



**REPORT OF THE TWENTY-
SEVENTH REGULAR MEETING OF
THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

San Jose, Costa Rica

15 – 17 May, 2007

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Editorial coordination: Leda Avila
Stylistic corrections: Marguerite Groves
Layout: Leda Avila
Cover design: Catalina Lizano
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MINUTES OF THE MEETING

**MINUTES OF THE TWENTY-SEVENTH REGULAR
MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE
INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR COOPERATION
ON AGRICULTURE**

The Twenty-seventh Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) was held in accordance with the provisions contained in the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee and in that Committee's Resolution IICA/CE/Res.458(XXVI-0/06).

The 2007 Executive Committee was made up of the following countries: Brazil, Canada, Dominica, Ecuador, Honduras, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay and Trinidad and Tobago.

PREPARATORY SESSION

0.1 **Opening of the Session**

0.1.1 The Preparatory Session of the Twenty-seventh Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee was called to order at 08:35 on May 15, 2007, in the United States/Canada Room at IICA Headquarters. It was chaired by Mr. Roman Solera, Representative of Costa Rica, the country that chaired the XXVI Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee, held September 27-28, 2006, in San Jose, Costa Rica.

0.2 **Agreements**

0.2.1 **Election of the Chair and Rapporteur of the Meeting**

The Committee unanimously elected Mr. Paul Murphy, Executive Director of Agriculture and Agri-food Canada, to chair the meeting. It was then proposed that Mr. Victor Manuel Villalobos, General Coordinator of International Affairs

of the Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food of Mexico, serve as Rapporteur. The motion was approved.

The officers of the meeting were elected as follows:

Chairman:	Paul Murphy
Rapporteur:	Victor Manuel Villalobos
<i>Ex officio</i> secretary:	Chelston W. D. Brathwaite

The Director General welcomed the Delegates to the Executive Committee and congratulated the Representative of Canada on being elected to chair the meeting and the Observer Representative of Mexico on being designated to serve as the Rapporteur.

0.2.2 Agenda of the meeting

The delegates were informed that the working and background documents for the meeting were to be found in the folders they had been given. Pursuant to Article 29 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee, electronic versions of the documents had been posted 45 days before the meeting on IICA's website, in the section corresponding to the Executive Committee.

The Representative of Canada asked the Executive Committee to consider modifying the agenda, so that information on the status of the Hemispheric Agro-energy and Bio-fuels Program and the Hemispheric Biotechnology and Biosafety Program could be presented as the first item on the second day of the meeting, when all the Representatives would be present and could participate in the discussion of the two topics.

The Representatives of Brazil and Ecuador and the Observer Representative of Mexico seconded the Representative of Canada's motion.

The Representative of Brazil expressed concern at the fact that time had not been set aside at the meeting to present the Report of the Meeting of the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues (SACMI), held March 13-14, 2007.

The Technical Secretary explained that all the matters discussed by the SACMI were on the agenda of the Executive Committee meeting and, therefore, would be discussed. He also pointed out that a draft resolution had been prepared for the Executive Committee to approve the report of the meeting of the SACMI.

The Representative of Ecuador asked the Executive Committee to consider moving up the discussion on the strengthening of support from IICA's Member States for FONTAGRO, and on IICA's efforts to support the development of organic agriculture.

The Technical Secretary proposed that these two items be addressed during the morning of the second day of the meeting; and that the presentation of the Thirteenth Report of the Audit Review Committee (ARC) and the status of the analysis of the system for determining the compensation of the Director General be left for the morning of the third day. His suggestion was approved.

The agenda contained in Document IICA/CE/Doc.495(07) was approved with the modifications that had been suggested.

0.2.3 Working Committees

The Executive Committee decided to establish a working committee to study the nominations for the Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector and recommend to the Plenary which candidates should receive the awards. The Representatives of Panama, Paraguay and Trinidad and Tobago were chosen to make up the committee.

0.2.4 Deadline for submitting proposals

Thursday, May 17, at 12:00, was set as the deadline for submitting proposals for new draft resolutions.

0.2.5 Duration of the meeting

The Plenary agreed to hold the closing session of the meeting on Thursday, May 17, 2007 at 17:00, as proposed by the Technical Secretariat.

0.2.6 Order of precedence of the Member States

Pursuant to Article 41 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee, the order of precedence was established, beginning with Canada, the Member State whose Representative would be chairing the meeting. Thereafter, alphabetical order in English would be followed.

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0.2.7 Countries' right to vote

- The Director General asked the Legal Advisor of the OAS and IICA for an opinion regarding application of Article 24 of the Convention on the Institute, vis-à-vis the right to vote of those Member States that were more than two years behind in the payment of their quotas.
-
- The Legal Adviser explained that all the Member States on the 2007 Executive Committee were either in “up-to-date” or “regular” status with regard to the payment of their quotas to the Institute. Consequently, it would not be necessary to apply Article 24 of the Convention on the Institute.

0.3 *Close of the Session*

The session was adjourned at 09:02.

FIRST PLENARY SESSION

1.1 *Opening of the session*

- 1.1.1 The Inaugural Session of the Twenty-seventh Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee was called to order at 09:08 on May 15, 2007, under the Chairmanship of Mr. Paul Murphy, the Representative of Canada.

1.2 *Address by the Director General*

- 1.2.1 Dr. Chelston W. D. Brathwaite, Director General of IICA, welcomed the delegations of the Member States to the Twenty-seventh Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee. He then asked everyone to observe a minute of silence in memory of Mr. Pablo Rizzo, former Chair of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture and former Minister of Agriculture of Ecuador.
- 1.2.2 The Director General said that IICA had managed to reposition itself as an important component of the institutional framework for development in the Americas, following the implementation of a new model of technical cooperation that had allowed it to establish a new relationship with the Member States based on participation and accountability, develop the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan of Action, promote operational efficiency and financial prudence, promote a culture of excellence in performance, develop broader relations with its strategic partners and strengthen its financial base.
- 1.2.3 The Director General then turned to IICA's 2006-2010 Medium Term Plan, whose overall objective was to help reduce rural poverty and achieve the Millennium Development Goals. He said that the Plan established the strategic orientation for the actions that the Institute would be carrying out over the next three years and proposed mechanisms designed to help the Member States create greater opportunities in the rural economy.
- 1.2.4 Dr. Brathwaite said his Administration had devoted itself to promoting a process of successful change within IICA, which would be consolidated over the next three years. In this regard, in 2007 the Institute intended to introduce a new integrated financial management system, assess its technical capabilities, incorporate knowledge management as an element of the institutional culture,

strengthen performance management and evaluation systems, and promote horizontal technical cooperation, among other actions.

1.2.5 The Director General then thanked the Executive Committee for the valuable contributions it had always made to the Institute. He asked the Member States to continue to support the efforts to strengthen IICA financially, which would enable it to maintain its position of leadership in the agricultural sector of the Americas and meet the demand for cooperation from its Member States satisfactorily.

1.2.6 Finally, Dr. Brathwaite said his Administration would continue to pursue goals and implement strategies that would ensure that IICA was a world-class institution and the partner of choice for the delivery of technical cooperation to the agricultural and rural sector of the Americas.

1.3 2006 Annual Report

1.3.1 The Chair asked Mr. Christopher Hansen, Assistant Deputy Director General, Director of Strategic Partnerships, Director of Regional Operations and Integration for the Northern Region and IICA Representative in the United States of America, to present the Institute's 2006 Annual Report.

1.3.2 Mr. Hansen explained that IICA currently performed two complementary roles. The first was its traditional role as an international cooperation agency for agriculture in the Americas; the second was a new role, as the Secretariat of the Ministerial Process and its Ministerial Meeting "Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas" within the framework of the summit process.

1.3.3 He said that in 2006 IICA had approved a new Medium Term Plan for the period 2006-2010, adapted its annual programming and budgets, and updated the national and regional cooperation agendas, aligning them with its mission of providing innovative technical cooperation to the Member States, with a view to promoting sustainable development in aid of the rural communities of the Americas.

1.3.4 Mr. Hansen then pointed out that during 2006 IICA's cooperation activities had focused on promoting trade and making agribusinesses more competitive, strengthening agricultural health and food safety systems, promoting the sustainable management of natural resources and the environment, strengthening rural communities through the adoption of a territorial approach, promoting technology and innovation for the modernization of agriculture and rural life, and repositioning agriculture and rural life.

- 1.3.5 Mr. Hansen went on to outline the main results of the Institute's cooperation actions implemented in its 34 Member States, and the actions carried out at Headquarters in the areas of leadership, biotechnology, agribusiness, organic agriculture, agricultural health and food safety, and knowledge management. He also mentioned that in 2006 the Institute had revamped the infrastructure at Headquarters, acquired a new financial management system, promoted horizontal cooperation, allocated resources for actions related to agro-tourism, agroindustry and organic agriculture, and implemented biotechnology, agricultural insurance and agro-energy programs.
- 1.3.6 Finally, Mr. Hansen said that in 2007 the Institute would be holding the Fourth Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas and the Fourteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA in Antigua, Guatemala, and also intended to assess its technical capabilities, strengthen evaluation and performance management systems, promote horizontal technical cooperation and institute the Forum for Leaders in Agriculture.
- 1.3.7 Mr. Hansen's remarks were followed by a video of the comments made during the meeting of the Permanent Council of the OAS, held on April 18, 2007, regarding IICA's 2006 Annual Report.
- 1.4 *Current status of quota payments and progress in collecting quota arrearages*
- 1.4.1 The Chairman gave the floor to Ms. Karen Kleinheinz, Director of Finance of the Institute, who presented the report on the current status of quota payments and the progress made in collecting quotas owed to the Institute.
- 1.4.2 The Director of Finance said that the resolutions dealing with the collection of quota contributions were nos. 392 and 414 of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), and nos. 417, 435 and 451 of the Executive Committee.
- 1.4.3 She then gave details of the status of quota payments as of December 31, 2006 and a breakdown, by Member State, of the progress made in collecting quota arrearages. Next, she described the status of quota payments as of May 11, 2007. At the start of the year, the total amount of quotas to be collected had stood at US\$39.4 million but, thanks to the efforts of the Member States, US\$16.9 million had already been collected by May 11.
- 1.4.4 The Director of Finance pointed out that ten Member States did not owe quotas to the Institute, 14 Member States owed all or part of the quota for

2007, six Member States owed the quota for 2007 and part of the quota for 2006, two Member States owed more than two quotas and two Member States were in “special status.” She then noted that the amount owed by the countries in arrears had fallen for the third consecutive year, enabling the Institute to go from a financial situation characterized by serious limitations to one that facilitated the planning and execution of programs.

