What is IICA?

We are the specialized agency of the Inter-American System for the promotion of agriculture and rural well-being, and our efforts are fully focused on making agriculture competitive and sustainable in the Americas.

We have a modern vision of the challenges facing agriculture, which range from the effects of climate change on agricultural production to the urgent need to feed a growing world population; while at the same time, creating opportunities and jobs for the men and women of the rural areas of our member countries.

Faced with such extraordinary challenges, we propose a new paradigm for agriculture: one in which the sector will improve national revenues and individual incomes, play a key role in making food security a reality, and is a line of defense in mitigating the impacts of climate change. We are committed to making agriculture more productive, more inclusive and more sustainable.

Since our founding, in 1942, we have acquired a wealth of experience in the provision of technical cooperation in the areas of technology and innovation for agriculture, agricultural health and food safety, agribusiness, agricultural trade, rural development and training.

More recently, the Institute has become involved in the relationship between agriculture and the environment, natural resources and climate change. It has also helped the countries to meet new challenges in areas such as biotechnology and biosafety, agroenergy, agrotourism, organic agriculture, agricultural insurance, rural agroindustry and rural development from a territorial perspective.

In our 34 Member States, we work very closely with the ministries of agriculture. Our governing body is the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), comprising the ministers of agriculture of the hemisphere. In addition, we serve as the secretariat of the Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture in the Context of the Summit of the Americas Process.
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INAUGURAL CEREMONY
INAUGURAL CEREMONY

The inaugural session of the Thirty-third Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee was called to order at 09:50 hours on June 17, 2013, in the Don Diego 2 Meeting Room of the Hilton Mexico City Reforma Hotel, in Mexico City.

Address by the Director General of IICA

The Director General extended a warm welcome to all those present. He expressed satisfaction that the Thirty-third Meeting of the Executive Committee was taking place in Mexico, his native country, and thanked the Government of Mexico for its gracious gesture of hosting the meeting.

He then proceeded to discuss the potential of the agricultural sectors of various countries in the Americas and their significant contribution to food security. He explained that IICA had made efforts to fulfill the objectives set in its 2010-2014 Medium-term Plan, namely, to encourage, promote and support the efforts of its Member States to achieve the sustainable development of agriculture and the well-being of rural populations. To that end, he added, the Institute based its actions on a new technological paradigm comprised of three elements—competitiveness, sustainability and inclusion—through which IICA sought to promote improvements in the lives of rural populations and ensure their food security, without harming the environment.

The Director General went on to say that agricultural production systems should promote the sound use of soil and water, in order to reduce the sector’s impact on climate change. He also emphasized the importance of generating employment, especially in rural areas, in order to reduce poverty.

He went on to explain that his Administration had made efforts to improve the Institute’s technical capacity and efficiency in the use of resources, given that, as the President of Mexico had noted, “increasing production is not about working harder, but working better, using new technologies and taking advantage of the means available.”

He said that it was up to the Executive Committee to evaluate the results of the actions carried out by his Administration, determine whether those results had benefited IICA and its Member States, and make any recommendations it considered appropriate to guide the Institute’s actions in the future.
In conclusion, the Director General thanked the Government of Argentina for offering to host the Seventeenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) in September 2013.

Address by the Undersecretary General for Competitiveness and Food of the General Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food (SAGARPA) of Mexico

Mr. Ricardo Aguilar, Undersecretary General for Competitiveness and Food of SAGARPA of Mexico, speaking on behalf of the Government of Mexico and of the Secretary General of SAGARPA, Mr. Enrique Martinez y Martinez, extended a warm welcome to the delegates of the Member States of the Executive Committee, representatives of international organizations, members of the diplomatic corps and IICA staff members, and wished them an enjoyable stay in Mexico.

He said the presence of such a diverse group of representatives at the meeting was a reflection of the ties of friendship between peoples, which made it possible to achieve closer cooperation, especially on an issue of vital importance for the Americas, such as agriculture.

Mr. Aguilar then explained that the Government of Mexico recognized that nowadays countries could not act in isolation, because what happened in one part of the world affected people on the other side of the globe, and that achieving regional development called not only for financial support, but also for elements such as solidarity, cooperation and mutual understanding among all countries.

He added that two of the Mexican Government’s main objectives were to find new markets for national production, and to promote the profitability and sustainability of rural production, so that both helped to guarantee the population’s food security, something that would only be possible through inter-governmental cooperation.

Therefore, he said, integration and cooperation were the bases for achieving the development of all the countries. He added that the free flow of knowledge and technologies was essential, since only in that way could countries effectively meet the challenges of agriculture, such as outbreaks of pests and diseases and low productivity, among others.

The Undersecretary General for Competitiveness and Food of SAGARPA concluded by expressing the wish that the decisions taken at the meeting would contribute to
improvements in the living standards of those who were IICA’s raison d’être: the rural dwellers of the countries of the Americas.

**Close of the Inaugural Ceremony**

The inaugural ceremony concluded at 10:25 hours on June 17, 2013.
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
MINUTES OF THE THIRTY-THIRD REGULAR MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR COOPERATION ON AGRICULTURE (IICA)

The Thirty-third Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) was held in accordance with the provisions of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee and of Resolution IICA/CE/Res. 564 (XXXII-O/12) of said governing body of the Institute.

The 2013 Executive Committee was made up of the following countries: Argentina, Barbados, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Suriname and United States of America.

PREPARATORY SESSION

0.1 Opening of the session

0.1.1 The Preparatory Session of the Thirty-third Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee was called to order at 10:40 hours on June 17, 2013, in the Don Diego 2 Meeting Room of the Hilton Mexico City Reforma Hotel in Mexico City. It was chaired by Ms. Patricia García, Deputy Director General of Administration of the Undersecretariat for Technical and Administrative Coordination of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries of Argentina, the country that chaired the Thirty-second Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee.

0.1.2 The representatives of all the Member States sitting on the 2013 Executive Committee attended the meeting, with the exception of the representatives of Honduras and Nicaragua.
0.2  Agreements

0.2.1  Election of the Chair and Rapporteur of the Meeting

0.2.1.1  The representatives of the Member States of the Executive Committee unanimously elected Mr. Ricardo Aguilar, Undersecretary for Food and Competitiveness of the SAGARPA of Mexico, to chair the meeting. It was then proposed that Mr. Andrés Bernal Morales, Head of the Legal Office of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Colombia, serve as Rapporteur. The motion was approved unanimously.

0.2.1.2  The officers of the meeting were elected as follows:

Chair: Ricardo Aguilar
Rapporteur: Andrés Bernal Morales
Ex officio Secretary: Víctor M. Villalobos

0.2.2  Agenda for the Meeting

0.2.2.1  Mr. Ricardo Aguilar took over as Chair of the meeting and submitted the provisional agenda of the Thirty-third Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee, contained in document IICA/CE/Doc. 606 (13), to the consideration of the representatives. The agenda was approved without changes.

0.2.2.2  The Chair informed the representatives of the Member States of the Executive Committee that their folders contained the working and information documents for the meeting, digital versions of which had been made available online on May 17, in Spanish and English.

0.2.3  Working Committees

0.2.3.1  It was agreed that all topics would be discussed in the plenary sessions and that no working committees would be established.

0.2.4  Duration of the Meeting

0.2.4.1  It was agreed that the Closing Session of the meeting would be held on Tuesday, June 18, 2013 at 17:00 hours, as proposed by the Technical Secretariat.
0.2.5 Deadline for Submitting Proposals

0.2.5.1 Monday, June 17 at 16:00 hours was set as the deadline for submitting new draft resolutions.

0.2.6 Countries’ Right to Vote

0.2.6.1 The Director General asked the Legal Adviser of the Organization of American States (OAS) and of IICA for an opinion regarding the application of Article 24 of the Convention on the Institute, which referred to the suspension of the right to vote at meetings of the Institute’s governing bodies of those Member States that are more than two years behind in the payment of their quotas. The Legal Adviser explained that all the Member States sitting on the 2013 Executive Committee could participate in the meeting with full rights.

0.3 Close of the session

0.3.1 The Preparatory Session of the Thirty-third Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee was adjourned at 11:10 hours on June 17, 2013.
**FIRST PLENARY SESSION**

1.1  *Opening of the session*

1.1.1 The First Plenary Session of the Thirty-third Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee was called to order at 11:15 hours on Monday, June 17, 2013. It was chaired by Mr. Ricardo Aguilar, Undersecretary for Food and Competitiveness of SAGARPA of Mexico.

1.2  *2010-2013 Management Report of IICA*

1.2.1 The Director General recalled that IICA’s mission was to provide technical cooperation, innovation and specialized knowledge in order to promote the competitive and sustainable development of agriculture in the Americas and to improve the lives of rural dwellers in the Institute’s member countries. He reiterated his Administration’s commitment to strengthen the Institute’s technical capacity and thereby support more effectively the countries’ efforts to achieve sustainable and competitive agriculture.

1.2.2 He then thanked the Member States for all their support, reflected in their approval of the 2010-2020 Strategic Plan and the 2010-2014 Medium-term Plan, which contained details of the strategy, programs and lines of action for the fulfillment of IICA’s four strategic objectives: i) to improve the productivity and competitiveness of the agricultural sector, ii) to strengthen agriculture’s contribution to the development of territories and to rural well-being, iii) to improve agriculture’s capacity to mitigate the effects of, and adapt to, climate change, and make better use of natural resources, and iv) to improve agriculture’s contribution to food security.

1.2.3 He explained that in order to achieve those objectives the Institute had executed the IICA country strategies and consolidated its alliances with strategic partners, such as the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO), Germany’s Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE), the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI), the World Food Programme (WFP), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC),
the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT), the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), among others.

1.2.4 The Director General then referred to the main results obtained by IICA during the 2010-2013 period, which he summarized as follows: i) strengthening of national agricultural innovation and knowledge management systems, ii) devising of a communications strategy on the benefits and risks of biotechnology, iii) promotion of new lines of clean energy technologies, iv) preparation of strategic analyses to enable Member States to make decisions on strengthening technological innovation, v) design of instruments for linking producers to markets, vi) capacity building in public institutions to add value to agricultural production, vii) strengthening of information services and analysis of market prices, viii) strengthening of technical and institutional capabilities in sanitary and phytosanitary standards, ix) development of technical and leadership capabilities in the area of food safety, x) improvement of institutional and technical capabilities for the integrated and sustainable management of rural territories and to promote family agriculture, and xi) capacity building in institutions to adapt agriculture to climate change and promote the comprehensive and efficient management of natural resources.

1.2.5 The Director General informed the delegates about the report prepared by the Institute on “The Food Security Situation in the Americas,” which had been presented to the OAS. He added that a number of innovative procedures had been implemented in the administrative sphere involving the use of the new information and communications technologies, which had facilitated more efficient use of the resources of Member States. He explained that IICA had achieved significant progress in consolidating its strategic partnerships, both with its traditional partners and with new partners, most importantly through the framework agreement that IICA had signed with FAO on March 29, 2012.

1.2.6 Finally, he thanked the member countries for the confidence they had shown in his Administration’s management of the Institute’s resources, which was reflected in the timely payment of quotas. He added that the proposed program budget for the next two years had been prepared based on the most appropriate terms for those countries.
First Plenary Session

1.2.7 The Chair thanked the Director General for his report, congratulated IICA for its hard work and the achievements described, and offered the floor to the representatives of the Member States.

