

RESOLUTION No. 507

**REPORT ON THE RESULTS OF THE IICA-CATIE PROGRAM OF JOINT ACTION AND
EXTENSION OF THE CONTRACT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF
COSTA RICA AND THE INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR COOPERATION ON
AGRICULTURE ON THE TROPICAL AGRICULTURE RESEARCH AND HIGHER
EDUCATION CENTER**

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (IABA), at its Nineteenth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

The presentation by the Director General of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) on progress achieved in implementing the IICA-CATIE Program of Joint Action as well as the extension of the Contract on the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE) between the Government of Costa Rica and IICA, (the Contract),

CONSIDERING:

That the Government of Costa Rica and IICA established CATIE as a scientific and educational civil association in 1973, by way of the Contract (Law 5201), subsequently modified in 1983 (Law 6873) and 1999 (Law 8028);

That, pursuant to its thirty-third clause, the Contract-Law expires in 2020; however, it may be extended for consecutive twenty-year terms provided that two years before the end of each term the Government of Costa Rica and the General Directorate of IICA, pursuant to the decision of the IABA, do not notify the Governing Council of CATIE of their decision to terminate the contract and dissolve the association;

That the Governing Council of Ministers, at the request of the Government of Costa Rica, represented by its Minister of Agriculture, unanimously adopted Resolution 11-14/XVI ROCS of 31 October 2014, in which it requested that the IABA, as the highest governing body of CATIE, endorse the position of the Government of Costa Rica regarding the need to secure an automatic extension to the contract, emphasizing the enormous contribution made by CATIE and its value in meeting the needs of its member countries;

That, via resolution IICA/JIA/Res. 500 (XVIII-O/15), the IABA resolved to support the automatic extension of the Contract, from 2020 onward, according to the terms of clause thirty-three of said contract; to request that the Director General of IICA and the new Director General-elect of CATIE prepare a report on the relationship between the two institutions, including a proposal for strengthening it that would benefit the member countries of the Center and of the Institute; and to task the Executive Committee of IICA with studying said report at its next regular meeting and presenting it, with its recommendations, to the next regular meeting of the IABA;

That, pursuant to that Resolution the institutions have presented a progress report on the main actions carried out within the framework of the Program of Joint Action, which establishes the operating and corporate management areas and mechanisms required to coordinate actions between the two institutions;

That the extension of the Contract is an excellent opportunity to provide CATIE with a modern legal framework and a strategic vision for the future that strengthens its academic, operational, financial and research position and enables it to offer cutting-edge proposals to its member countries, in close collaboration with IICA;

That it is necessary to develop a “strategic proposal” for updating and improving CATIE’s current operating framework, with the aim of perfecting the Center’s relationship with IICA and assisting in overcoming the challenges facing member countries in the short, medium and long term; and,

That, in order to prepare this strategic proposal, an *ad hoc* working group must be established that includes representatives of CATIE, IICA and the Government of Costa Rica, as well as two external specialists and a legal expert who are familiar with the legal, operational and corporate aspects of the Center,

RESOLVES:

1. To accept the Report on the Results of the IICA-CATIE Program of Joint Action (second semester of 2016 and first semester of 2017) in the areas of technical cooperation, capacity building and corporate management, which has contributed to strengthening the relationship between the institutions; to encourage the institutions to continue working for the benefit of their Member States and to task them with reporting on the results of the Program to the Executive Committee and the IABA, at their next regular meetings.
2. To request that the directors general of IICA and CATIE establish, with support from the Government of Costa Rica, an *ad hoc* working group that includes representatives of each institution, two external consultants and an international legal expert, who shall be responsible for preparing a “strategic proposal” for the future of CATIE that details scenarios and alternatives for restructuring and strengthening the Center’s organizational, scientific, academic and financial frameworks, as well as its legal basis.
3. To instruct both directors general to ensure that the *ad hoc* group presents this strategic proposal, including its conclusions and scenarios, to the Executive Committee, so that it may issue recommendations at its next regular meeting.
4. To task the Executive Committee with studying and analyzing the strategic proposal and adopting the corresponding resolutions at its next regular meeting, as well as reporting on this topic at the next regular meeting of the IABA.