- 1.4.5 In conclusion, the Director of Finance said that the timely collection of quotas was essential to continue financing the programs that were the highest priority for the Member States, carry out the mandates of the Institute’s governing bodies and promote new actions in aid of the agricultural and rural development of the Americas.
- 1.4.6 The Observer Representative of Peru reported that steps had been taken for his country to honor its commitment to pay the quotas it owed to the Institute; only the approval of the Legislative Branch was needed.
- 1.4.7 The Observer Representative of Mexico expressed satisfaction with the improvement in the Institute’s financial situation. Nevertheless, he was concerned that the situation in 2006 was the same as in 2001, which limited IICA’s ability to provide technical cooperation to its Member States.
- 1.4.8 The Representative of Canada said that the sustained efforts of the Member States to pay their quotas would enable the Institute to provide timely, high-quality technical cooperation.
- 1.5 *Presentation of the proposed 2008-2009 Program Budget*
 - 1.5.1 Mr. Francisco Barea, Director of Administration and Finance, began his presentation by listing IICA’s priorities for strategic action: i) to help reposition agriculture and rural life, ii) to provide direct technical cooperation to the Member States; and, iii) to strengthen the management of cooperation by consolidating the institutional framework, improving knowledge management, promoting transparency and accountability, and developing human capital.
 - 1.5.2 He then explained that the proposed 2008-2009 Program Budget had been prepared in accordance with the following guidelines: concentrate the resources of the Regular Fund on the priorities set forth in the 2006-2010 Medium Term Plan and the national, regional and hemispheric technical cooperation agendas; keep the total annual amount of the quotas of the Member States constant; increase the allocation of miscellaneous income on

the basis of the amounts projected to be generated in the biennium; request the allocation of US\$1,000,000 from the Miscellaneous Income Fund, and allocate additional resources to finance actions on new issues that were a priority for the Member States (agro-energy and bio-fuels, biotechnology and biosafety, organic agriculture, etc.), renew the Institute's infrastructure and equipment, and readjust the salaries of the personnel.

- 1.5.3 The Director of Administration and Finance said that the resources of the Regular Fund had been allocated to four chapters: Direct technical cooperation services, Management costs, General costs and provisions, and Renewal of infrastructure and equipment. The last item had been included for the first time as a result of the approval of Resolution IICA/JIA/Res.415(XIII-O/05). He went on to explain how the resources of the Regular Fund would be used to finance the following strategic priorities: Trade and the competitiveness of agribusinesses, Strengthening of rural communities, Agricultural Health and Food Safety, Sustainable management of natural resources, Technology and innovation and the Repositioning of agriculture.
- 1.5.4 The Director of Administration and Finance then mentioned the loss in the purchasing power of the quota contributions of the Member States, which had remained constant since 1995 and, as a result, had had an impact on IICA's finances. He concluded his remarks by saying that, despite the measures that had been taken to improve the Institute's financial situation, it was necessary to compensate for the annual reduction in the purchasing power of quota resources, a measure that had already been implemented by the OAS for the period 2007-2008.
- 1.5.5 The Chairman highlighted what he regarded as the four salient points of the proposed Program Budget that the Director of Administration and Finance had presented: i) the general distribution of the resources budgeted; ii) the allocation of resources to address the strategic priorities; iii) the proposed changes in the quota scale; and, iv) the proposal calling for countries whose quotas would be reduced if the quota scale were to be changed as proposed to continue to pay the same amount.
- 1.5.6 The Representative of Canada thanked the Director of Administration and Finance for his presentation and expressed satisfaction at the fact that the Institute had implemented the recommendations made by the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues. His country endorsed the proposed Program Budget with respect to the allocation of resources to address the priorities. Finally, he thanked the Institute for allocating resources to the Tri-

national Council, a regional body that dealt with agricultural issues in the Northern Region.

- 1.5.7 The Representative of Brazil was in agreement with the amount budgeted and said that every effort should be made to ensure that resources were used wisely.
- 1.5.8 The Observer Representative of the United States of America expressed appreciation for the allocation of resources in the proposed Program Budget to the following important topics: biotechnology, agro-energy and bio-fuels, the promotion of trade, and agricultural health and food safety. He also thanked the Institute for allocating resources to the Northern Region's Tri-national Council, and to support the participation of the countries in the meetings of the WTO Committee on SPS.
- 1.5.9 The Representative of Jamaica congratulated the Institute on the detailed proposal it had presented and was pleased to see that the sustainable management of natural resources had been included. Given the vulnerability of the Caribbean region to natural hazards, in particular to hurricanes, his country was interested in carrying out joint activities with the Institute in this area.
- 1.5.10 The Observer Representative of Mexico expressed his support for the redistribution of resources, since the institution's technical capabilities would be strengthened.
- 1.5.11 The Representative of Paraguay acknowledged the effort that IICA had made to allocate resources to the priority issues of its Member States. However, he felt it was not sufficient, since the use of technical cooperation depended on each country. He concluded his remarks by congratulating the Administration of the Institute on the proposal it had presented.
- 1.5.12 The Representative of Ecuador thanked the delegates for their condolences on the passing of Mr. Pablo Rizzo, the Chairman of the Thirteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture and his country's former Minister of Agriculture. He then said that the proposed Program Budget reflected the interests and priorities of the countries, and that the programs and projects to which resources had been allocated would stimulate agriculture and help to improve rural life in the Americas. He added that IICA's support was going to be particularly important in his country, where the Ministry of Agriculture was keen to regain its leadership of the process of defining sectoral policies. He then mentioned the role that the Institute could play in helping to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, especially with regard

to food security and poverty reduction. Finally, he was delighted to see that the issues of bio-fuels and organic agriculture had been included in the proposed Program Budget.

- 1.5.13 The Representative of Honduras noted that the Institute had important alliances with organizations involved in complex issues, such as the sustainable management of natural resources and rural development, but the Member States had failed to exploit this strong point of IICA. He also said that the efforts of the public agricultural sector had been limited by the difficulties it faced in undertaking multisectoral actions. Finally, he suggested that the Institute needed to focus its technical cooperation on the framework of strategic priorities that had been defined, in order to achieve a greater impact.
- 1.5.14 The Representative of Panama congratulated the Administration of the Institute on the effort it had made to strike a balance in the proposed 2008-2009 Program Budget between the amounts of resources allocated to improve the institutional infrastructure and to provide technical cooperation to the Member States.
- 1.5.15 The Director General thanked the Representatives of the Member States for the time they had devoted to studying the proposed 2008-2009 Program Budget. He said that the Institute was committed to using the available resources efficiently, addressing the needs of rural communities, cooperating with its Member States to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, promoting institution building in the public agricultural sector and providing cooperation on important issues, including agro-energy and the sustainable management of natural resources. He added that IICA would continue to support the participation of the countries in the meetings of the WTO Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures. He then spoke of the efforts that the Institute had made to modernize its infrastructure. Finally, he said that the timely payment of quotas would enable the Institute to continue to provide its Member States with the technical cooperation they required.
- 1.5.16 The Representative of Honduras noted that in the proposed 2008-2009 Program Budget resources had been reoriented in light of the new roles that the ministries of agriculture had assumed. However, he felt that focusing on a wide range of issues could lessen the impact of the actions. Therefore, he suggested that IICA concentrate its actions on only a few areas.
- 1.5.17 The Director General explained that the Institute would be concentrating its actions on a limited number of strategic priorities. This would make it necessary for the countries to pay greater attention to intersectoral linkages,

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which were the key for the future development of the sector, and to abandon sectoral policies in favor of national or state policies.

1.6 *Close of the session*

1.6.1 The First Plenary Session was adjourned at 12:30.

SECOND PLENARY SESSION

2.1 *Opening of the session*

2.1.1 The second plenary session of the Twenty-seventh Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee was called to order at 14:15 on Tuesday, May 15, 2007, under the chairmanship of Mr. Paul Murphy, the Representative of Canada.

2.2 *Quota scale to finance the 2008-2009 Program Budget*

2.2.1 The Chairman introduced the topic of the quota scale to be applied in order to finance the 2008-2009 Program Budget.

2.2.2 The Director General asked the Legal Adviser to explain the steps followed by the Organization of American States (OAS) in determining its quota scale. The Legal Adviser said that, pursuant to Article 23 of the Convention on IICA, the Member States were required to contribute to the maintenance of the Institute through the payment of annual quotas established by the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), in accordance with the system that the OAS used to calculate quotas, which was based on the principle of solidarity. He then noted that Article 55 of the OAS Charter established that the General Assembly was to establish the bases for the payment of the quotas of the member countries, taking into account their ability to pay and to contribute in an equitable manner.