1.2.8 The representatives of Guyana, Chile, Guatemala, Mexico, Barbados, United States of America and Argentina, together with the Observer Representatives of Paraguay and Canada, thanked the Director General for presenting his report on IICA’s results and congratulated him on the Institute’s achievements.

1.2.9 The Representative of Guyana, in particular, acknowledged the Institute’s support to its member countries, which had enabled them to meet the challenges associated with climate change, increase productivity, help producers improve their links to markets and promote innovation, all in pursuit of food security. He also emphasized the cooperation provided by IICA to enable countries to comply with sanitary and phytosanitary standards of markets in the European Union, the United States of America and Canada. He considered that the Americas could become the first region in the world to achieve food security before 2025, for which the Institute’s cooperation was essential. Finally, he announced that Guyana supported the candidacy of the current Director General of IICA for a second term.

1.2.10 The Representative of Chile thanked the Institute for its cooperation to his country. He agreed with the Representative of Guyana as to the importance of IICA’s support in achieving food security. He considered that the liberalization of trade between countries of the region was one of the most important ways to accomplish that goal. He concluded by requesting IICA’s support to raise awareness in the countries of the importance of free trade to reduce food insecurity.

1.2.11 The Representative of Guatemala explained that the actions undertaken by his country to combat poverty and promote food security were based on IICA’s vision. One of those actions was the Zero Hunger Pact, a program launched in 2012 with the aim of reducing by 10% the chronic malnutrition suffered by two-thirds of all Guatemalans, before 2015. Another example was the Program to Strengthen Family Agriculture in the Rural Economy (PAFFEC), which promoted the capitalization of rural areas with a view to helping the poorest groups. He asked IICA to coordinate actions to help countries learn from each other’s experiences in the area of food security, and acknowledged the support
that his country had received from Mexico, the United States of America, Chile, Spain and Canada. He also expressed the hope that his country would receive the necessary human and financial resources to contribute to the development of agriculture in the years ahead.

1.2.12 The Observer Representative of Canada considered that IICA’s actions to promote innovation were of great value. She also mentioned the importance of receiving regular reports on the achievements obtained in the context of projects.

1.2.13 The Representative of Mexico pointed out that several issues mentioned by the Director General in his report were priorities for his country, including climate change, efforts to strengthen small-scale agriculture and the development and transfer of technologies, an area in which the Administration of President Enrique Peña Nieto had been implementing actions.

1.2.14 The Observer Representative of Paraguay thanked IICA for providing support to his country by training young people and providing scholarships, among other actions. This had benefited his government’s programs in the areas of family agriculture, grain production, food security and poverty reduction.

1.2.15 The Representative of Barbados explained that his country had a shortage of natural resources and relied on the assistance of various organizations and other countries to strengthen its capacities. He added that one of those organizations was IICA, which he thanked for supporting his country in the areas of water, energy, agricultural health and adding value to production chains.

1.2.16 The Representative of the United States of America considered that the goal pursued by Guyana and Guatemala of eradicating hunger by 2025 was feasible to achieve, but added that IICA’s support was of vital importance for this. He added that his country would continue to provide support to the Institute and stressed the value of receiving reports on the projects implemented by IICA.

1.2.17 The Representative of Argentina referred to factors that degrade the environment and that particularly affect the most vulnerable people. She called for a more rational use of natural resources, especially water.
The Chair, in his capacity as Representative of Mexico, emphasized that all the topics included in the Director General’s management report were worthy of mention. He pointed out that, in addition to continuing to promote important topics such as public-private partnerships, rural well-being, area-based management and food security, it was of vital importance to strengthen the skills of human resources, and therefore encouraged IICA to continue investing in training for young people.

The Director General thanked all the representatives of IICA’s member countries for their comments, and particularly for their expressions of support for his management report. He added that the achievements described were the result of the efforts of all the countries and staff of the Institute. He emphasized the importance of water for food production, and invited the countries to submit their recommendations to IICA on how best to manage water for agriculture. He also asked for their suggestions on how to address issues such as food security, agricultural health and food safety.

Presentation of the draft technical document “Water to feed the land”

Mr. Miguel García, Manager of IICA’s Agribusiness and Commercialization Program, explained that his presentation had three objectives: i) to report on the main findings of the study conducted for the preparation of the document entitled “Water to feed the land,” ii) to present the recommendations contained in that document in order to help the ministries of agriculture consolidate their leadership in water management for agriculture, and iii) to suggest some ideas for promoting an inter-American dialogue on the importance of ensuring that agriculture had an adequate supply of water, both now and in the future.

He added that the proposal was the result of a collaborative effort between Argentina and IICA, with the support of a group of consultants from Mexico, and was aimed at building a hemispheric agenda to improve the sustainable use of water in agriculture. He described the sources and terms of reference for the study and requested feedback to complete the formulation of the proposal, which would be presented at the next meeting of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas, in September 2013.

He then underlined the importance of water for agriculture and for efforts to combat poverty, pointing out that new paradigms were required to optimize its use and
guarantee its sustainability. He added that the Americas contained 46% of the world’s water resources and that agriculture was the sector that used the largest amount of extracted water (70%). He then explained that changes in the distribution patterns, frequency and intensity of rainfall were affecting water availability and emphasized the negative effects of agriculture on the environment. He indicated that most of the agriculture in the Americas was rainfed, that productivity was generally low, and that there were many obstacles to improving the efficiency of irrigation agriculture, which was practiced on 44 million hectares.

1.3.4 He explained that all the foregoing called for innovation to improve efficiency in the use of water in agriculture, together with a wider use of technologies for the management of watersheds and aquifers. He added that in order to improve governance of water management it was essential to strengthen the institutional frameworks and, in particular, reinforce the role played by the ministries of agriculture in the formulation and application of public policies on this issue.

1.3.5 The Manager of IICA’s Agribusiness and Commercialization Program concluded his presentation by enumerating the three recommendations of the proposal: i) strengthen the capabilities of the ministries of agriculture and of the regional mechanisms in the area of integrated water management (including the implementation of South-South and North-South cooperation programs); ii) promote integrated management of water resources; and iii) strengthen innovation processes to improve productivity in the use of water in agriculture, including the dissemination of technologies with innovative potential, the adoption of precision agriculture and the management of groundwater.

1.3.6 The Chair gave the floor to the representatives of the countries, who began by expressing their satisfaction with the presentation of the document.

1.3.7 The Representative of Suriname considered that the document placed emphasis on irrigation, and explained that for his country it was also important to consider drainage. He therefore suggested that the proposal adopt a more comprehensive approach, so that it included both irrigation and drainage.

1.3.8 The Representative of the United States of America pointed out that a high degree of cooperation at the hemispheric level was required to provide an effective response to the issue of water, and that his country was interested in participating in the effort.
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1.3.9 The Representative of Guatemala reported that his country had begun designing an irrigation policy and believed that the rest of the Central American countries should do the same. He explained that this region had two well-defined seasons that determined water availability, each one lasting approximately six months: the rainy season and the dry season. He added that in his country water for irrigation came mainly from river flows remaining after the rainy season, but that little use was made of reservoirs for capturing rainwater. He noted that the document did not adequately address the issue of reservoirs.

1.3.10 The Representative of Chile emphasized that his country had been facing a prolonged drought, which had forced it to explore new methods of generating and managing water. He explained that with support from California and the Republic of China, his country had resorted to cloud seeding, while recognizing that the method divided opinion. Therefore, he believed it was important to have more information on this matter.

1.3.11 The Representative of Colombia said the proposal should consider the role of the State in promoting better water use and management, and suggested that different mechanisms be established, including the offer of incentives to users of small and medium-scale irrigation systems. He explained that his country had been paying attention to these types of irrigation systems, but needed to learn more about ways of implementing them and about the role that the State and the private sector should play in that regard. Consequently, he expressed interest in seeing both aspects addressed in the document.

1.3.12 The Representative of Guyana emphasized his country’s particular situation as one of the three nations with greatest availability of water resources in the world. He added that Guyana regarded it as important that the proposal explore how to address two of the main problems affecting his country: water pollution and the salinization of rivers.

1.3.13 The Representative of Mexico congratulated the Manager of the Agribusiness and Commercialization Program on his presentation and emphasized that his country considered water and climate change to be issues of the utmost importance. He then referred briefly to the situation in his country with regard to irrigated agriculture and seasonal agriculture. He explained that the Mexican government was promoting policies aimed at improving efficiency in the use of water as a means to ensure food security and combat hunger.
1.3.14 The Observer Representative of Canada considered that the document adequately described the main challenges facing the countries with regard to water. She considered it advisable that the proposal reflect more effectively the diverse and specific situations of the member countries in aspects such as regulation, management and availability of water, etc. Finally, she said her country was interested in promoting a North-South dialogue on the subject of water use and management in agriculture.

1.3.15 The Manager of the Agribusiness and Commercialization Program explained that the proposal placed emphasis on institutional strengthening in water management through innovation, as well as on the integrated management of water resources in agriculture, not only on irrigation. He invited the representatives to submit their comments, which he said would be very useful to him and would enrich the proposal. As to the comment by the Observer Representative of Canada, he explained that the document sought to promote a hemispheric agenda for water management in agriculture, as evidenced in the three recommendations. He then went on to describe the actions implemented by the countries, which provided a large amount of information to prepare the proposal. He added that his presentation was a synthesis of that information, but that a large database was available with more detailed information.

1.3.16 The Director General explained that the document presented by the Manager of the Agribusiness and Commercialization Program was of a preliminary nature and that the final version would be completed jointly with the countries. He added that the support of all the Member States was needed to enrich and improve its content, so that it would be ready 45 days prior to the next meeting of the IABA. During that meeting, the IABA was expected to call on IICA to include the issue of water in its agenda, in line with the interests of its Member States.

1.3.17 The Technical Secretary described the process that would be followed to complete the preparation of the document “Water to feed the land.” He recommended that the Member States review it, to the extent they considered appropriate, and submit any contributions they wished. Their input would be taken into account in preparing the final version, which, as noted by the Director General, had to be ready 45 days before the IABA meeting to be held in September in Argentina. He explained that the document would provide a
basis for discussion at that meeting, thereby contributing to the development of an agenda for hemispheric cooperation on water among the Institute’s member countries.

1.3.18 He added that the document’s conclusions, the contributions of representatives of the member countries and any recommendations arising from a hemispheric forum attended by high-level experts would be key inputs for drafting a ministerial declaration on the use and management of water in agriculture. That declaration would constitute a mandate for IICA regarding the actions to be taken on that topic, which would be incorporated into its next Medium-term Plan.

1.4 Close of the session

1.4.1 The First Plenary Session of the Thirty-third Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee was adjourned at 13:20 hours on June 17, 2013.
SECOND PLENARY SESSION

2.1  Opening of the session

2.1.1  The Second Plenary Session of the Thirty-third Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee was called to order at 15:00 hours on June 17, 2013 and was chaired by Mr. Ricardo Aguilar, Undersecretary for Food and Competitiveness of SAGARPA of Mexico.

