Strengthening of capabilities in areas of strategic importance to IICA and agriculture in the Americas

Master's Degree in Food Security: in coordination and collaboration with the UDUAL and more than 10 universities across the continent, in 2015 a new program was implemented for Latin American professionals with the Open and Distance University of Mexico (UnADM). **As of July 2016, there are 384 students from three intakes in 19 countries enrolled in the Master's Degree Program in Food Security.**

Diploma in Innovation Management in the Agrifood Sector: In coordination with the Open and Distance University of Mexico (UnADM) and the Network for Innovation Management in the Agrifood Sector (INNOVAGRO Network), this innovative online diploma course was developed and implemented, with **299 people taking part**. In 2016, as well as being held again in Spanish, the course will be held for the first time in English to guarantee IICA’s English-speaking member countries access.

6. Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC)

In collaboration with the open education area of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (CUAED-UNAM), two MOOC were designed on subjects that are important for IICA: food security and agrifood innovation. These free, introductory courses, intended for technical officers, professionals, and others working in the agricultural and agro-processing sector who are familiar with information and communication technologies, will be available on the *Coursera* platform. Each will last 40 hours, spread over four weeks.

7. Telepresence/Multimedia

The telepresence and multimedia services offered by the CTL have become an important tool for supporting the construction of knowledge and management meetings,

| Year | Number of sessions | Use in training |
|-------|--------------------|-----------------|
| 2012 | 680 | 102 |
| 2013 | 1656 | 374 |
| 2014 | 1977 | 613 |
| 2015 | 2221 | 933 |
| 2016* | 2378 | 1593 |

as they make communication with any part of the world possible, sharing contents and knowledge via the Internet. Headquarters furnishes these services to IICA’s delegations, projects, and strategic partners that require technological and human resources in order to carry out their activities. The services available include recording, video editing, Web conferences, live public and private webcasts, closed circuit television, video conferences, and the recording and digitalization of audio and video. Demand has grown year on year, with the latest technological developments being incorporated to meet different needs. Recent years have seen an upsurge in the use of these tools for training, with knowledge delivered via technical forums and webcasts, and used to complement online courses for synchronous sessions. The attached table shows the growth since 2012, in both the number of sessions and their use in training programs.