2.2.3 The Legal Adviser emphasized that, in view of the provisions of Article 23 of the Convention on the Institute, the amount of the quotas to finance the Regular Fund of the budget for the period 2008-2009 should be determined based on the same procedure followed by the OAS. Furthermore, the Executive Committee's role was to make recommendations to the IABA with regard to the Program Budget. Therefore, it was important that the meeting address the issue and make recommendations. Finally, the Legal Adviser suggested two options: to adopt tentatively, for 2009, the quota scale defined by the OAS for 2008, or to assume a commitment to adopt, in 2009, the scale established by the OAS for that year.

- 2.2.4 The Representative of Brazil referred to Article 23 of the Convention on IICA and asked to what extent the Institute was obliged to adjust its quota scale to the changes that the OAS made in its own scale.
- 2.2.5 The Representative of Canada said her country would be affected by any increase in quotas and that any modification would have to be approved by her government. She would prefer to wait until the OAS adopted a definitive scale.
- 2.2.6 The Observer Representative of Mexico thanked the Legal Adviser for clarifying the different points and said his country would also be affected by any increase in quotas. He stressed that the economic and social conditions in Mexico were the same as in the rest of Latin America and the country also faced financial constraints. The new quota scale represented an increase of 20% for the next year, so his country's new government was studying the situation with regard to its financial commitments to the agencies of the United Nations system, the OAS and IICA, and others. He underscored the importance of the Member States' meeting their financial commitments to the Institute, as Mexico was doing. Finally he said that his country was not in favor of an increase in quotas.
- 2.2.7 The Observer Representative of Peru pointed out that his country would not be affected by a hefty increase in its quota; however, any increase would have to be approved by means of a government decree, because of the austerity measures it had adopted.
- 2.2.8 The Observer Representative of the United States of America thanked the Secretariat for providing follow-up to the issue and for the documentation it had supplied. He said his government was waiting to see what decision the OAS General Assembly took in June 2007 with regard to the quota scale.
- 2.2.9 The Representative of Honduras proposed maintaining the current quotas until such time as the OAS set its scale, which IICA would then adopt.
- 2.2.10 In response to the comments of the Representatives of Brazil and Honduras, the Legal Adviser reiterated that Article 23 of the Convention on the Institute was binding. He said that IICA had used it as its yardstick for allocating quotas since 1962. His comments referred to the quota scale specifically and were not related to a possible 3% increase in quotas in the amount budgeted.
- 2.2.11 The Director General pointed out that the Administration of the Institute had no say in determining the quota scale of the Member States. The countries contributed to the maintenance of IICA by means of annual quotas fixed by the

IABA, in accordance with the system used by the OAS to calculate quotas. The Administration's role was to reach agreement with the Member States on the payment of arrearages and seek alternative sources of financing to complement the regular budget, which had been frozen since 1995. In addition to the Regular Fund, IICA financed the delivery of technical cooperation with external resources. He said the Executive Committee could recommend that the IABA immediately adopt the provisional scale of the OAS and authorize its use in 2008; or, it could wait for the OAS to make a final decision on the quota scale in June, in Panama, and apply it as of 2009.

2.2.12 The Observer Representative of the United States of America reiterated that there was a sizeable difference in the total amounts of the regular budget, specifically in the table attached to the resolution on the 2008-2009 budget, in which the quotas of the Member States were listed, and other tables in the Program Budget that had been presented.

2.2.13 The Representative of Honduras supported the proposal made by the Observer Representative of Mexico. He said it was important that IICA prioritize its spheres of action based on the resources available. He suggested that the Institute focus its efforts on three priority areas and seek additional sources of income to address the other topics.

2.2.14 The Observer Representative of Mexico thanked the Director General for explaining that IICA could not modify the quota scale of the Member States. Furthermore, he agreed with the Representative of Honduras that IICA should be stricter in prioritizing its spheres of action in the Member States.

2.2.15 The Chairman concluded that the meeting was clear about the amount of the 2008-2009 Program Budget and how it was to be financed. Therefore, he felt that the Executive Committee could consider the part of the draft resolution dealing with the matter. However, he noted, it was not advisable for the Executive Committee to make recommendations to the IABA concerning the quota scale of the Member States.

2.3 *Draft resolution: "2006 IICA Annual Report"*

2.3.1 The Rapporteur read out the draft resolution "2006 IICA Annual Report," which was approved without modifications.

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2.4 Draft resolution: "Progress in collecting quotas owed to IICA as of May 15, 2007"

2.4.1 The Rapporteur read out the draft resolution "Progress in collecting quotas owed to IICA as of May 15, 2007."

2.4.2 The Director General asked for the first paragraph of the operative section to be changed to read: "To thank the ministers of agriculture and foreign affairs, other high-level officials and the governments of the Member States for the efforts they have been making to honor their annual quota payments to the Institute."

2.4.3 The draft resolution "Progress in collecting quotas owed to IICA as of May 15, 2007" was approved with the proposed modification.

2.5 Financial Statements of the Institute and Report of the External Auditors

2.5.1 The Director of Finance presented the Institute's financial statements for 2006 and the report of the external auditors. She explained that, according to IICA's Financial Rules, an external audit was to be performed once a year. The firm of Deloitte & Touche had been designated to carry out the audit, in accordance with the pertinent international standards. She reported that, in the opinion of the external auditors, IICA's financial statements presented fairly, in all material respects, the financial situation of the Institute as of 31 December 2005 and 2006, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for both years, in accordance with generally accepted accounting standards.

2.5.2 The Representative of Brazil asked for clarification of the terms "Miscellaneous Income Fund" and "Working Subfund."

2.5.3 The Director of Finance explained that the Miscellaneous Income Fund was made up of the balance of the miscellaneous income deposited each financial year in the General Subfund of the Regular Fund. These funds were not earmarked for any specific use in the Program Budget at the end of the financial year in which they were received. She added that the Director General was authorized to program and use this fund to meet the Institute's short-term financial needs. The Director of Finance then explained that the Working Subfund contained the balances of allocations, funded with quotas, uncommitted at the end of each financial year and additional funds allocated specifically by the IABA. This fund could only be used: i) to cover budgetary expenditures financed with resources from the Regular Fund, until such time as all expected income was received, and ii) to cover special expenses,

authorized by a resolution of the Executive Committee and not included in the Program Budget.

2.6 *Status of the preparations for the Fourth Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Rural Life and the Fourteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA)*

2.6.1 The Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Food of Guatemala. Mr. Erasmo Sanchez, said his country had been granted the honor of hosting the two meetings, which would take place at the end of July of the same year. Accordingly, his government, through the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food, was working with IICA to organize the “Week of Agriculture and Rural Life of the Americas.” During that week, he said, the ministerial delegates would work together to draft the Hemispheric Ministerial Agreement “Guatemala 2007,” which would promote the implementation of the AGRO Plan for the biennium 2008-2009 and serve as an input for the next Summit of the Americas. The week would culminate with the Fourteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA.

2.6.2 He then gave details of the various activities that had been programmed, including exchanges of experiences, exhibitions organized by regions, and a field trip. He was looking forward to seeing all the countries participate and mentioned the motto chosen for the Ministerial Meeting: “Working together for agriculture and rural life in the Americas,” which underscored the need to work together as a region. He concluded his remarks by assuring the meeting that the delegations taking part would receive the warmest of welcomes.

2.6.3 The Director General thanked the Deputy Minister for his remarks and said that the Government of Guatemala, in particular the Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Bernardo Lopez, and the staff of the IICA Office in Guatemala were working very enthusiastically to prepare the event. The meeting had special significance as a new Summit of the Americas was to be held shortly. He reminded the delegates of the importance of agriculture as a strategic issue for the development of the hemisphere. The event would afford an excellent opportunity to engage in dialogue and share the progress that the Institute had made in various fields.

2.6.4 The Observer Representative of the United States of America was concerned that there would be only limited time and opportunities for dialogue during the Week of Agriculture of the Americas, given the large number of issues on the agenda. He said that for his country it was vitally important that the issues of bio-energy and bio-fuels be addressed.

2.7 Draft resolution: "2008-2009 Program-Budget"

2.7.1 The Rapporteur read out the draft resolution "2008-2009 Program Budget," which was approved without modifications.

2.8 Plan of action on agricultural insurance

2.8.1 Mr. François Dagenais, Director of External Finance and Investment Projects, said that in carrying out IABA Resolution 411 the Institute had formulated the "Business plan for IICA technical cooperation in agricultural insurance," whose main objectives included making the agricultural sector more competitive, stabilizing producers' incomes, preventing the loss of capital and affording small producers access to loans and insurance.

2.8.2 He then described some of the most important results achieved so far, including the implementation in the Andean Region of a seminar entitled "Promoting agricultural insurance," the drafting of a proposal for the development of a model agricultural insurance program in the Caribbean, the collaboration with the Inter-American Federation of Insurance Companies (FIDES) for the execution of a project in the Central Region, the support provided for a seminar held in Costa Rica entitled "Agricultural insurance and risk management: international trends and experiences," the promotion of risk management and agricultural insurance within the CAS, assistance to REDPA with the preparation of a book on the insurance market in the agricultural sector of the expanded Mercosur in 2003 and 2004, the preparation of Brazil's National Rural Insurance Program and the negotiating of an agreement with the State Agricultural Insurance Entity (ENESA) of Spain.

2.8.3 In concluding his remarks, the Director of External Financing and Investment Projects said that, provided the corresponding funds were forthcoming, the program planned to hold a regional seminar on agricultural insurance in the Southern Cone, create the Observatory of Agricultural Insurance of the Americas, promote agricultural insurance projects and produce informational and teaching materials on the subject.

2.8.4 The Observer Representative of Guatemala emphasized the importance of meeting the needs of farmers, not of the insurers. He suggested that aspects such as the need to promote free competition and prevent the monopolization of insurance should also be taken into consideration.