2.2  Report of the 2013 Regular Meeting of the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues (SACMI)

2.2.1  The Chair announced that the Report of the 2013 Regular Meeting of the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues (SACMI) would now be presented, in compliance with Article 3.1, subparagraph d), of its Statute, under which the Administration was required to present a report to the Executive Committee on the meetings of the SACMI. He gave the floor to the Technical Secretary.

2.2.2  The Technical Secretary explained that, since the report of the 2013 Regular Meeting of the SACMI, held on April 25 in San Jose, Costa Rica, had been made available to the countries and the members of the Executive Committee in a timely and correct manner, he would not be giving a detailed presentation. He pointed out that during that meeting the delegates of Argentina, Bahamas, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Panama and United States of America had made observations and suggestions with respect to the 2014-2015 Program Budget that had been incorporated into the SACMI’s report.

2.2.3  In view of the fact that the document had been sent out well in advance to allow countries to review it, the Chair offered the floor to any representatives who wished to comment on the report. In the absence of comments, the report of the 2013 Regular Meeting of the SACMI was approved as read.

2.2.4  The Director General asked the members of the Executive Committee to consider the possibility of holding future meetings of the SACMI on line. That would save money and enable the commission to hold meetings more frequently and effectively.
2.2.5 The representatives of the United States, Guyana, Chile, Guatemala, Barbados and Argentina, and the Chair of the meeting in his capacity as Representative of Mexico, expressed their support for the Director General’s proposal. Mr. Villalobos thanked them for backing his proposal and said that later the representatives would be informed about the procedure for holding virtual meetings of the SACMI.

2.3 Financial and programming-budgetary situation

2.3.1 Main areas of progress and results of corporate management

2.3.1.1 The Secretary of Corporate Services, Mr. Carlos O’Farrill, presented the following strategic guidelines for corporate management: i) strengthen the technical cooperation services provided to the Member States, ii) apply a policy of continuous improvement of corporate processes, and iii) promote corporate management with high standards of quality, based on principles of austerity, equity and transparency in the use of resources.

2.3.1.2 The main progress and results achieved in the area of corporate management were the following: i) more efficient procurement and contracting processes, ii) implementation of the SAP financial-accounting system at IICA Headquarters and in 33 IICA Offices in the member countries, iii) results-based programming of resources, iv) restructuring of the Human Talent Management Division, v) redesign of the personnel evaluation system, vi) equipping of all the Institute’s units for e-communication, vii) implementation of the Administrative Knowledge Network (RedCA), viii) renewal of 38% of IICA’s vehicle fleet, ix) premises for two offices (Paraguay and Peru) given in usufruct, x) a 6% increase in resources allocated to offices in the Member States, and xi) financial savings on items such as rents, insurance, publications, travel and public utilities, among others.

2.3.2 Progress in the Collection of Quotas

2.3.2.1 The Secretary of Corporate Services reported that, as at December 31, 2012, the Institute had collected quotas totaling USD 27.3 million, which were used to finance 98.86% of the 2012 annual budget. He explained that in 2013, the quotas to be collected totaled USD 30.4 million, comprised of USD 27.8 million corresponding to quotas for the 2013 period and USD 2.6 million from
previous years. He added that by June 14, 2013, USD 14.3 million in quotas had been collected and that the amount pending collection was USD 16.1 million.

2.3.3 Proposed 2014-2015 Program Budget

2.3.3.1 The Secretary of Corporate Services presented the proposed 2014-2015 Program Budget, which incorporated the recommendations made by the SACMI. The following elements were taken into account in preparing the budget: i) the 2010-2014 Medium-term Plan, ii) the fact that implementation of a new MTP for 2014-2018 would begin in 2014, iii) zero growth in revenue in 2014 and 2015, iv) the detailed expenditures for 2014, v) quotas established according to the scale approved for 2013 by the OAS, and vi) USD 1.4 million in increased costs for the Regular Fund in 2014, which would have to be absorbed.

2.3.3.2 The Secretary of Corporate Services explained that the total amount of the 2014-2015 Program Budget was USD 33,910,000.00, broken down by funding source as follows: USD 27,810,000.00 annually from quotas paid by the Member States and USD 6,100,000.00 annually from miscellaneous income. He added that the distribution by chapter of the Program Budget was as follows: Chapter I – Direct Technical Cooperation Services: USD 30,644,538.00, representing 90.4% of the total; Chapter II – Management Costs: USD 1,658,321.00, or 4.9% of the total; Chapter III – General Costs and Provisions: USD 1,250,000.00, accounting for 3.7% of the total; and Chapter IV – Renewal of Infrastructure and Equipment: USD 357,142.00, representing 1.1% of the total.

2.3.3.3 He mentioned that the institutional measures aimed at reducing expenses had been exhausted. He pointed out that the Institute would continue to place emphasis on financial austerity, the reorientation of expenditures, staff reductions and constant efforts to find ways to make savings; however, he explained that it would be increasingly difficult to cover increases in personnel costs, the revaluation of local currencies and increases in the prices of services, equipment, furniture, vehicles, consultants, travel and insurance, among other items, without affecting important institutional programs.

2.3.3.4 The Representative of Guatemala asked whether the adjustments made in the budget to absorb increased costs were internal readjustments in the budget items or real cuts in the amounts.
2.3.3.5 The Representative of the United States of America recognized IICA’s efforts to manage its financial resources with transparency and accountability. He urged the Institute to continue its efforts to increase its income by means of the Institutional Net Rate, in order to free up resources from the Regular Fund that could be allocated to technical cooperation.

2.3.3.6 The Secretary of Corporate Services explained that the budget had been adjusted in two ways. On the one hand, there had been a real reduction in the amount, since IICA had had to contend with the loss of purchasing power of the different currencies; and, given that reduction, it had also made adjustments to internal budget items, in order to address institutional priorities in response to the needs of the Member States.

2.3.4 IICA Financial Statements for 2012 and Report of the External Auditors

2.3.4.1 The Secretary of Corporate Services referred to the Institute’s financial statements for 2012. He noted that, according to the report submitted by the external audit firm Ernst & Young, IICA had presented, in a reasonable manner, all important aspects of its financial position as at December 31, 2012, in accordance with United States generally accepted accounting principles (US GAAP). He also reported that the external auditors had highlighted the importance of IICA conducting actuarial studies on the reserves needed to pay staff benefits in the event of termination of services. He recalled that IICA had already analyzed this matter and had concluded that the cost of conducting such studies was prohibitive.

2.3.5 Nineteenth Report of the Audit Review Committee (ARC)

2.3.5.1 The Chair of the ARC, Mr. Tracy LaPoint, presented the committee’s annual report. He explained that the ARC had reviewed the financial statements for the fiscal year ending in December 2012 at IICA Headquarters in Costa Rica on May 8 and 9, 2013. He reported that meetings had been held with IICA’s management staff and with external auditors from the firm Ernst & Young, which in 2013 was conducting the audit for the first time. He stated that the ARC had concluded that the work of the external auditors complied with international standards and IICA regulations.
2.3.5.2 Mr. LaPoint then referred to the expert opinion of the external auditors regarding the lack of actuarial studies on the reserves needed for the payment of staff benefits in the event of termination of services, as required under US GAAP. The ARC felt it important to report that one review of such benefits had been carried out involving the sum of USD 8.3 million, pursuant to the regulations of the country in question. The ARC agreed with IICA that conducting actuarial studies was not feasible because of their high cost.

2.3.5.3 Mr. LaPoint noted that the issue of Colombia’s Agroingreso Seguro (AIS) program had been excluded from the 2012 report of the external auditors, due to a policy of the external audit firm. He pointed out that the matter was addressed in full in the footnotes. He added that IICA continued to follow up on the payment of quotas by the Member States.

2.3.5.4 The Chair then gave the floor to the representatives. The Representative of the United States of America thanked the Chair of the ARC for his detailed report.

2.3.6 Election of a member of the ARC

2.3.6.1 The Technical Secretary explained that the Executive Committee had the responsibility of electing members of the ARC, in accordance with Article 3, subparagraph k of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee and Article III of the ARC Statute. He explained the need for the meeting to elect a member of the ARC because the term of Mr. Tracy LaPoint, who had served on the committee since January 1, 2008, would conclude on December 31, 2013.

2.3.6.2 The Technical Secretary explained that, in accordance with current provisions, the Director General, in a letter dated March 11, 2013, had invited the Member States to nominate candidates in order for the Executive Committee to elect a new member of the ARC for the period from January 2014 to December 2019. In response to that request, a single nomination had been received, from the United States of America, nominating Mr. Steve Rickrode.
2.3.6.3 The Chair proposed the election of Mr. Rickrode as a member of the ARC, a motion that was approved unanimously by the Executive Committee. It was agreed that Mr. Rickrode would assume his functions as a member of the ARC when Mr. Tracy LaPoint’s term expired.

2.3.6.4 The Director General praised the work of Mr. LaPoint, who had been elected by the Executive Committee at its Twenty-seventh Regular Meeting in 2007, according to Resolution IICA/CE/Res. 467 (XXVII-O/07).

2.4 Close of the session

2.4.1 The Second Plenary Session of the Thirty-third Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee was adjourned at 17:15 hours on June 17, 2013.
THIRD PLENARY SESSION

3.1 Opening of the session

3.1.1 The Third Plenary Session of the Thirty-third Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee was called to order at 09:40 hours on June 18, 2013. It was chaired by Mr. Ricardo Aguilar, Undersecretary for Food and Competitiveness of SAGARPA of Mexico.

3.1.2 The Chair and the Director General welcomed the Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Aquaculture and Fisheries of Ecuador, who joined the meeting.

3.2 Reading and approval of draft resolutions

3.2.1 At the Chair’s invitation, the Rapporteur proceeded to read out the following draft resolutions: 2010-2013 Management Report; Report of the 2013 Regular Meeting of the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues (SACMI); 2014-2015 Program Budget; Report on the Collection of Quotas; 2012 Financial Statements of the Institute, Report of the External Auditors and Nineteenth Report of the Audit Review Committee (ARC); Election of a Member of the Audit Review Committee (ARC); and Acknowledgement of Mr. Tracy LaPoint’s contributions as a member of the Audit Review Committee (ARC).

3.2.2 The Chair submitted each of the draft resolutions to a vote. All were approved as read.

3.3 Strengthening IICA’s relations with the MIOA

3.3.1 The Manager of IICA’s Agribusiness and Commercialization Program, Mr. Miguel García, proceeded to report on the most significant activities carried out by the Market Information Organization of the Americas (MIOA), whose Secretariat was operated by IICA, which included the following: i) a workshop for the development of data collection capabilities, held in El Salvador in March, with technical personnel from Central America and the Dominican Republic; ii) an evaluation of market information systems in Dominica, Antigua and Barbuda, Suriname and St. Kitts and Nevis, with reports submitted to the relevant country; iii) the incorporation of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines into
the MIOA, bringing the organization’s total membership to 33 countries; and iv) the organization of a workshop in Panama to improve the dissemination of information via electronic media, including the short message service (SMS) using mobile telephones, to support the cold chain.

3.3.2 In addition to the above actions, he mentioned efforts such as the strengthening of Haiti’s Agricultural Market Information System through training for 30 people; cooperation with the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) in Central America, which issued weather alerts and provided information on prices; contacts with the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) and the World Trade Organization (WTO) with a view to exchanging information on nutrition and including it in the MIOA systems; and the implementation of the market information component of the IICA project, Improving Agribusiness Competitiveness and Market Transparancy in the CARICOM Region.

3.3.3 Mr. García then referred to some of the most important activities that would be taking place during the second semester of 2013, including the meeting of the Executive Committee of the MIOA (July), a workshop on data collection and analysis in the CARIFORUM countries (August), a workshop on strategic planning for the Southern Region (August) and the Regular Meeting of the MIOA (October). Regarding the contributions received from external sources, he underlined the major contribution of USD 200,000 received from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) under the USDA-IICA agreement.

3.3.4 The Director General thanked the USDA for its financial support to the MIOA, and stressed the special importance of market information systems for the Caribbean countries. He emphasized the need for more resources in future in order to create more efficient market information systems. Finally, he called on countries to provide funding for the MIOA, to enable it to increase its support to them.

3.3.5 The Deputy Director General referred to the positive evolution of the MIOA, whose membership had increased from five to 33 countries over a six-year period. He considered that the expansion reflected the organization’s importance for governments and producers. He concluded by congratulating the Manager of the Agribusiness and Commercialization Program and the MIOA team for their efforts.
Presentation by José Joaquín Campos, Director General of the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE)

The Director General of CATIE, Dr. José Joaquín Campos, referred to his institution’s report for the 2011-2012 biennium. He began his presentation by pointing out that during the period under review CATIE had had to contend with a world economy still suffering from the effects of the recession and limited access to financial support. He explained that the organization had applied innovative approaches in its programs based on sustainable livelihoods, value chains and agricultural and forestry systems, placing particular emphasis on the Mesoamerican Agro-environmental Program (MAP). He added that CATIE had adopted a collaborative approach to research that had encouraged partnerships with regional and international organizations, with the aim of promoting CATIE as a key regional partner for CGIAR research programs (CRPs).

He then described CATIE’s main achievements in the different areas of action. In agroforestry and sustainable agriculture, he highlighted the dissemination of new clones of moniliasis-resistant cacao. In the area of livestock production, he noted that the sector had benefited directly from the approach of the Livestock and Environmental Management Program, which was promoting increased productivity and sustainability, citing as examples the initiatives implemented in the El Petén and Trifinio regions. As to coffee production, he emphasized the actions undertaken to combat coffee leaf rust. With regard to climate change, he explained that CATIE’s priority had been to promote adaptation and mitigation efforts and that during the period covered by the report at least 30 projects of that kind had been implemented, together with education and training activities.

The Director General of CATIE described the significant progress achieved in the area of communications, including the consolidation of the center’s corporate image, the strengthening of internal communications and the publication of printed and digital materials. He also referred to CATIE’s contributions to the implementation of policies and strategies in the context of the Central American Integration System (SICA). In terms of distance education, he emphasized the strengths of the postgraduate system at CATIE, which had been designated as an international land-grant university. Finally, he commented on CATIE’s accomplishments in the area of policy development and its active presence in the countries.
3.4.4 After the presentation by the Director General of CATIE, the Chair gave the floor to the representatives.

3.4.5 The Representative of the United States of America expressed his satisfaction at the work carried out by CATIE. He acknowledged its contribution to food security, and its efforts to combat coffee leaf rust and improve the living conditions of the rural population.

3.4.6 The Representative of Guatemala congratulated the Director General of CATIE on the results described in his presentation. He then asked two questions. Firstly, he wished to know whether the quality of CATIE’s academic programs might be affected by changes in the amount of credit available and whether the center carried out periodic technical evaluations to assess program quality. He also asked why some CATIE projects had not advanced beyond the stage of a pilot experience, for example, the livestock project executed in the El Petén region. He also recommended taking greater advantage of CATIE’s technical expertise and the results of its research; for example, it would be useful if the center were to distribute crop varieties resistant to pests and diseases through the national coffee institutes, together with protocols for their integrated management, given the importance of improving coffee cup quality.

3.4.7 The Director General of CATIE pointed out that the center’s academic programs were now more rigorous and that some were imparted jointly with prestigious universities in Idaho and Texas, and INCAE. He explained that the institution’s management processes included assessments of the quality of its education and an evaluation of its teaching staff. He emphasized that for the last three years CATIE had instituted a process to gain accreditation for its courses.

3.4.8 As to successful experiences, he cited the MADELEÑA and MAP projects, which had benefited more than 100,000 and 30,000 producers, respectively. He recognized that there were constraints to increasing the number of beneficiaries of successful experiences and expressed interest in doing so; however, he felt that it was not up to CATIE to do so directly, but through its 400 plus partners, including cooperatives, ministries of agriculture and producers’ associations. He added that the Center trained between 5000 and 10000 people each year, which was another way of disseminating knowledge and strengthening human capital.
The Chair thanked the Director General of CATIE for presenting his institution’s biennial report. He then gave the floor to Mr. James French, Director of Technical Cooperation of IICA, who described the progress made with joint IICA-CATIE actions under the Program for Joint Action for the 2011-2014 period.

The Director of Technical Cooperation explained that the Institute had supported CATIE, both in the context of technical cooperation projects and in administrative and logistical aspects. Among other cooperative actions, he mentioned efforts to combat coffee leaf rust in Central America and Mexico; IICA’s support for CATIE’s activities in the Amazon; the organization of meetings in Guatemala to promote the genetic improvement of cacao and the crop’s quality and cultural value; the implementation of a project in Guatemala on plant genetic resources co-funded by Bioversity International; and collaboration in the analysis of the results of the cacao program that CATIE was implementing in Central America.

He went on to explain that, with support from IICA’s Agriculture, Natural Resources and Climate Change Program, an online course had been held on how to incorporate the adaptation of agriculture to climate change into development planning; common actions had been identified for adapting agriculture to climate change in the Trifinio region; and joint actions had been undertaken to disseminate vulnerability studies in Mesoamerica.

He added that Venezuela was working on a plan to establish an agroforestry network and that in Belize joint proposals were being developed to secure funding from New Zealand and the World Bank. He emphasized the joint support provided for the implementation of the Central American Strategy for Rural Area-based Development (ECADERT) and for the promotion of rural area-based development (RAD). Finally, he mentioned that in Costa Rica IICA was working with the National Rural Development Institute (INDER) on leadership training and the training of individuals to manage area-based development.

3.5 Report of the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) for the 2011-2012 Biennium

3.5.1 The Head of Strategic Alliances of the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI), Mr. Bruce Lauckner, presented a report on his organization’s main activities during the 2011-2012 biennium.
He explained that CARDI’s Medium Term Plan included the following strategic areas: i) development of sustainable industries, ii) development of strategic production chains and iii) institutional strengthening. He then described the main results achieved by CARDI in each of those strategic areas during the biennium.

3.5.2 He mentioned that during the period in question CARDI had improved the management of its financial and human resources by implementing financial management and results-based personnel evaluation systems. He emphasized the progress made in projects for the sustainable processing of roots and tubers (sweet potato, yuca and yam), cereals and oilseeds, hot peppers, fruits and vegetables, and the production of small ruminants and germplasm. He added that studies had been carried out on the management of invasive species, climate change, and soil and water management.

3.5.3 CARDI’s Head of Strategic Alliances underscored the importance of working with IICA on research and development initiatives and on the execution of projects in the Caribbean. By way of example, he mentioned that although Haiti was not a member of CARDI, two technical cooperation projects had been implemented in that country through IICA. Finally, he acknowledged IICA’s support in strengthening CARDI’s positioning in the Caribbean.

3.5.4 The Chair thanked Mr. Lauckner for presenting CARDI’s biennial report and gave the floor to Mr. Diego Montenegro, Director of Management and Regional Integration of IICA, to describe the progress of joint IICA-CARDI actions under the IICA-CARDI Program for Joint Action for the 2011-2014 period.

3.5.5 The Director of Management and Regional Integration pointed out that IICA allocated USD 200,000 per year to CARDI for the execution of joint projects. He added that IICA had supported CARDI in the implementation of two projects financed by the Institute’s Competitive Fund for Technical Cooperation and projects financed by the Common Fund for Commodities (CFC), in particular two initiatives executed in Haiti. It had also supported CARDI’s participation in the Fourth International Meeting of FORAGRO, held in Peru in 2012. Furthermore, the Institute had provided technical specialists to CARDI for the execution of projects and had helped to organize activities aimed at strengthening relations between CARDI and IFPRI.
3.5.6 Mr. Montenegro then reported that CARDI and IICA had been holding meetings to devise mechanisms for supporting CARDI, to enable it to move away from being an institution dependent on quotas from member countries to operating as an organization with a greater degree of financial sustainability. He also reported that IICA was currently helping CARDI to secure funding from the European Union (Agriculture Policy Programme with focus on the Caribbean and the Pacific). Finally, he remarked on the importance of strengthening CARDI in order to promote research on genetic resources and adaptation to climate change.

3.6 Proposed new mechanism for appointing the Representative of the IABA to the Governing Council and the Board of Directors of CATIE

3.6.1 The Technical Secretary explained that in the past the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) had appointed one representative to CATIE’s Board of Directors and another to its Governing Council. The countries took in turn to designate the representatives, with the one to the Board of Directors serving for a three-year term and the one to the Governing Council for two years. The two representatives were always from different Member States, in the order established in a table for the years up to and including 2014.

3.6.2 The Technical Secretary reminded the meeting that during the Thirty-second Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee, Argentina had recommended that a single country represent the IABA on both of CATIE’s governing bodies, a change that would require a new table establishing the rotation of the Member States from 2015 onwards. He explained that any decision to amend the system was the prerogative of the IABA; therefore, if the Executive Committee was in favor of doing so, it should submit a recommendation to the Board, in the form of a draft resolution to be discussed at the next meeting of the IABA.

3.6.3 The Representative of Guatemala asked why it was necessary to wait until 2015 to change the mechanism.

3.6.4 The Technical Secretary explained that the IABA had already established the rotation up to 2014, but that the Executive Committee could suggest any changes it considered pertinent, including a change in the starting date for the modified mechanism.
3.7  

Activities of the General Directorate and the Governing Bodies of IICA

3.7.1  

2012 Annual Report of IICA

3.7.1.1  
The Technical Secretary explained that IICA had presented its 2012 Annual Report to the Organization of American States during the first months of the year, as it was required to do as an agency of the Inter-American System. Therefore, when the Executive Committee meeting took place in the second semester of the year, six months would already have passed since the Member States received the report. Despite the fact that approximately six months had elapsed between the presentation of the report and the date of the Executive Committee meeting, the representatives could make any comments they considered pertinent.

3.7.1.2  
Following this explanation, the representatives of the Member States of the Executive Committee accepted IICA’s 2012 Annual Report.

3.7.2  

Status of the Resolutions of the Sixteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA (2011)

3.7.2.1  
The Technical Secretary reminded the delegates that the status report had been made available to the members of the Executive Committee and the other Member States via the Executive Committee’s Online Information System by the established deadline. He pointed out that the document was to be found in the folders that the representatives had received at the beginning of the meeting containing the working documents. He then offered to clarify any doubts or provide any explanations regarding matters addressed in the report.