- 2.8.5 The Representative of Brazil said that rural insurance was a matter of great concern in his country. The government had endeavored to ensure that small producers were covered by public insurance, while large companies were encouraged to make use of private insurers.
- 2.8.6 The Representative of Honduras said he would be interested in receiving information about Chile's experience in this area.
- 2.8.7 The Representative of Ecuador explained that in his country the companies that engaged in this activity covered their investment by charging small producers very high premiums and applying low rates to major corporations. He emphasized the importance of giving priority to vulnerable sectors.
- 2.8.8 The Representative of Trinidad and Tobago said his government was also trying to help small producers, but could not compensate them for lost harvests. He said that a solution was being sought.
- 2.8.9 The Observer Representative of Peru asked for an explanation of the difference between harvest insurance and index insurance, and the respective advantages and disadvantages.
- 2.8.10 The Representative of Paraguay said that where insurance was concerned efforts should be made to reduce the asymmetries in the treatment of large companies and small producers. He wondered why the focus seemed to be on canceling the debts of the former and granting subsidies to the latter. In any event, the issues of governability and social equity had to be taken into account.
- 2.8.11 The Director of External Financing and Investment Projects explained that the question of agricultural subsidies had been addressed in meetings with the IDB and the World Bank, and that both entities were of the opinion that a minimum subsidy was necessary to begin providing agricultural insurance. He also pointed out that often it was more expensive to cancel a debt than to grant a subsidy. With respect to the difference between index insurance and harvest insurance, he explained that two different systems were involved and each country needed to study its particular situation before opting for one or the other, or a combination of the two. He said that the IDB was interested in working with agricultural micro-insurance. In Chile, micro-producers paid a very small premium for agricultural insurance, with the Government subsidizing most of the costs. With regard to free competition, he said that IICA's role was to provide information, not sell insurance. As the end users, producers should be the focal point.

- 2.8.12 The Representative of Panama said it appeared that insurers did not find the market attractive.
- 2.8.13 The Representative of Jamaica emphasized the importance of the issue for the Caribbean, due to the frequency of natural disasters. Even if some products could be insured, after a hurricane it took up to two years to recoup the losses incurred and the governments ended up being the insurer of everything. He requested support on this issue.
- 2.8.14 The Director of External Financing and Investment Projects explained that the Working Group on Insurance had limited itself to complying with the mandates of IABA Resolution 411. He understood the situation in the Caribbean, but each country had its laws and if an organization offered regional insurance, it would have to adapt to the legislation of each one. He pointed out that the World Bank had offered to provide assistance in the case of natural disasters.
- 2.8.15 The Director General stressed the importance of this issue for social stability. He believed that the promotion of rural development that the banks had promoted had not been successful because of the lack of financial instruments to guarantee the financing of the rural sector. IICA was a case in point - an institution whose quotas had been frozen for 12 years. If the Institute wanted to grow, it was important to find other forms of financing. It was essential to build ties with the development banks, so that they contributed the money and the Institute, the know-how. The problem was that the banks talked with the ministers of finance and the Institute with the ministers of agriculture. He felt that IICA needed to work with the development banks to strengthen its financial position.
- 2.8.16 The Observer Representative of Mexico and the Observer Representative of Peru said it was important for IICA to publish educational materials that would make it easier to understand the issue and, as a result, lead to better decision-making. They suggested contacting private companies to seek support for this initiative.
- 2.8.17 The Director of External Financing and Investment Projects said that knowledge would have to be generated before it could be published. This involved a cost, especially if the idea was to work in several languages. An effort to obtain external resources would be needed.

2.8.18 The Observer Representative of Mexico suggested that the Promoagro enterprise could help carry out the initiative at no cost, while the Observer Representative of Peru suggested publishing material on line.

2.8.19 The Director General thanked the Representative of Mexico for his suggestion and reiterated his interest in working more closely with private enterprise.

2.9 *Close of the session*

2.9.1 The Second Plenary Session was adjourned at 18:20.

THIRD PLENARY SESSION

3.1 *Opening of the session*

- 3.1.1 The Third Plenary Session of the Twenty-seventh Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee was called to order at 08:35 on Wednesday, May 16, 2007, under the chairmanship of Mr. Paul Murphy, the Representative of Canada.

3.2 *Progress in the implementation of the Hemispheric Program on Agro-energy and Bio-fuels*

- 3.2.1 The Chairman gave the floor to Mr. Mario Seixas, Assistant Deputy Director General of IICA, who described the progress made in implementing the Hemispheric Program on Agro-energy and Bio-fuels.
- 3.2.2 The Assistant Deputy Director General said the program came about as a result of IABA Resolution 410, resolutions 429 and 446 of the Executive Committee and Resolution 2253 of the OAS General Assembly. It was also underpinned by the 2006-2010 MTP, which stated that the purpose of the Institute was to “encourage and support the efforts of its Member States to achieve agricultural development and well-being for rural populations.”
- 3.2.3 He added that the program was designed to find alternative energy sources that would help solve crucial problems such as global warming. The program’s objectives included facilitating horizontal cooperation, creating a platform to disseminate knowledge and establishing a discussion forum. In 2007, the program planned to identify potential sources of technical cooperation in the field of agro-energy and bio-fuels, and create an information system on the subject.
- 3.2.4 The Assistant Deputy Director General concluded his remarks by explaining that in 2008 the goals would be to assist the countries in preparing and discussing regulatory frameworks; promote and organize forums, seminars and workshops; improve the information system; and, identify sources of financial resources and raise funds.

- 3.2.5 The Representative of Brazil highlighted the importance that his country attached to the production of bio-fuels and the actions undertaken since the 1970s. He mentioned the growing demand for bio-fuels, driven by the interest of Japan and the European countries in replacing gasoline with ethanol in their fleets. More countries needed to produce bio-fuels. Given the importance of the issue, it was important that Brazil form part of the Working Group on Agro-energy and Bio-fuels.
- 3.2.6 The Observer Representative of Colombia asked whether the Hemispheric Program on Agro-energy and Bio-fuels was included in the 2008-2009 Program Budget. The Director of Administration and Finance assured her that it was.
- 3.2.7 The Observer Representative of the United States of America stressed the importance of agro-energy and bio-fuels. He expressed support for the dissemination of information based on the successful experiences of Brazil and his country. He suggested that the results of the assessment of IICA's technical capabilities could provide guidelines for defining the Institute's role in this area. He also said his government was interested in monitoring the Hemispheric Program on Agro-energy and Bio-fuels.
- 3.2.8 The Representative of Jamaica said the program was important for his country and expressed a desire to form part of the Working Group. He reported that investors from different countries were interested in acquiring land in Jamaica to produce biomass and in undertaking joint projects - especially with Brazil - to process it in Jamaica.
- 3.2.9 The Representatives of Brazil and Ecuador referred to the possible competition between the production of food and bio-fuels, particularly in the case of raw materials for the production of ethanol. The Representative of Ecuador mentioned the possible impact of rising international corn prices on food security, due to the increased use of corn to produce ethanol.
- 3.2.10 The Observer Representative of the United States of America was confident that producers could meet the demand for agricultural products for both fuels and foodstuffs, and pointed out that, as a result of the latest technological developments in the production of bio-fuels, biomass could be produced using non-food raw materials. He said the rising price of corn was triggering a sizable increase in the acreage planted with corn.
- 3.2.11 The Observer Representative of Guatemala shared the concerns of the Representatives of Brazil and Ecuador, but felt there was enough time to

ensure that the right decisions were taken to tap the opportunities offered by agro-energy without jeopardizing food production. He suggested promoting actions such as the sharing of technology for producing ethanol from biomass, the participation of small and medium-scale producers in the process and the analysis of the possible impact on inflation of the changes that the boom in the production of bio-fuels would bring about in markets.

- 3.2.12 The Observer Representative of Mexico acknowledged the vision and perseverance of Brazil in developing technology for the production of bio-fuels, and the efforts of countries like the United States of America and Argentina in promoting initiatives for ethanol production. He expressed concern at the need to find alternative ways of processing the large volume of by-products that this industry would generate. It might be possible to head off the problem by developing technologies that would permit greater use of the by-products to produce fibers, pigments, proteins, amino acids, etc. Finally, he said it would be useful to tap the experience of the United States of America and Brazil with regard to the question of waste.
- 3.2.13 The Observer Representative of the United States of America explained that the by-products of ethanol production could be used to feed animals, increase milk production and produce biogas and fertilizers. He believed that the production of bio-fuels had become the most dynamic rural development process in his country in recent years and offered to share the experience that had been acquired.
- 3.2.14 The Representative of Brazil gave two more examples of the use of by-products: i) soybean producers who produced fuel for their own tractors, and ii) the use of sugarcane bagasse for large-scale energy production.
- 3.2.15 The Representative of Ecuador acknowledged the important progress made in implementing the Hemispheric Program on Agro-energy and Bio-fuels. However, he felt that more painstaking economic analysis was needed, including studies on the future market for bio-fuels, to give the countries a clear picture that would make it possible to take better political decisions. The Representative of Panama asked IICA to include in the analysis information about the length of time required to recoup the investment in palm oil or sugarcane processing plants, and in dehydration plants for anhydrous ethanol. Finally, he stressed the importance of completing the studies before internal combustion engines were replaced.
- 3.2.16 The Representative of Canada endorsed the objectives of the Hemispheric Program on Agro-energy and Bio-fuels and urged IICA to continue with the

effort. In promoting agro-energy, it was important to take into account its environmental and socioeconomic impact, as well as the implications for food security. She said that a forum on agro-energy was needed and IICA could play an important role in that area. She mentioned the need to work with the ministries of agriculture and to foster dialogue between them and ministries of energy.