3.7.2.2  
The representatives of the Member States sitting on the Executive Committee made no comments on the status of the resolutions of the Sixteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA.

3.7.3  

Status of the Resolutions of the Thirty-second Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee (2012)

3.7.3.1  
The Technical Secretary noted that the corresponding report had been made available to members of the Executive Committee more than 30 days prior to the meeting. He offered the representatives an opportunity to make comments or ask questions about the content of the report.
3.7.3.2 The representatives of the Member States on the Executive Committee made no comments.

3.7.4 Proposed Agenda for the Seventeenth Regular Meeting of the IABA and the 2013 Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas

3.7.4.1 The Technical Secretary invited the representatives to review the proposed agenda for the Seventeenth Regular Meeting of the IABA and the 2013 Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas, prior to submitting the corresponding draft resolution, in order to incorporate topics of possible interest to them or to obtain their comments.

3.7.4.2 The Representative of Ecuador expressed satisfaction at the selection of water as the theme of the forthcoming ministerial meeting. He stressed the importance of adapting the agenda to the needs of the Member States. He then expressed interest in the subject of price volatility and called for IICA’s support to strengthen the price information systems of countries in South America. He also pointed out that there was great concern worldwide with regard to the issue of grain production.

3.7.4.3 He noted that the Institute provided support in two ways: a) direct assistance to meet the needs of the countries, which had resulted in the development of a specific IICA plan of action for Ecuador, and b) the establishment of strategic partnerships. In his opinion, South America did not take as much advantage of the latter kind of support as the Caribbean and Central regions, as evidenced by the reports submitted on IICA’s joint actions with CATIE and CARDI.

3.7.4.4 Regarding the issue of water, he suggested that the way in which the topic was addressed needed to be clearly defined, given its complexity, and that attention should be paid to the social, economic and (in particular) political dimensions. He considered that water was an element that linked all the phases in the production process and that its management was one of the main challenges facing the regional integration processes. He added that efforts to improve poverty indices and rural well-being largely depended on equitable access to water for irrigation in agriculture. He emphasized the fact that in many countries water was distributed inequitably, an issue that was being given special consideration in his country’s new legislation on water.
Finally, he noted the connection between the topic of water and the United Nations’ designation of 2014 as the “International Year of Family Farming,” since the two topics were closely linked.

The Director General thanked the delegates for their comments and expanded on the issue of IICA’s strategic partnerships. He announced that the Institute had been instructed to consolidate and strengthen those partnerships, since no organization on its own had the capacity to address all aspects of agriculture.

He thanked the directors of CATIE and CARDI for their presentations and recalled that in his management report he had also mentioned IICA’s partnership with the FAO, under which important work had been carried out in the Caribbean. He reported that the Institute was also working closely with the CGIAR, and particularly with its research centers in the Americas, such as CIMMYT, CIAT and the International Potato Center (CIP).

The Director General of IICA said he agreed with the comments made by Ecuador’s Minister of Agriculture concerning the importance of water for the present and future of agriculture. He thanked him for his valuable contributions, which, along with others offered at this meeting, would be taken into consideration in preparing the final version of the document “Water to feed the land.” He then reminded the delegates that the UN had declared 2014 the “International Year of Family Farming” to highlight the connection between that type of agriculture and food security and water. He concluded by reiterating IICA’s commitment to continue working closely with its Member States on the issue of family farming.

**Close of the session**

The Third Plenary Session of the Thirty-third Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee was adjourned at 12:02 hours on June 18, 2013.
FOURTH PLENARY SESSION

4.1 Opening of the session

4.1.1 The Fourth Plenary Session of the Thirty-third Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee was called to order at 15:30 hours on June 18, 2013. It was chaired by Mr. Ricardo Aguilar, Undersecretary for Food and Competitiveness of SAGARPA of Mexico.

4.2 Nominations for the position of Director General of IICA for the period 2014-2018

4.2.1 The Chair gave the floor to the Technical Secretary, who proceeded to explain the rules for the nomination of candidates to the post of Director General. The Technical Secretary explained that, under the existing rules, Member States could nominate candidates up to 45 days prior to the IABA meeting; therefore, the deadline was August 10, 2013. He added that to date only the Government of Mexico had presented a candidate, through an official communication from the country’s Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (SRE).

4.2.2 Ms. Gabriela Colin, the SRE’s Deputy Director General for Hemispheric Affairs and Security, expressed her government’s support for the efforts carried out by the Director General of IICA, Mr. Victor Villalobos, and explained that for that reason it had nominated him for a second term as Director General. She emphasized that Mr. Villalobos’ continued presence as Director General would help give continuity to the activities already under way, strengthen the dialogue on key agricultural issues and promote strategic alliances in the area of agriculture.

4.2.3 The Chair gave the floor to Mr. Villalobos, to allow him to make a formal presentation of his candidacy to the post of Director General for a new term.

4.2.4 Mr. Villalobos recalled that four years earlier he had presented a plan in support of his candidacy to the position of Director General of IICA. He said that occupying the post had been not only one of the highlights of his professional career devoted to agriculture, but also a sign of the Mexican government’s support for IICA. He thanked the Government of President Enrique Peña Nieto for supporting his bid for a second term at the helm of IICA, and extended his thanks to the country’s Secretary of Agriculture and Secretary of Foreign Relations.
4.2.5 The Director General stated that, were he to be reelected, he would continue with the actions that IICA was currently implementing, seeking to fulfill the strategic objectives established in the Strategic Plan and in the Institute’s Medium-term Plan. However, as he had indicated to his work team, certain changes needed to be made in response to the transformations taking place in the agricultural sector.

4.2.6 The Director General then referred to the elements on which his proposal was based, particularly the following: i) innovation as a means to promote productivity and competitiveness throughout the agrifood chain; ii) the promotion of an inclusive approach to local development; iii) efforts to make small-scale farmers active participants in their own development; iv) the strengthening of agribusinesses, capacity building, development of rural enterprises and the competitiveness of small-scale production units; v) the promotion of appropriate public policies in agricultural health and food safety; vi) an effective response to animal and plant pests and diseases that threaten agricultural production; vii) efforts to find solutions to the negative impact of natural disasters on agriculture; viii) the promotion of good practices in the use and management of natural resources, such as soil and water; ix) a comprehensive approach to the issue of food security, which called for actions beyond the agrifood sector; and x) the promotion of the development of family agriculture, so that farmers could ensure their own food security.

4.2.7 The Director General stressed that the discussions, conclusions and mandates arising from the Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture 2013, due to be held in September in Buenos Aires with water as its theme, would chart a clear course for IICA’s future actions. He added that one of the Institute’s main strengths was its capacity to work “at ground level” with the ministries of agriculture and related institutions, and to work with producers directly, when asked to do so.

4.2.8 Turning to administrative matters, the Director General expressed his commitment to ensuring efficiency in spending, transparency in the use of resources, accountability, and the search for solutions to the financial constraints faced by the Institute.

4.2.9 The Director General ended his remarks by thanking the member countries of IICA for showing confidence in the way he had led the Institute. He also thanked all the staff of IICA, both at Headquarters and in the Offices in the member countries, for doing their best to support the efforts made by Member States to promote the development of agriculture and rural well-being.
4.2.10 The Chair thanked the Director General for his address and gave the floor to the representatives of the Member States.

4.2.11 The representatives of the United States, Guatemala and Suriname congratulated the Government of Mexico for nominating Mr. Villalobos, acknowledged his efforts at the helm of IICA and expressed their confidence in his occupying the position for a second term. The Observer Representative of Canada praised the Director General for the leadership skills he had shown in running the Institute, which had enabled him to do so with great success.

4.2.12 The Chair announced that he would proceed to inform the IABA of the candidacy and the countries’ expressions of support for the Director General.

4.3 Reading and approval of draft resolutions

4.3.1 The Chair invited the Rapporteur to read out the draft resolutions pending discussion and approval.

4.3.2 The Rapporteur read out the following draft resolutions: IICA Cooperation with the Market Information Organization of the Americas (MIOA); Biennial Report of the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE) for 2011-2012 Biennium and Progress of the IICA-CATIE Program for Joint Action; Biennial Report of the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) for 2011-2012 Biennium and Progress of the IICA-CARDI Program for Joint Action; Proposed Mechanism for Appointing the Representative of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) to the Governing Council and the Board of Directors of the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE); 2012 Annual Report of IICA; Status of the Resolutions of the Sixteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture and the Thirty-second Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee; Agenda for the Seventeenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) and the Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas 2013; Date and Venue of the Thirty-fourth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee; and Amendment to the Statute of the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues (SACMI); all of which were approved as read.
4.4 **Close of the session**

4.4.1 The Fourth Plenary Session of the Thirty-third Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee was adjourned at 16:05 hours on June 18, 2013.
CLOSING SESSION

5.1  Opening of the session

5.1.1 The Closing Session of the Thirty-third Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee was called to order at 16:10 hours on June 18, 2013. It was chaired by Mr. Ricardo Aguilar, Undersecretary for Food and Competitiveness of SAGARPA of Mexico.

5.2  Address by the Director General

5.2.1 The Director General expressed his heartfelt thanks and acknowledgment to the Government of Mexico, SAGARPA and the country’s Secretariat of Foreign Relations for the distinction granted to him, for backing his candidacy to the position of Director General of IICA for another term. He thanked the representatives of the Member States of the Executive Committee for their support; he acknowledged and thanked Mr. Ricardo Aguilar, the Chair of the meeting of the Executive Committee, for having conducted it so efficiently and expressed his appreciation for the work of Mr. Andrés Bernal Morales as Rapporteur.

5.2.2 He then thanked the Government of Argentina for hosting the forthcoming Regular Meeting of the IABA, and asked Ms. Patricia García, Representative of Argentina, to convey his thanks to the country’s authorities. He expressed his thanks to the Institute’s Representatives and other staff, the Technical Secretary, the Legal Adviser and the media. He gave a special acknowledgement to the directors of CATIE and CARDI, whom he urged to continue working together to provide complementary technical cooperation services to the countries.

5.2.3 He expressed satisfaction at the valuable contributions received to continue with the preparation of the document “Water to feed to land” and pointed out that he had taken note of all the observations received, which would provide valuable input to enrich the draft version.

5.3  Remarks by the Chair of the Executive Committee

5.3.1 The Chair of the meeting was delighted to have had the opportunity to represent the Government of the Mexico, and thanked Mr. Enrique Martinez y Martinez,
5.3.2 He acknowledged the contributions made by all the participants during the meeting, thanked the Director General for his kind invitation to participate in it and promised to remain in permanent contact.

5.3.3 He felt that important steps had been taken regarding IICA’s future during the meeting of the Executive Committee. He emphasized the countries’ interest in addressing a topic as vital as water, which would be the theme of the Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas, due to take place in September 2013 in Argentina. He emphasized that the challenge facing governments was not only the democratization of access to food, but also the use of and access to water, for which it would be necessary to overcome various obstacles in the economic, environmental and social spheres. He added that it was urgent to move from words to deeds, and that the instrument available to the countries of the Americas where agriculture was concerned was IICA, which, in a professional and responsible way, provided technical cooperation in response to their requests for support.