- 3.2.17 The Representative of Brazil referred to his country's experience in using land that formed part of the agrarian reform process to produce raw materials for bio-fuel production.
- 3.2.18 The Representative of Paraguay said the issue had assumed great importance in his country, with President Bush's visit to Brazil sparking interest in producing sugarcane for ethanol. Disseminating information about the issue was important, to guide political decisions. He emphasized that policies on the subject should incorporate the concept of social equity, so they also included small farmers. He expressed support for the program and said the results were urgently needed.
- 3.2.19 The Observer Representative of Peru acknowledged the efforts that IICA had made with the Program on Agro-energy and Bio-fuels. He agreed with the idea of establishing a forum on the issue and the information platform for developing regulatory and policy frameworks. He said it was important to link the agricultural sector with the energy sector. It was necessary to analyze the future social impact of the agro-energy and bio-fuel industry, such as the effects of a switch from illegal to legal crops that could serve as inputs for bio-fuel production.
- 3.2.20 The Assistant Deputy Director General spoke of the interest of Japan and the European Union in bio-fuels and announced that the following changes to the Inter-American Commission on Ethanol would be proposed at its next meeting: make the commission an international body, incorporate Japan and the European Union, and include bio-diesel in its brief.
- 3.2.21 In response to the question regarding funding, Mr.Seixas pointed out that the Program's core budget (US\$230,000) had been included in the 2008-2009 Program Budget. Nonetheless, additional resources would have to be obtained for the other activities planned with the countries. He asked the United States of America and Brazil to consider the possibility of including relevant technology on their joint agenda. He then presented a list of countries, with information about their progress in drafting and implementing regulatory frameworks and specific legislation for agro-energy. He noted that the

regulatory frameworks also included aspects such as the competition between bio-fuel production and food production and the proportion of ethanol that could be used in blends with gasoline. He said IICA could assist the countries by supplying the information they needed to develop adequate regulatory frameworks.

- 3.2.22 The Assistant Deputy Director General then stated that bio-fuels could reduce emissions of greenhouse gases. He described how venture capital and head funds made it possible to make major investments in the development of second-generation technologies. It was important to generate and disseminate scientific information about food production and agro-energy. With regard to the Inter-American Commission on Ethanol, the fact that IICA was a leader in the field of science and technology research gave it access to information. He also said that the analysis of the current status of and outlook for agro-energy and bio-fuels that was being prepared was designed to identify areas for action in which IICA could focus that were not being covered by other organizations. With reference to Mexico's question concerning the use of by-products, he explained that the second-generation technologies that made use of lignin-cellulose raw materials would make it possible to utilize even processing plant waste in fuel production.
- 3.2.23 The Assistant Deputy Director General said that bio-fuels were currently being used to meet less than 1% of transportation needs, which demonstrated their enormous potential. The development of third-generation fuels, such as hydrogen, would provide further options over the long term. He reported that an information system was being implemented along the lines of the one proposed by some of the previous speakers. He agreed with the idea of incorporating small producers, which could be achieved through mechanisms such as cooperatives. Finally, the Assistant Deputy Director General thanked the countries for their contributions and urged them to share information and experiences with IICA.
- 3.2.24 The Representative of Honduras suggested that the IABA be asked to set up a fund with resources from contributions from the Member States to strengthen the actions of the Hemispheric Program on Agro-energy and Bio-fuels.
- 3.2.25 The Director General thanked the Assistant Deputy Director General for his presentation and the Representatives for their comments. He said it was important to establish intersectoral working teams involving the ministries of energy, agriculture and rural development. IICA was looking for experts with experience and know-how to support implementation of the Hemispheric Program on Agro-energy and Bio-fuels, and asked the countries for

suggestions. Finally, turning to the Representative of Honduras' suggestion, he said that IICA was ready to accept contributions from the public and private sectors, and a proposal on the Agro-energy Fund would be presented to the IABA.

3.2.26 After the Assistant Deputy Director General concluded his presentation, the Representative of Nicaragua announced that his government had allocated resources to pay its quota arrearages. The Director General thanked the Government and people of Nicaragua and said that IICA's goal was to see all Member States in "regular" status. The Chairman thanked the Representative of Nicaragua and said he was aware of the efforts that Peru was making to pay its quota contributions.

3.3 *Progress in the implementation of the Hemispheric Biotechnology and Biosafety Program*

3.3.1 Mr. Assefaw Tewolde, Director of Biotechnology and Biosafety, detailed the achievements of the Hemispheric Biotechnology and Biosafety Program, approved by the Executive Committee in its Resolution 445. The Program had consolidated IICA's Biotechnology and Biosafety Information System, held a videoconference on the adoption of biotechnology at the global and regional levels, assessed the needs of the Member States in both areas and established strategic partnerships with the U.S. Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO) and the Biotechnology Program of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), with which a letter of understanding was to be signed.

3.3.2 He then said that IICA was carrying out two important actions in regard to the issue: i) a study on the benefits and risks of agrobiotechnologies, and the opportunities they offered; and, ii) support to promote and facilitate the participation of the Member States in the Follow-up Meeting on Liability and Compensation under the Cartagena Protocol, due to be held in August 2007.

3.3.3 Finally, the Director of Biotechnology and Biosafety said the Institute would be holding a course on risk assessment and management in regard to both these topics, in collaboration with the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE) and the International Regional Organization for Plant Protection and Animal Health (OIRSA). Furthermore, the Institute and the North American Biotechnology Initiative (NABI) would be holding a workshop on intellectual property in biotechnology in the Southern Region in October 2007.

- 3.3.4 The Representative of Brazil suggested creating a knowledge platform to exchange information on biotechnology. He then asked for information about the composition of the Working Group on Biotechnology.
- 3.3.5 The Director of Biotechnology and Biosafety explained that the Working Group on Biotechnology comprised representatives of 15 countries; the members were familiar with institutional mechanisms as well as biotechnology. Creating a knowledge platform would be a strategically important action. He said that to avoid confusion and misunderstandings with respect to biotechnology, sound scientific knowledge was needed. In concluding, he reported that the group would continue to work as it had done so far.
- 3.3.6 The Observer Representative of the United States of America said the issue was very important for his delegation. It was a field to which special attention had to be paid with regard to personnel and the allocation of resources.
- 3.3.7 The Observer Representative of Mexico noted that the marketing of genetically modified organisms had begun barely eleven years earlier. Despite the short time that had elapsed, transgenic crops were now being grown on 102 million hectares worldwide. Biotechnology was one of the scientific developments that the world had adopted most rapidly, in a sector that had traditionally been resistant to change. He said that over nine million poor producers were benefiting from the technology and Latin America accounted for almost 50% of the acreage used for such crops worldwide.
- 3.3.8 He added that one of the biggest problems facing biotechnology was the fact that the issue had been greatly distorted, hindering dialogue on the subject. An institution was needed to “translate” biotechnology language; agriculture would benefit from such an effort and IICA could perform that important role. The Director then referred to the need for a more expeditious flow of information on biotechnology toward the ministers, written in simple language, to help them take reasoned decisions.
- 3.3.9 The Representative of Paraguay said the issue of transgenic crops had aroused a great deal of controversy in his country. Thanks to the support received from IICA, people had begun to speak positively about biotechnology in Paraguay. Finally, he said his hope was that agrarian development and social equity would go hand in hand with the promotion of biotechnology.
- 3.3.10 The Representative of Dominica said it was very important for the Institute to take the lead in this field.

- 3.3.11 The Director General said that biotechnology was another area in which IICA was endeavoring to assume a position of leadership, even though it was a great challenge in terms of its technical capabilities. Biotechnology was important to meet dietary needs. Like the Observer Representative of Mexico, he believed that the science had been “distorted” by comments that were based more on emotions than fact. The Institute should be able to communicate the merits of biotechnology to communities.
- 3.4 *The IICA Forum for Leaders of Agriculture*
- 3.4.1 Dr. Chelston W.D. Brathwaite, Director General of the Institute, explained that the IICA Forum for Leaders of Agriculture was a program for newly-appointed ministers and senior executives of the agricultural sector who wished to have an up-to-date view of agriculture and rural life.
- 3.4.2 He added that the Forum addressed the following topics: i) the role of agriculture and agribusiness in economic development; ii) the challenges and opportunities for agriculture in the 21st Century; iii) IICA and its role in agriculture and rural development in the Hemisphere; iv) the role of the Minister of Agriculture as a member of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture; v) The role of the Minister of Agriculture as a member of the ministerial process within the context of the Summit of the Americas process; and vi) the bases for the establishment of a new agenda for cooperation between IICA and its Member States.
- 3.4.3 Next, the Director General explained that, in an increasingly integrated world where it was practically impossible to make national decisions without considering the world context, the goal of the Forum was to involve leaders of agriculture in a series of discussions aimed at helping them to understand ongoing processes that impact agriculture and rural development in the hemisphere. This, in turn, would enable them to inspire in others a new vision of agriculture and rural life, modernize agricultural sector institutions and share lessons with other institutions of the sector, both at home and abroad.
- 3.4.4 The Representative of Honduras stated that, while this was an innovative initiative, IICA should nonetheless proceed with caution. He added that INCAE had the structure needed to follow up on such an initiative.
- 3.4.5 The Observer Representative of the United States of America was of the opinion that the Forum would provide ministers and senior executives with valuable information.