5.3.4 He said it was essential to continue strengthening technical cooperation among countries and the ties of friendship, in order to move forward and achieve the objectives set. Finally, he thanked the representatives of the Member States of the Executive Committee for entrusting him with the task of chairing the meeting, and also for their valuable contributions.

5.4 Close of the session

5.4.1 The Closing Session of the Thirty-third Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee was adjourned at 16:30 hours on June 18, 2013.
RESOLUTIONS
## RESOLUTIONS

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<tr>
<td></td>
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D. Matters pertaining to the Governing Bodies

Res. 576 Report of the 2013 Regular Meeting of the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues (SACMI)

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Res. 579 Date and Venue of the Thirty-fourth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee

Res. 580 Amendment of the Statute of the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues (SACMI)
RESOLUTION No. 565

2010-2013 MANAGEMENT REPORT

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Thirty-third Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

The presentation by the Director General on the work of his administration during the period 2010-2013,

CONSIDERING:

That, on October 5, 2010, the Executive Committee, in the execution of the powers delegated to it by the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), approved the 2010-2014 Medium-term Plan (MTP) by means of Resolution IICA/CE/Res. 519 (XXX-O/10); and

That the Executive Committee has recognized the results achieved and the progress made with the implementation of the 2010-2014 MTP, as described in the Director General’s reports for 2011 and 2012 on the technical cooperation provided to the Member States and with the process of transforming the Institute,

RESOLVES:

1. To accept the 2010-2013 Management Report and congratulate the Director General and other officials of the Institute on the work performed and results achieved, which were possible thanks to the support received from the Member States.

2. To urge the Member States to undertake initiatives to strengthen the technical-administrative and financial situation of the Institute, in order to properly equip IICA to carry out its mandates.
RESOLUTION No. 566

2012 ANNUAL REPORT OF IICA

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Thirty-third Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:


CONSIDERING:

That Article 4.f of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee establishes that this governing body of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) is to receive, analyze and approve the annual report on the activities of the General Directorate and take appropriate action;

That the General Directorate prepared and published the 2012 Annual Report of IICA, which was presented by the Director General of the Institute to the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States (OAS) on May 1, 2013;

That the report describes the cooperation activities carried out by IICA in 2012 for the purpose of implementing the cooperation agendas of the Institute at the national, regional and hemispheric levels, within the framework of IICA’s 2010-2014 Medium-term Plan;

That the Representatives of the Institute in each of its 34 Member States presented to the national authorities the respective report on the cooperation that IICA provided to the country in 2012; and,
That the Annual Report for 2012 is available for consultation in digital format on the Institute’s website (www.iica.int),

RESOLVES:

To approve the 2012 Annual Report of IICA.
RESOLUTION No. 567

REPORT ON THE COLLECTION OF QUOTAS

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Thirty-third Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:


CONSIDERING:

   That, at its Thirteenth Regular Meeting, the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), by means of Resolution IICA/JIA/Res. 414 (XIII-O/05), adopted the document “Revised measures for collecting quotas owed to the Institute”;

   That, thanks to the effectiveness of the measures adopted, the goodwill and support of the Ministers of Agriculture and other authorities in the Member States, as well as the efforts of the General Directorate, it has been possible to reduce considerably the total amount of quotas owed to the Institute; and,

   That the above has facilitated the implementation of the programs and projects included in the cooperation strategies established in the 2010-2014 Medium-term Plan of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) at the national, regional and hemispheric levels,

RESOLVES:

1. To thank the Ministers of Agriculture and Foreign Affairs, as well as other high-level government officials in IICA’s Member States, for the efforts they have been making to honor their annual quota payments to the Institute.
2. To acknowledge the importance of maintaining in effect the measures established by the Executive Committee and the IABA to encourage IICA’s Member States to make their annual quota payments to the Institute in a timely fashion and to pay arrears for previous years.

3. To instruct the Director General to: (a) continue efforts to collect the quotas for 2013 and those owed for previous years; and, (b) keep IICA’s Member States informed of progress in this area.

4. To urge the Member States to remain current with the payment of their quotas to the Institute, and those that are in arrears, to follow through with the plans agreed with the General Directorate to meet their financial obligations to IICA.
The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Thirty-third Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:


CONSIDERING:

That Article 4.d of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee establishes that the mandate of this governing body of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) is to study the Institute’s financial statements and, when a decision is required, forward the corresponding report and recommendations to the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA);

That the external auditors have attested to the sound management of IICA’s financial resources during 2012, and that the administration of the Institute has acted in conformity with the regulations of IICA;

That, at its Seventh Regular Meeting, the IABA, by Resolution IICA/JIA/Res. 231(VII-O/93), created the Audit Review Committee (ARC) and approved its Statute;

That, in its Nineteenth Report, the ARC states that it studied the report of the external auditors on IICA’s 2012 financial statements and found the work performed to be thorough and in accordance with the rules of the Institute and international auditing standards;
That the ARC took into account the review of the financial statements of the Institute, as well as the report and recommendations of the external auditors in making recommendations and preparing its report; and,

That, pursuant to Article 3.k of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee, the mandate of this governing body of IICA is to receive and approve the ARC’s reports and make a determination on its recommendations,

RESOLVES:

1. To accept the 2012 financial statements of the Institute and the report of the external auditors, and to instruct the Director General to submit them to the consideration of the Seventeenth Regular Meeting of the IABA.

2. To approve the Nineteenth Report of the ARC and instruct the Director General to implement the recommendations contained therein.

3. To thank the members of the ARC for the work accomplished.
RESOLUTION No. 569

2014-2015 PROGRAM BUDGET

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Thirty-third Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:


CONSIDERING:

That the Convention on the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) establishes:

i. In Article 8.b, that a function of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) is “to approve the biennial Program Budget and to determine the annual quotas of the Member States,”

ii. In Article 23, that “the Member States shall contribute to the maintenance of the Institute through annual quotas established by the Board, in accordance with the system for calculating quotas of the Organization of American States,”

iii. In Article 14.b, that a function of the Executive Committee is “To examine the proposed biennial Program Budget that the Director General submits to the Board and to make such observations and recommendations as it deems appropriate”;

That the current Medium-term Plan covers the period 2010-2014, and that in January 2014 a new administration begins, which will have to submit a new Medium-term Plan for the period 2014-2018 to the consideration of the governing bodies;
That the Director General submitted the proposed 2014-2015 Program Budget to the consideration of the Executive Committee at its Thirty-third Regular Meeting, in a format consistent with the structure and content established in the rules currently in effect; and

That the proposal includes voluntary over-quota contributions totaling USD458,200 per year that will be contributed by Argentina, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay and Uruguay,

RESOLVES:

To recommend that the IABA:

i. Approve the amount of USD33,910,000 per year from the Regular Fund as the 2014-2015 Program Budget of the Institute, financed with quota contributions from the Member States totaling USD27,810,000 per year, according to the amounts indicated in the Quota Scale attached hereto as “Annex A,” including the quotas allocated and over-quota contributions, and USD6,100,000 per year in miscellaneous income, consisting of USD3,500,000 estimated to be generated annually and the use of up to USD2,600,000 per year of the resources of the Miscellaneous Income Fund.

ii. Approve the use of resources for the 2014 Program Budget in accordance with the allocations for each of the chapters, headings and programs specified in Document IICA/CE/Doc. 615 (13), “2014-2015 Program Budget.” The summary of allocations by Chapter is attached as “Annex B” to this resolution.

iii. Instruct the Director General to present to the consideration of the Executive Committee at its Thirty-fourth Regular Meeting, a draft budget of expenditures of the funds approved for the 2015 Program Budget, consistent with the priorities of the new Medium-term Plan of the Institute.

iv. Authorize the Director General to effect transfers among chapters of the Program Budget, provided that the total transfers do not increase or reduce the chapters by more than fifteen per cent and do not significantly affect the priorities approved.
v. Authorize the Director General to make the necessary adjustments in the allocation of resources approved in this resolution, should the combined income for each of the fiscal years 2014 and 2015 fall below estimated levels for the biennium in question and inform the Executive Committee and the IABA of this situation.
### ANNEX A

#### 2014-2015 Program Budget

**Quota Scale of the Member States, Over-quota Contributions and Miscellaneous Income (USD)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MEMBER STATES</th>
<th>2013 OAS</th>
<th>2014 ICA</th>
<th>2015 ICA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>%</td>
<td>% QUOTA</td>
<td>% QUOTA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ALLOCATED</td>
<td>OVER</td>
<td>OVER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>USD²</td>
<td>QUOTA</td>
<td>QUOTA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>USD³</td>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>TOTAL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>USD³</td>
<td>QUOTAS</td>
<td>QUOTAS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antigua and Barbuda</td>
<td>0.012</td>
<td>0.022</td>
<td>6,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Argentina</td>
<td>2.408</td>
<td>2.408</td>
<td>661,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bahamas</td>
<td>0.062</td>
<td>0.062</td>
<td>17,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barbados</td>
<td>0.045</td>
<td>0.045</td>
<td>12,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belize</td>
<td>0.022</td>
<td>0.022</td>
<td>6,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bolivia</td>
<td>0.049</td>
<td>0.049</td>
<td>23,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>9.941</td>
<td>9.941</td>
<td>2,746,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>11.972</td>
<td>11.972</td>
<td>3,293,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chile</td>
<td>1.189</td>
<td>1.189</td>
<td>327,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colombia</td>
<td>1.049</td>
<td>1.049</td>
<td>288,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Costa Rica</td>
<td>0.211</td>
<td>0.211</td>
<td>66,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dominica</td>
<td>0.012</td>
<td>0.012</td>
<td>6,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecuador</td>
<td>0.238</td>
<td>0.238</td>
<td>71,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>El Salvador</td>
<td>0.114</td>
<td>0.114</td>
<td>31,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States of America</td>
<td>59.470</td>
<td>59.470</td>
<td>15,359,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grenada</td>
<td>0.012</td>
<td>0.022</td>
<td>6,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guatemala</td>
<td>0.168</td>
<td>0.168</td>
<td>46,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guyana</td>
<td>0.012</td>
<td>0.022</td>
<td>6,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haiti</td>
<td>0.034</td>
<td>0.034</td>
<td>9,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honduras</td>
<td>0.051</td>
<td>0.051</td>
<td>14,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jamaica</td>
<td>0.093</td>
<td>0.093</td>
<td>25,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>8.281</td>
<td>8.281</td>
<td>2,278,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nicaragua</td>
<td>0.014</td>
<td>0.034</td>
<td>5,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Panama</td>
<td>0.158</td>
<td>0.158</td>
<td>43,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paraguay</td>
<td>0.093</td>
<td>0.093</td>
<td>21,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peru</td>
<td>0.688</td>
<td>0.688</td>
<td>189,390</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dominican Republic</td>
<td>0.257</td>
<td>0.257</td>
<td>70,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saint Kitts and Nevis</td>
<td>0.012</td>
<td>0.022</td>
<td>6,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saint Vincent and Grenadines</td>
<td>0.022</td>
<td>0.022</td>
<td>6,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saint Lucia</td>
<td>0.012</td>
<td>0.022</td>
<td>6,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suriname</td>
<td>0.014</td>
<td>0.034</td>
<td>5,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trinidad and Tobago</td>
<td>0.180</td>
<td>0.180</td>
<td>49,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uruguay</td>
<td>0.214</td>
<td>0.214</td>
<td>58,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Venezuela</td>
<td>2.186</td>
<td>2.186</td>
<td>601,300</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SUB-TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>99,425</strong></td>
<td><strong>99,425</strong></td>
<td><strong>27,351,200</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cuba</td>
<td>0.575</td>
<td>0.575</td>
<td>158,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL QUOTAS</strong></td>
<td><strong>100,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>100,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>27,509,400</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>MISCELLANEOUS INCOME</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL REGULAR FUND</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes:
1. The Kingdom of Spain contributes an annual quota of USD60,000 as an Associate Member, pursuant to the agreement adopted in the First Plenary Session of the Eleventh Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture, held on November 26, 2001, in Bávaro, Dominican Republic.
2. The quotas for 2013 include Guyana's over-quota.
3. Roudned out to the nearest hundred.
### ANNEX B