- 3.4.6 The Observer Representative of Mexico asked if the practice of bringing the ministers to Headquarters might not be counterproductive; some might be highly critical of the Institute, especially because it was in the midst of a modernization process.
- 3.4.7 The Representatives of Brazil, Jamaica, Canada and Dominica and the Observer Representatives of Colombia and Peru expressed satisfaction with the initiative presented by the Director General.
- 3.4.8 The Representative of Panama felt that the Forum would lead to a fruitful exchange of ideas, benefit all participants and provide an opportunity to reflect on the world context. He recommended that the topic of the globalized economy be included on the Forum's agenda.
- 3.4.9 The Chairman of the Executive Committee also expressed satisfaction with the initiative and underscored the importance of promoting the development of leadership capabilities, with a view to enabling the ministers of agriculture of the hemisphere to perform their duties more effectively.
- 3.4.10 The Director General explained that the ministers invited to attend the Forum would be accompanied by the IICA Representative in the respective country, who are also involved in the process. As for funding, he expected to use resources from quota payments, including those owed from previous years.
- 3.5 *Funding of the 2008-2009 Program Budget (continuation)*
- 3.5.1 The Chairman informed the meeting that the Representative of Brazil had asked that the subject of the Program Budget be taken up again. He then gave the floor to the Representative of Brazil.
- 3.5.2 The Representative of Brazil asked to hear from the Legal Advisor on the opinions expressed during the earlier debate on the adjustment of the quota scale to finance the 2008-2009 Program Budget. It would be better to submit a well thought out proposal to the ministers, one containing alternatives, than to simply present the topic for discussion. He added that some countries would find it difficult to adjust the scale, especially those whose quota would increase.
- 3.5.3 The Chairman explained that the IABA was responsible for approving the Program Budget and deciding how to fund it, which meant that it would have to address the issue of the quota scale. He agreed that the Executive

Committee should make a recommendation to the IABA on the adjustment of the quota scale. He then asked the Legal Advisor to refer to the legal considerations surrounding the adjustment of the quota scale.

- 3.5.4 The Legal Advisor, Mr. William Berenson, explained that the IABA was empowered to approve a change in the quota scale. Also, in 1999, the Executive Committee had been granted authority to address administrative issues and submit recommendations or observations to the IABA, when appropriate.
- 3.5.5 The Director General stated that all the Member States were responsible for funding the 2008-2009 Program Budget, based on the principles of solidarity and commitment. Therefore, the amount of the quotas they must pay was a matter to be decided by the countries jointly. He agreed that the Executive Committee should make a recommendation to the IABA, as a starting point for discussions on the quota scale.
- 3.5.6 The Observer Representative of the United States of America proposed that the current scale be maintained for the 2007 and 2008 budgets, and a new scale for 2009. This proposal was endorsed by the Representatives of Jamaica, Canada and Nicaragua and the Observer Representatives of Peru and Mexico.
- 3.5.7 The Observer Representative of Colombia stated that it would be very difficult to draw up a technical proposal and that little time was available to do so. She believed that the next step was for the Representatives to the Executive Committee work on the issue with their governments, and for the countries to present their opinions at the IABA meeting.
- 3.5.8 The Representative of Honduras underscored the importance of supporting the proposal to adjust the quota scale. By contributing more to the growth of the Institute, the countries would receive more and better services.
- 3.5.9 There being no further discussion, the Chair asked the delegation of the United States of America to work with the Secretariat to draw up a draft resolution to be presented to the full Committee.
- 3.6 Close of the session
- 3.6.1 The Third Plenary Session was adjourned at 12:14.

FOURTH PLENARY SESSION

4.1 *Opening of the session*

- 4.1.1 The Fourth Plenary Session of the Twenty-seventh Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee was called to order 14:08 on May 16, 2007, under the chairmanship of Mr. Paul Murphy, the Representative of Canada.

4.2 *Progress in the assessment of IICA's technical capabilities*

- 4.2.1 The Chairman introduced the topic, reminding the meeting that in its Resolution 447, the Executive Committee had instructed the Director General, with assistance from external experts, to support and coordinate the assessment of the technical capabilities of IICA's personnel and establish a Steering Committee comprising a representative of one country from each region (5) to assist with the assessment.
- 4.2.2 Mr. Carlos Pomareda presented the report on behalf of the team of external experts in charge of assessing IICA's technical capabilities. In their report, the team had detailed the general objectives, the frame of reference, the methodology used, and their findings and recommendations.
- 4.2.3 The Representative of Honduras congratulated the Director General on the support he had provided for the assessment, and the team of consultants on their report. He emphasized the importance of providing follow-up to the recommendations made, both within the institution and through a subcommittee of the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues (SACMI). Implementing the changes required would entail a process; in this regard, he proposed drafting a resolution for the consideration of the next meeting of the IABA.
- 4.2.4 The Representative of Paraguay said that the demand for services from the Member States would continue to grow, but IICA could not meet all of them due to its budgetary limitations. He recommended that the Institute conduct a detailed analysis of its capabilities and the resources available, and gradually adopt the recommendations made by the team of external experts.
- 4.2.5 The Representative of Ecuador stressed the need to take advantage of the capabilities of local professionals and recommended finding ways of making

the remuneration of local and international personnel fairer and more equitable. He believed that the recommendations made by the team of external experts should be implemented immediately.

- 4.2.6 The Representative of Brazil congratulated the team of external experts and the Director General. He said that globalization had forced institutions to undertake internal analyses and make the changes necessary to avoid existing simply as an end in themselves. IICA should implement the pertinent adjustments in line with the recommendations made in the assessment. He agreed with the Representative of Ecuador that the recommendations should be implemented immediately.
- 4.2.7 The Observer Representative of Guatemala congratulated the Director General and the team of consultants. He also supported the proposal made by the Representative of Honduras and recommended that the Steering Committee work with the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues in analyzing and providing follow-up to the recommendations.
- 4.2.8 The Observer Representative of Peru said his country was satisfied with the technical services it received from IICA in support of its national projects. It recognized the Institute as a results-driven institution whose work was characterized by transparency. The rotation within the Directorate of Technical Leadership and Knowledge Management would help to strengthen even more the quality and the supply of the technical cooperation services that the Institute offered.
- 4.2.9 The Observer Representative of Mexico said that the recommendations of the team of experts would make it necessary to establish a structure to provide follow-up and appropriate mechanisms for implementing the measures required. He recommended setting up a subcommittee of the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues, which could act as a "Steering Group," to begin studying the recommendations made. He congratulated the Director General and IICA's personnel for the support they had provided during the assessment process and for their commitment to transforming the Institute into the institution that the Member States wished to see develop.
- 4.2.10 The Observer Representative of the United States of America also offered his congratulations to the Director General and the team of experts. He said the delegations' comments showed they were interested in a serious analysis of the Institute's capabilities for providing a technical response to the needs of the countries. The Steering Group could play a part, giving continuity to the

assessment process and devising a strategy for gradually implementing the changes needed to strengthen the Institute's technical capabilities. Finally, he noted that large institutions were always engaged in a process of continuous improvement.

- 4.2.11 The Representative of Canada acknowledged the technical quality of the assessment and expressed satisfaction with the analysis. She supported the Representative of Honduras' proposal that a subcommittee of the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues be set up to carefully review the recommendations made by the team of external experts.
- 4.2.12 The Observer Representative of Colombia congratulated the Director General and the team of consultants. He proposed that the Administration conduct an analysis of the recommendations made by the group of experts and prioritize those that could be implemented immediately.
- 4.2.13 The Director General congratulated Mr. Pomareda on his presentation and the Steering Committee led by Mr. Victor Villalobos on its work. He said the results were consistent with the spirit of Executive Committee Resolution 447. He also thanked the Member States for their observations and comments. He emphasized that the Institute's technical capabilities were its chief asset, so it was important that it had been evaluated.
- 4.2.14 He remarked that institutional reforms were a strategic element of the present century. He quoted Darwin, who said that the species that survived were not the strongest, but those that adapted best to change; the same applied to organizations in the 21st century. In 2002, the current Administration had assumed the 54 commitments set forth in the document "Repositioning IICA to meet the challenges of the 21st century," which recognized the Institute's strategic role. Some reforms had been implemented without increasing quotas, which had been frozen since 1995.
- 4.2.15 The Director General then said that the Administration welcomed the external consultants' report on the Institute's capabilities and requested time to study it in greater depth. The recommendations made could be divided into five categories: i) recommendations that fell within the jurisdiction of the General Director and required no additional resources; ii) recommendations that fell within the jurisdiction of the General Director and required additional resources; iii) recommendations that required the approval of both the Executive Committee and the IABA, but no additional resources; iv) recommendations that required the approval of both the Executive Committee

and the IABA, and additional resources; and v) recommendations that require amendment of the Convention on the Institute.

- 4.2.16 He then recommended that the consultants' report be distributed among all the Member States, and that a meeting of the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues be held to study the reform process and submit recommendations to the Executive Committee and the IABA. He added that the study of the Institute's technical capabilities should take national capabilities into account, as well as the processes undertaken by other organizations, such as FAO.
- 4.2.17 The Chairman summed up the main points raised during the discussion of the assessment's findings. Several proposals had been put forward with regard to the course of action that should be followed. One of them called for the immediate implementation of the recommendations. A group of representatives had expressed interest in deepening the analysis and expanding the consultation to include the rest of the Member States. It had also been suggested that the Steering Committee continue to operate or that a subcommittee of the SACMI be set up. Finally, he mentioned the Director General's proposal that the recommendations be grouped under five heading for further analysis and decisions regarding their implementation, based on their feasibility.
- 4.2.18 The Representative of Nicaragua proposed reviewing the Convention and consulting the Member States before proceeding to implement the recommendations.
- 4.2.19 The Observer Representative of Mexico supported the idea of consulting the Member States and recommended that the consultant's document be accompanied by a letter signed by the Chairman of the Executive Committee.
- 4.2.20 The Representative of Honduras proposed that the follow-up actions be set out in a draft resolution. He felt that the SACMI was the ideal formal mechanism for providing follow-up to the issue.
- 4.2.21 The Representative of Panama also congratulated the Institute and the consultants on the report presented. He said that IICA had to evolve rapidly and mentioned the important commitments of the Member States at the international level, with deadlines to be met in 2010, 2013 and 2015, and the support required for the trade negotiation processes. He supported the idea of undertaking a detailed analysis of the assessment of technical capabilities at

the next meeting of the IABA, and establishing a timetable for implementing the recommendations.

- 4.2.22 The Representative of Canada was in favor of distributing the report among all the Member States.
- 4.2.23 The Representative of Brazil said the process involved was complex and felt it important to consider grouping the recommendations into the categories that the Director General had suggested. He agreed with the idea of submitting the report to the IABA. Finally, he said that aspects such as the closing of offices might require changes in the Convention on IICA.
- 4.2.24 The Representative of Dominica congratulated the Director General and endorsed the idea that further analysis of the proposals was necessary.
- 4.2.25 The Observer Representative of Colombia also supported the circulation of the report and felt it was important and possible to group the recommendations into five categories as suggested.
- 4.2.26 The Observer Representative of Peru presented the recommendations in a matrix, to facilitate the analysis and presentation of the various proposals.
- 4.2.27 The Chairman suggested that a draft resolution be drawn up. It should call for: i) the report to be distributed to all the Member States; ii) the report to be submitted to the SACMI, which would study it and make any pertinent recommendations to the Institute's governing bodies; iii) the Administration to study the report in depth. He then instructed the Secretariat to draw up the respective draft resolution.
- 4.3 *IICA actions in support of the development of organic agriculture*
- 4.3.1 The Chairman gave the floor to Mr. Pedro Cussianovich, IICA Regional Specialist in Organic Agriculture, to make a presentation on the Institute's actions in support of the development of organic agriculture.
- 4.3.2 Mr. Cussianovich provided an overview of organic agriculture worldwide, adding that it was closely associated with the five strategic priorities established in IICA's 2006-2010 MTP.
- 4.3.3 He then spoke about past and current IICA actions in support of the development of organic agriculture. Referring to the hemispheric level, he

mentioned progress in assessing the state of organic agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean, the creation of the “Latin American and Caribbean Network of Competent Authorities in the Area of Organic Agriculture,” the design of a system to manage information related to organic agriculture, and the development of specific agendas for the Southern, Caribbean and Andean Regions.

- 4.3.4 As for efforts in the Central Region, he pointed to IICA’s support for the Central America and Dominican Republic Commission of Competent Authorities in the Area of Organic Agriculture, the actions carried out with Spain’s AECI to promote business with Europe, and the contacts established with the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) and RUTA, seeking their support in implementing the agendas of the ministries of agriculture as they pertain to organic agriculture.
- 4.3.5 In concluding, he referred to progress made in Nicaragua and El Salvador in formulating strategies for developing organic agriculture; to support for the Dominican Republic in its efforts to be recognized as a “third country” by the European Union; and to efforts in Bolivia to develop traceability systems required for its organic products to enter international markets.
- 4.3.6 The Representative of Dominica asked how biotechnology and organic agriculture were related, how products were certified and how this had affected the quality of life, and what research had been conducted on this matter. He noted the lack of information on items such as the cost of producing organic foods, the size of the market and good agricultural practices.
- 4.3.7 The Chairman asked Assefaw Tewelde, Director of Biotechnology and Biosafety, to clarify the relationship between biotechnology and organic agriculture. Tewelde said that nothing in the scientific literature currently available indicated that organic and traditional agriculture were not compatible. Organic production and biotechnology-based production, while different in terms of techniques, produced similar results. They both required the use of good practices, contributed to the preservation of the environment in general, and ecosystems in particular, and produced high quality, safe foods. It was necessary to develop regulatory frameworks in order to avoid conflicts between traditional production and agrobiotechnology, and to provide a framework for the application of national policies in this field.

- 4.3.8 The Observer Representative of Guatemala noted that, despite advances in organic agriculture, organic products had failed to gain a foothold in international markets. The IICA Office in Miami could play an important role in this regard.
- 4.3.9 The Representative of Ecuador acknowledged the importance of the topic of organic agriculture, noting that programs involving small- and medium-scale producers existed in some countries to promote this type of agriculture. It would be interesting to have a study on how organic production technologies could be adapted to current cultural practices. Those involved in the development of organic agriculture today should not overlook production practices that had been around for ages. He stressed the importance of managing knowledge, promoting exchanges of information and addressing the production, marketing and certification of organic foods.
- 4.3.10 The Representative of Brazil stated that a successful organic program was under way in his country, and that the only questions surrounding this type of agriculture were legal in nature. He underscored the importance of publicizing the benefits of organic products, and of convincing consumers that they were worth the extra cost. Two organic production projects were currently under way. Finally, he suggested that the IICA Office in Brazil coordinate the exchange of the information generated by those projects, as a contribution to the cooperation IICA provided in this field.
- 4.3.11 The Observer Representative of Guatemala noted that small- and medium-scale producers found it difficult to cover the costs involved in having their organic products certified. IICA could promote the establishment of strategic partnerships with financial institutions to obtain the resources these producers needed.
- 4.3.12 Next, Mr. Cussianovich stated that a case study had shown organic production to be both profitable and competitive, that it was more labor intensive and that organic products could be certified as free of agrochemicals. Actions to promote organic agriculture were being coordinated with the IICA Office in Miami, including joint technical fora.
- 4.3.13 He went on to say that the European Union was developing a regulatory framework to control the entry of organic products, which would have to be certified. The lack of certification services in Latin America might force producers in the region to rely on the European services, which would increase

costs. The Institute had undertaken actions in this field in support of the Member States.

4.3.14 He added that IICA had been disseminating information on technological advances in organic production, including inputs permitted in organic production and others being developed. Finally, he said that the assistance of the IICA Office in Brazil would be enlisted to gather information on organic production in that country.

4.3.15 The Chairman suggested that the IICA Office in Spain participate actively in promoting trade in organic products.

4.4 *Strengthening of IICA Member States' support to FONTAGRO*

4.4.1 The Chairman gave the floor to the Mr. Nicolas Mateo, Executive Secretary of the Regional Agricultural Technology Fund (FONTAGRO), to report on efforts to strengthen IICA Member States' support to the Fund.

4.4.2 Mr. Mateo noted that the 2006-2010 MTP called for incorporating technology and innovation into agriculture, strengthening the hemispheric system for cooperation among countries in technological innovation for agriculture, and providing technical support for the consolidation of FONTAGRO. He emphasized the important role science and technology could play in reducing poverty, increasing competitiveness and improving natural resource management.

4.4.3 He expressed concern regarding the decline in funding for research in Latin America and the Caribbean. He compared the levels of intensity in agricultural research in the developed countries with those of developing countries, and total investment in research and development in Latin America (2.9%) with that of Asia (13.0%). The creation of a fund afforded opportunities for developing partnerships that could lead to funding for research and cooperation in science and technology.

4.4.4 He then explained how the Fund was organized and detailed the resources invested and the number of projects completed to date. Next, he outlined the actions taken subsequent to the 2005 assessment of the Fund, described the 2007 special call for project proposals, presented the Fund's financial situation and displayed its new Web page.

- 4.4.5 In concluding, he summarized the Fund's major accomplishments and asked the Executive Committee for political and strategic support in consolidating the Fund. Other IICA Member States could voluntarily join the Fund.
- 4.4.6 The Representative of Panama referred to the support his country had received from FONTAGRO, dating back to research conducted by the Fund which contributed to the eradication of a disease affecting grain production. The same research later benefited neighboring countries. He added that closer collaboration among research centers in the hemisphere, which could be achieved through FONTAGRO, would benefit all countries. He urged the Representatives to support the Fund.
- 4.4.7 The Representative of Ecuador agreed with his counterpart from Panama regarding support for the Fund, and cited benefits of the cooperation between IDIAP and FONTAGRO, adding that it had proven to be a valuable ally of the agricultural sector. He proposed that a draft resolution be prepared supporting the actions of the Fund and encouraging Member States to increase their support of same.
- 4.4.8 The Representative of Canada thanked IICA for the opportunity to learn more about FONTAGRO and requested information on requirements for membership.
- 4.4.9 The Representative of Honduras underscored the importance of having information on requirements for membership, and on how non-member countries could access this funding mechanism, which, in turn, would yield greater benefits for its members.
- 4.4.10 The Technical Secretary announced the distribution of a draft resolution on FONTAGRO detailing many of the points raised by the Representatives.
- 4.4.11 The Director General considered that the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean could take advantage of the services offered by FONTAGRO to modernize their agricultural sectors. He noted that, once the necessary legal instruments were formalized, the countries received resources with which to carry out local or multinational projects. FONTAGRO received financial support from the IDB and technical support from IICA. He suggested that similar funds could be set up to support actions in other fields such as agricultural health and food safety or biotechnology.

- 4.4.12 Mr. Mateo noted that FONTAGRO participated in meetings such as this in order to share information with countries that were not members of the Fund, and that the support of the Executive Committee was of the utmost importance. In concluding, he said that, in return for their support of the Fund, the countries received technical cooperation in the form of funding for projects.
- 4.4.13 The Representative of Ecuador referred to the benefits of technological innovations that reached producers via the transfer of technology, and praised the Fund's efforts in that direction. He felt the experiences of other countries in this area could be useful and stated his country's interest in supporting the Fund. He recommended that the difference between technology transfer and training, often confused, be addressed in a specialized forum.
- 4.5 Approval of draft resolutions: "2006 IICA Financial Statements and Report of the External Auditors;" "Appointment of the External Auditors of IICA and CATIE for the 2008-2009 Biennium;" "Approval of the Hemispheric Program on Agro-energy and Bio-fuels 2008-2010;" "Report of the 2007 Meeting of the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues"
- 4.5.1 The Rapporteur read out the four draft resolutions, which were approved without modification.
- 4.6 Remarks by the Representative of Ecuador
- 4.6.1 The Representative of Ecuador suggested the next IABA meeting as a venue for signing the technical cooperation agreement between IICA and the Latin American Energy Organization (OLADE). He asked that consideration be given to approving a resolution instructing the Director General to pursue an alliance between IICA and the IDB in which the Institute would become the technical arm of the Bank and, in this way, boost the financial and technical cooperation provided to the Member States.
- 4.6.2 The Director General indicated that the alliance between IICA and OLADE would be highly beneficial for the Member States, adding that work was under way on the proposed cooperation agreement and would then have to be studied by the legal advisors of both organizations. As a result, it would not be possible to have the final versions ready by the IABA meeting. He thanked the Representative of Ecuador for his interest in strengthening the financial base of the Institute.