**Allocation of the Regular Fund by Chapter for 2014**

(USD)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHAPTER</th>
<th>QUOTAS</th>
<th>MISC.</th>
<th>REGULAR FUND</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>USD</td>
<td>%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CHAPTER I: Direct Technical Cooperation Services</strong></td>
<td>24,891,719</td>
<td>5,752,018</td>
<td>30,644,538</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Innovation for Productivity and Competitiveness Program</td>
<td>7,482,392</td>
<td>2,474,454</td>
<td>8,956,846</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agricultural Health and Food Safety Program</td>
<td>5,087,075</td>
<td>1,517,992</td>
<td>6,605,067</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agribusiness and Commercialization Program</td>
<td>6,286,932</td>
<td>2,298,838</td>
<td>8,585,770</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture, Territories and Rural Well-being Program</td>
<td>5,835,370</td>
<td>1,461,534</td>
<td>7,396,854</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CHAPTER II: Management Costs</strong></td>
<td>1,589,883</td>
<td>68,438</td>
<td>1,658,321</td>
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<tr>
<td>Office of the Director General</td>
<td>639,473</td>
<td>19,700</td>
<td>659,173</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretariat of Corporate Services</td>
<td>959,406</td>
<td>48,738</td>
<td>1,008,198</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CHAPTER III: General Costs and Provisions</strong></td>
<td>1,239,000</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>1,259,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Governing Bodies</td>
<td>400,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>400,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurance</td>
<td>420,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>420,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pensions of Former Directors</td>
<td>280,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>280,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution to Administration of Retirement and Pension Fund</td>
<td>25,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>25,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution to OAS Administrative Tribunal</td>
<td>25,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>25,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>External Audit</td>
<td>80,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>80,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Assistance Program for Staff</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CHAPTER IV: Renewal of Infrastructure and Equipment</strong></td>
<td>98,398</td>
<td>258,744</td>
<td>357,142</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>27,810,000</td>
<td>6,100,000</td>
<td>33,910,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
RESOLUTION No. 570

ELECTION OF A MEMBER OF THE AUDIT REVIEW COMMITTEE (ARC)

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Thirty-third Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/Doc. 614 (13), “Election of a Member of the Audit Review Committee (ARC),”

CONSIDERING:

That it is a function of the Executive Committee to elect the members of the ARC, pursuant to Article 3.k of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee and Article III of the Statute of the ARC;

That the ARC Statute stipulates that at least one of the three members of the ARC shall be elected from among the candidates proposed by the Member States that are the six largest contributors to IICA; another member shall be elected from among the candidates nominated by all the other Member States; and the third shall be elected from among the candidates nominated by all the Member States;

That the term of the member of the ARC elected by all the Member States that are the largest contributors to IICA expires on December 31, 2013; and

That pursuant to the provisions of the ARC Statute, the Director General asked the aforementioned Member States to nominate candidates to fill the post occupied by the member of the ARC whose term expires this year; and that, in response to that request, a proposal was received from the Government of the United States of America nominating Mr. Steve Rickrode, who meets the requirements for the post,
RESOLVES:

To elect Mr. Steve Rickrode of the United States of America to occupy the position of the member of the ARC reserved for a candidate nominated by the six largest contributors to IICA, for a six-year term commencing on January 1, 2014 and concluding on December 31, 2019.
RESOLUTION No. 571

RECOGNITION OF THE CONTRIBUTION MADE BY MR. TRACY LAPOINT AS A MEMBER OF THE AUDIT REVIEW COMMITTEE (ARC)

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Thirty-third Regular Meeting,

CONSIDERING:

That the Audit Review Committee (ARC) is an important mechanism of the Executive Committee, both for providing advice directly to the Director General on the administrative and financial conduct of the Institute, as well as for assisting the Executive Committee with its review of the accounts of the General Directorate;

That the members of the ARC, appointed by the Member States, perform an important function; and

That the term of Mr. Tracy LaPoint of the United States of America, who became a member of the ARC on January 1, 2008 and since then, has discharged that responsibility with great dedication and competence on behalf of the Institute, will end on December 31, 2013,

RESOLVES:

1. To thank the Government of the United States of America for the support provided by Mr. Tracy LaPoint, in his capacity as a member of the ARC.

2. To recognize the excellent, dedicated and professional work of Mr. LaPoint and express its deep gratitude to him for his contributions to the ARC and to the administrative and financial management of the Institute.
RESOLUTION No. 572

IICA COOPERATION WITH THE MARKET INFORMATION ORGANIZATION OF THE AMERICAS (MIOA)

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Thirty-third Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

The presentation of the work and achievements of the Market Information Organization of the Americas (MIOA) with support from the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA),

CONSIDERING:

That information on prices and markets is a strategic element in the efforts of the IICA Member States to achieve competitive, sustainable and inclusive agriculture;

That information related to prices and market intelligence is indispensable for facilitating access to national and international markets for growers and companies;

That market information is important to decision makers in entities responsible for formulating agricultural policies that have an impact on the economic livelihoods of small- to large-scale growers, as well as rural and agricultural development;

That the MIOA was established for the purpose of supporting the strengthening, standardization and sustained development of the market information systems for agricultural products in the Americas;

That, at this time, the MIOA is a network comprising the specialized institutions of the agricultural market information system in 34 countries of the Americas, and operates with the technical support of IICA;
That the Ministers of Agriculture, at the meeting of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas, included the following statement in their San Jose Declaration of Ministers of Agriculture 2011: “Supporting the work of the Market Information Organization of the Americas to promote greater collaboration between the Member States on innovative means to collect, process, analyze and disseminate information relating to markets and agri-food commodities, fostering greater market transparency and efficiencies”; and

That IICA and MIOA have maintained a Letter of Understanding, from 2004 to the present, for the purpose of implementing joint cooperation actions aimed at strengthening agricultural market information systems in the Member States,

RESOLVES:

1. To congratulate the MIOA for the report presented to the Executive Committee on the work that, with the support of IICA, has been carried out in the Americas for the benefit of agriculture in 34 of its Member States.

2. To encourage the Ministers of Agriculture of the Institute’s Member States to provide, with the cooperation of MIOA and IICA, the support required to strengthen, modernize and guarantee the sustainability of their national systems responsible for information on agricultural prices and markets.

3. To encourage IICA Member States to: i) undertake the technical and financial strengthening of MIOA as a strategic component for agriculture in the hemisphere, ii) strengthen horizontal cooperation among the countries and regions so that countries with more advanced Market Information Systems (MIS) can effectively support those with less developed systems, and iii) promote international cooperation among the network of member countries of the MIOA.

4. To request that the President of the MIOA and the Director General of IICA present progress reports to the Executive Committee on the work being done in the field of agricultural market information and the process of institutional strengthening of MIS and the MIOA.
5. To instruct the Director General to strengthen the Institute’s facilitation of Member States’ collaboration in order to achieve sustainable, inclusive and innovative means of collecting, processing, analyzing and disseminating information relating to prices, distribution of agricultural products, imports and exports.
RESOLUTION No. 573

BIENNIAL REPORT OF THE TROPICAL AGRICULTURE RESEARCH AND HIGHER EDUCATION CENTER (CATIE) FOR 2011-2012 AND PROGRESS OF THE IICA-CATIE PROGRAM FOR JOINT ACTION

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Thirty-third Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

The document “CATIE Biennial Report for 2011-2012” and the presentation made by the Directorate of Technical Cooperation of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) on the progress made with the IICA-CATIE Program for Joint Action,

CONSIDERING:

That, by means of Resolution IICA/JIA/Res. 441 (XIV-O/07), the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) delegated to the Executive Committee responsibility for receiving and analyzing the reports and plans of the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE) and requested that, in future, the Director General of this Center forward directly to the General Directorate of IICA the version of the biennial report and plans of CATIE accepted by the Executive Committee;

That, by means of Resolution IICA/CE/Res. 532 (XXX-O/10), the Executive Committee instructed the Directors General of IICA and CATIE to present for consideration by the Thirty-first Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee, held in 2011, a joint action program including projects in high-priority areas identified in IICA’s 2010-2014 Medium-term Plan that would effectively complement the capabilities and resources of the two institutions for the benefit of the Member States of the Institute; and
That, by means of Resolution IICA/CE/Res. 550 (XXXI-O/11), the Executive Committee accepted the “IICA-CATIE 2011-2014 Program for Joint Action,”

RESOLVES:

1. To accept CATIE’s biennial report for 2011-2012 and thank the Director General of the Center for his presentation.

2. To accept the “Progress Report on the Activities of the IICA-CATIE Program for Joint Action.”

3. To urge IICA and CATIE to continue to strengthen their links and mechanisms for implementing the activities of the Program for Joint Action, with a view to enhancing the contribution of the two institutions in support of the efforts of the Member States to achieve competitive, sustainable and inclusive agricultural development.
RESOLUTION No. 574

BIENNIAL REPORT OF THE CARIBBEAN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE (CARDI) FOR 2011-2012 AND PROGRESS OF THE IICA-CARDI PROGRAM FOR JOINT ACTION

The Executive Committee, at its Thirty-third Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

The presentation made by the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) on the report of its activities during the 2011-2012 biennium, and the presentation by the Directorate of Management and Regional Integration of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) on the progress of the IICA-CARDI Joint Program for Action,

CONSIDERING:

That, under the terms of the agreement currently in force between IICA and CARDI, the latter organization must submit an annual report of its activities;

That, by means of Resolution IICA/JIA/Res. 440 (XIV-O/07), the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) delegated to the Executive Committee responsibility for receiving and analyzing CARDI’s reports and plans and requested that, in future, the Executive Director of that Institute forward directly to the General Directorate of IICA the version of CARDI’s biennial report and plans accepted by the Executive Committee;

That, by means of Resolution IICA/CE/Res. 533 (XXX-O/10), the Executive Committee instructed the Director General of IICA and the Executive Director of CARDI to present for consideration by the Thirty-first Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee, held in 2011, a program for joint action including projects in high-priority areas identified in the 2010-2014 Medium-term Plan of IICA that would effectively complement the capabilities and resources of the two institutions for the benefit of the Institute’s Member States; and
That, by means of Resolution IICA/CE/Res. 552 (XXXI-O/11), the Executive Committee accepted the “IICA-CARDI 2011-2014 Program for Joint Action,”

RESOLVES:

1. To accept the report on the activities implemented by CARDI during the 2011-2012 biennium and to thank CARDI for its presentation.

2. To accept the progress report on the activities of the IICA-CARDI Program for Joint Action.

3. To urge IICA and CARDI to continue to strengthen their technical links and mechanisms for implementing joint activities, with a view to enhancing the contribution that the two institutions make in support of agricultural and rural development efforts in the Caribbean.
RESOLUTION No. 575

PROPOSED MECHANISM FOR APPOINTING THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (IABA) TO THE GOVERNING COUNCIL AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE TROPICAL AGRICULTURE RESEARCH AND HIGHER EDUCATION CENTER (CATIE)

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Thirty-third Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/Doc. 620 (13), “Proposed Amendment to the Mechanism for Appointing the Representative of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) to the Governing Council and the Board of Directors of the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE),”

CONSIDERING:

That the Contract of CATIE stipulates that the IABA is to appoint one IICA Member State that is not a member of CATIE as its Representative to the Center’s Board of Directors (Clause 10) and one as its Representative to CATIE’s Governing Council (Clause 16);

That, in Resolution IICA/JIA/Res. 397 (XII-O/03), the IABA established a rotation mechanism under which, every three years, a given Member State was to appoint one of its citizens to represent the IABA on CATIE’s Board of Directors and, every two years, another country was to designate the IABA representative to CATIE’s Governing Council;

That the rotation proposed for appointing the Representative to the Board of Directors has been exhausted, so that a new rotation needs to be proposed;
That, on October 21, 2011, the IABA established the responsibilities of its Representative to CATIE’s Governing Council by means of Resolution IICA/JIA/Res. 473 (XVI-O/11); and,

That, at the Thirty-second Regular Meeting of IICA’s Executive Committee, held in October 2012, Argentina drew attention to the need: (i) for the duties of the IABA Representative to CATIE’s Board of Directors to be defined based on those established for the IABA Representative to the Center’s Governing Council; and (ii) for a single country to represent the IABA on the two governing bodies of CATIE, in order to facilitate follow-up to agreements and the presentation of results,

RESOLVES:

To recommend that, at its next regular meeting, the IABA:

a. Establish that, beginning in 2015, the person who represents the IABA on the Governing Council and Board of Directors of CATIE be appointed by a single IICA Member State, in accordance with the following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Southern</td>
<td>Chile</td>
<td>2015-2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andean</td>
<td>Ecuador</td>
<td>2018-2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caribbean</td>
<td>Grenada</td>
<td>2021-2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern</td>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>2024-2026</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

b. Instruct the Director General of IICA to adhere to the rotation mechanism established in the above table and, at the appointed time, to request that the corresponding Member State appoint the person who will represent the IABA on the aforementioned governing bodies of CATIE; and

c. Amend the annex of Resolution IICA/JIA/Res. 473 (XVI-O/11) so that:

i. The title reads, “Responsibilities of the Representative of the IABA to the Governing Council and Board of Directors of CATIE”;

ii. The text of subparagraph 2 reads:

To coordinate with the Director General of IICA and with the Member States to establish the IABA’s position on matters dealt with by the Governing Council and the Board of Directors of CATIE, especially with respect to any decisions taken to expand the IICA-CATIE Program for Joint Action and strengthen the mechanisms for implementing joint activities; and

iii. The text of subparagraph 4 reads:

To confer with the Member States and the Director General of IICA regarding any matters on the agenda of the Governing Council and the Board of Directors of CATIE that might relate to IICA, or its assets, in particular any such matters requiring a vote of the Council or the Board of Directors.
RESOLUTION No. 576

REPORT OF THE 2013 REGULAR MEETING OF THE SPECIAL ADVISORY COMMISSION ON MANAGEMENT ISSUES (SACMI)

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Thirty-third Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:


CONSIDERING:

That the purpose of the SACMI, as a standing commission of the Executive Committee, is to advise the Director General to promote more regular discussion with the Member States on administrative, financial and strategic issues, in order to facilitate the process of reaching consensus in the Executive Committee and in the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA); and

That the above-referenced report of the SACMI contains recommendations for the consideration of the Director General and the Executive Committee,

RESOLVES:

To accept the Report of the 2013 Regular Meeting of the SACMI.
RESOLUTION No. 577


The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Thirty-third Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:


CONSIDERING:

That the abovementioned status reports demonstrate that the General Directorate has complied with the resolutions adopted at the Sixteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA, and has carried out satisfactorily the tasks required to comply with the resolutions adopted at the Thirty-second Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee,

RESOLVES:

To accept the reports: (i) “Status of the Resolutions of the Sixteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA)”; and (ii) “Status of the Resolutions of the Thirty-second Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee.”
RESOLUTION No. 578


The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Thirty-third Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/Doc. 610 (13), “Provisional Agenda for the Seventeenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) and the Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas 2013,”

CONSIDERING:

That Article 4.p of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee establishes that said Committee shall analyze the provisional agenda for the meetings of the IABA; and

That, the Executive Committee, at its Thirty-third Regular Meeting, analyzed the provisional agenda for the Seventeenth Regular Meeting of the IABA and the Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas 2013,

RESOLVES:

1. To accept the provisional agenda for the Seventeenth Regular Meeting of the (IABA) and the Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas 2013 and to thank Argentina for the progress to date.

2. To urge the members of the Executive Committee to share with the ministers of agriculture of their respective countries the importance of their presence at said events.
RESOLUTION No. 579

DATE AND VENUE OF THE THIRTY-FOURTH REGULAR MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Thirty-third Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/Doc. 621 (13), “Date and Venue of the Thirty-fourth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee,”

CONSIDERING:

That, pursuant to Article 22 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee, that governing body of the Institute must hold one regular meeting each year;

That the date and venue of the Thirty-fourth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee in 2014 must be set;

That, in accordance with Article 25 of these Rules of Procedure, if no venue is offered by one of the Member States to hold the regular meeting of the Executive Committee in another country, the meeting will be held at IICA Headquarters in San Jose, Costa Rica; and

That the Director General reports that he has received no formal offer from a Member State to host the next Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee,

RESOLVES:

1. To hold the Thirty-fourth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee at IICA Headquarters in San Jose, Costa Rica, during the first half of 2014.
2. To instruct the Director General to issue the convocation, in due course, to the Member States to participate in the Thirty-fourth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee, in accordance with the procedures outlined in the rules currently in effect.
RESOLUTION No. 580

AMENDMENT OF THE STATUTE OF THE SPECIAL ADVISORY COMMISSION ON MANAGEMENT ISSUES (SACMI)

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Thirty-third Regular Meeting,

CONSIDERING:

That the Director General has recommended that the meetings of the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues (SACMI) should preferably be held on line, in order to hold them whenever necessary and realize savings for the Institute;

That the members of the Executive Committee have approved the recommendation;

That sections 5.1 and 5.4 of the Statute of the SACMI need to be amended in order to establish that the Commission may hold its annual regular meetings using videoconferencing technology; and

That, pursuant to Section 9.2 of the Statute of the SACMI, the Executive Committee is authorized to modify said Statute by a majority vote of its members,

RESOLVES:

To amend sections 5.1 and 5.4 of the Statute of the SACMI so that the wording reads as follows:

5.1 The Advisory Commission shall hold at least one regular meeting per year, which may be on site or on line.¹

¹ The new text is shown in italics.
5.4. All *on-site* Advisory Committee meetings shall take place at IICA Headquarters; however, the Chairperson, with the approval of the other Members, may accept an invitation from a Member State to host the meeting in its territory, provided that the host Member State pays, in advance, all costs of the meeting over and above the cost to IICA of holding the meeting at IICA Headquarters.
SIGNING OF THE REPORT
SIGNING OF THE REPORT OF THE THIRTY-THIRD REGULAR MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Pursuant to the provisions of Article 97 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee, the Report of the Thirty-third Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee is hereby signed at 16:00 hours on the eighteenth day of June of the year two thousand and thirteen, in Mexico City, Mexico.

This report will be edited by the Secretariat and the changes approved during the Closing Session will be included before it is published in the four official languages of the Institute, in the Official Documents Series, all versions being equally authentic and valid.

The Secretariat shall file the original texts in the archives of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, post the electronic files on the Institute’s Web page and send the final version of this report to the governments of the Member States, the Associate States, the Permanent Observers of the Institute and other participants in the meeting.

Mexico City, Mexico.

Victor M. Villalobos
Director General of IICA
Ex officio Secretary of the Executive Committee

Ricardo Aguilar Castillo
Under Secretary for Food and Competitiveness of the Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food, Chair of the 2013 Executive Committee
ANNEXES
ANNEX 1: AGENDA OF THE MEETING
IICA/CE/Doc. 605 (13)

1. Provisional Schedule
   IICA/CE/Doc. 606 (13)

2. Message from the Director General
   2.1 Report by the Director General on management during the period 2010-2013
   (Unnumbered)

3. Strengthening of Strategic Partnerships with other Institutions
   3.1 2011-2012 Report of the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE)
   IICA/CE/Doc. 607 (13)
   3.2 2011-2012 Report of the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI)
   IICA/CE/Doc. 609 (13)

4. Financial strengthening of the Institute
   4.1 Status of the collection of quota contributions of the Institute
   IICA/CE/Doc. 611 (13)
   IICA/CE/Doc. 612 (13)
   4.3 Nineteenth Report of the Audit Review Committee (ARC)
   IICA/CE/Doc. 613 (13)
   4.4 Election of a Member of the Audit Review Committee (ARC)
   IICA/CE/Doc. 614 (13)
   4.5 2014-2015 Program Budget
   IICA/CE/Doc. 615 (13)
5. **Activities of the General Directorate and the Governing Bodies**

5.1 2012 IICA Annual Report IICA/CE/Doc. 616 (13)

5.2 Report of the 2013 Regular Meeting of the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues (SACMI) IICA/CE/Doc. 617 (13)

5.3 Status of the Resolutions of the Thirty-second Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee IICA/CE/Doc. 618 (13)

5.4 Status of the Resolutions of the Sixteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA IICA/CE/Doc. 619 (13)

5.5 Proposed new mechanism for the designation of the Representative of the IABA to the Governing Council and to the Board of Directors of CATIE IICA/CE/Doc. 620 (13)

5.6 Presentation of candidates for the position of Director General of the Institute for the period 2014-2018 (No document)

5.7 Date and Venue of the Thirty-fourth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee IICA/CE/Doc. 621 (13)

6. **Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas 2013 and Seventeenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA)**

6.1 Proposed Agenda for the Seventeenth Regular Meeting of the IABA IICA/CE/Doc. 610 (13)

6.2 Proposed technical document: Water to feed the land IICA/CE/Doc. 608 (13)

7. **Other Business**
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Héctor Iturbe  Advisor
Karen Kleinheinz  Director of the Financial Management Division
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  Katia Núñez

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  Patricia Ross

- Legal advisor

  William Berenson

- Communications

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  Guillermo Hormazábal

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  Miguel Herrera

- Services for delegates

  Registration and secretariat

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  Wendy Esquivel

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  Leticia Giménez

  Assistance at the airport

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  Laura Cartín
  Ronald Hidalgo
  Bosque Iglesias
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