4.7 *Close of the session*

4.7.1 The Fourth Plenary Session was adjourned at 17:45.

FIFTH PLENARY SESSION

5. *Opening of the session*

5.1.1 The Fifth Plenary Session of the Twenty-seventh Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee was called to order at 8:30 on May 17, 2007, under the chairmanship of Mr. Paul Murphy, Representative of Canada.

5.2 *IICA's experience in promoting agritourism and rural tourism in the Caribbean*

5.2.1 The IICA Representative in Barbados, Mrs. Ena Harvey, spoke of IICA's experience in promoting agritourism and rural tourism in the Caribbean, and on the potential of both in contributing to the development of rural communities in that region.

5.2.2 She explained that the IICA Agritourism and Rural Tourism initiative in the Caribbean was consistent with the strategic objectives of the "Agro Plan," namely competitiveness, sustainability, equity and governance. She then mentioned the four major growth trends in tourism worldwide: i) agritainment; ii) culinary tourism; iii) health and wellness tourism; and iv) agri-heritage tourism.

5.2.3 The crucial components of the IICA initiative were: the strengthening of the policy and institutional framework; the consolidation of the production-processing-marketing chain; documentation of best practices, knowledge sharing, training; certification of inputs and services; and the promotion of new investments in the rural sector. Its goal, in essence, was to benefit rural communities, promote environmental sustainability and reassess traditional knowledge.

5.2.4 She cited the partnerships the Institute had established in the area of agritourism and rural tourism, its participation in fora and conferences, the linkages established between tourism and agriculture in the Caribbean, and the activities carried out to promote agribusiness. The countries of the Caribbean were implementing a strategy to promote agritourism and rural tourism between 2006-2010. She then focused on progress made in establishing national agritourism strategies, in consolidating production capacity and

buyer-seller networks, in creating new businesses, in research and development and in human resources development.

- 5.2.5 The Representatives of Trinidad and Tobago, Dominica and Brazil, as well as the Observer Representative of Peru, congratulated IICA and Mrs. Harvey on this initiative. The Representative of Dominica stated that agritourism increased the true contribution of agriculture to the gross domestic product. The Representative of Trinidad and Tobago referred to the great potential of Tobago in terms of agritourism, and stated that the agritourism initiative was an ideal mechanism for involving rural communities in tourism-related activities, which might help stem migration from rural areas.
- 5.2.6 The Representatives of Dominica and Trinidad and Tobago underscored the importance of the linkages between the agriculture and tourism sectors in the implementation of agritourism activities. The Representative of Trinidad and Tobago expressed interest in having the ministers of agriculture and tourism of his country meet and draw up a joint plan. He asked IICA to facilitate that meeting because his country needed to promote the expansion of agritourism and rural tourism in several regions.
- 5.2.7 The Representative of Ecuador asked if the impact of the initiative, in terms of increasing purchasing power and employment levels in the participating rural communities, had been measured. Mrs. Harvey explained that a social accountability matrix existed for the Caribbean Region and could be used to evaluate the contributions of the agritourism sector to the economy. As examples of activities in the region that had been beneficial and had a positive impact, she mentioned the fact that producers were supplying hotels and supermarkets, fried fish was being sold in St. Lucia, and flowers in banana-growing areas where cruise ships make port, all of which generated income.
- 5.2.8 The Representative of Jamaica stated that producer organizations in his country had experience in meeting the needs of the tourism sector. IICA, through the initiative presented by Mrs. Harvey, could identify ways to help producers who supply hotels deal more effectively with delays in receiving payment for their products.
- 5.2.9 The Representative of Brazil made reference to an experience in his country in which several abandoned coffee plantations had been rehabilitated for use in agritourism activities. The Observer Representative of Peru mentioned that both agritourism and rural tourism were being promoted in poor communities in the highlands of his countries as an option for development.

- 5.2.10 The Director General underscored the potential of agritourism and rural tourism for creating new rural jobs, slowing migration to urban areas and adding value to agricultural production. Agritourism and ecotourism generate three times more than traditional beach tourism in terms of income earned per dollar spent per tourist. It was necessary to assess the impact of agritourism on producer incomes, employment and social stability in communities. He felt that that agritourism and rural tourism would be consolidated once the private sector recognized that these activities generated income for the rural population.
- 5.2.11 In response to the point regarding delays in payment, the Director General saw this as a clear example of the importance of sharing experiences. Other countries of the hemisphere had tackled the problem with strategies such as securing resources from the Ministry of Agriculture.
- 5.3 *Agricultural health and food safety*
- 5.3.1 The Observer Representative of the United States of America called attention to the fact that agricultural health and food safety was one of IICA's main priorities, adding that it was important to continue to support the participation of the countries in the WTO Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, and asking that IICA provide such support. A workshop on transparency in sanitary and phytosanitary measures was scheduled for October 2007. IICA's ongoing support had led to the development of necessary capabilities in the Member States.
- 5.3.2 The Director General gave assurances that AHFS would continue to be priority of his administration. It was an important area of trade and, therefore, a key component of efforts to promote rural prosperity. He announced that IICA had a new Director in that area, Dr. Ricardo Molins. Efforts were under way to build up the network of specialists throughout the hemisphere in high priority areas such as traceability and emerging issues such as avian influenza and bovine spongiform encephalopathy.
- 5.3.3 He then mentioned that the strategic partnership formed with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) was viewed by the OAS as a notable example of work between two members of the Inter-American system. Synergy between organizations that provided cooperation and funding, he stated, was vital in tackling problems in AHFS and in general. He acknowledged the efforts of the Deputy Director General aimed at promoting

the work being carried out jointly by IICA and the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), and those of the former Director of AHFS, Kevin Walker, in developing the Performance, Vision and Strategy (PVS) instrument.

5.3.4 The Representative of Ecuador suggested that the impact of the program which provided support for countries to participate in the WTO SPS Committee be evaluated. In his country, the expected impact had not been achieved.

5.3.5 The Director General said that IICA stood ready to provide Ecuador with support in this area. The Institute was currently working with Jamaica, and had previously provided Belize with support in the area of institution building.

5.3.6 The Representative of Canada agreed with the Observer Representative of the United States of America regarding the high priority IICA should attach to AHFS.

5.3.7 The Observer Representative of Peru attested to IICA's work with his government in support of the National Agricultural Health Service (SENASA), especially in the areas of traceability, food safety and fruit fly control.

5.4 *Draft resolution "Progress in implementing the 2006-2010 Medium Term Plan"*

5.4.1 The Rapporteur read out the draft resolution "Progress in implementing the 2006-2010 Medium Term Plan," which was approved with the stylistic changes requested in the Portuguese version by the Representative of Brazil.

5.5 *Draft resolution "Strengthening the Regional Agricultural Technology Fund (FONTAGRO)"*

5.5.1 The Rapporteur read out the draft resolution "Strengthening the Regional Agricultural Technology Fund (FONTAGRO)."

5.5.2 The Representative of Brazil suggested eliminating the word "progress" be eliminated from the first operative paragraph, and to change the word "impulsar" in the Portuguese version of the same paragraph. The Chairman indicated that the word "progress" would be eliminated in all languages and that "impulsar" would be replaced with "promover."

- 5.5.3 The Representative of Ecuador suggested that the wording of the second operative paragraph be changed to indicate that the report mentioned therein would be distributed before rather than “on the occasion of” the Fourteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA. The Chairman indicated that “on the occasion of” would be changed to “prior to.”
- 5.5.4 The draft resolution “Strengthening the Regional Agricultural Technology Fund (FONTAGRO)” was approved with the modifications that had been requested.
- 5.6 Draft resolution “Status of the Resolutions of the Thirteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA and the Twenty-sixth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee”
- 5.6.1 The Rapporteur read out the draft resolution “Status of the Resolutions of the Thirteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA and the Twenty-sixth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee.”
- 5.6.2 The Representative of Brazil asked that the word “on” be added to the first operative paragraph, at the end of the phrase “to accept the reports.”
- 5.6.3 The draft resolution “Status of the Resolutions of the Thirteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA and the Twenty-sixth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee” was approved with the modification requested.
- 5.7 Progress in the analysis of the system for determining the salary of the Director General
- 5.7.1 The Executive Committee decided to address this issue in a private session. The Director General asked to be excused during the discussion of this topic.
- 5.8 Close of the session
- 5.8.1 The Fifth Plenary Session was adjourned at 12:35.

SIXTH PLENARY SESSION

- 6.1 *Opening of the session*
- 6.1.1 The Sixth Plenary Session was called to order at 13:56 of May 17, under the chairmanship of Mr. Paul Murphy, Representative of Canada.
- 6.2 *Thirteenth Annual Report of the Audit Review Committee (ARC)*
- 6.2.1 Mr. Raymond G. Poland, Chairman of the ARC, mentioned that the Committee comprised members from the United States of America, Trinidad and Tobago and Mexico, noting that the external audit of the Institute's financial statements of the fiscal year ending in December 2006 had been prepared in compliance with international auditing standards and IICA's rules and regulations.
- 6.2.2 He added that the balance of quotas owed to the Institute prevented it from being more aggressive in its efforts to modernize operations. He reported on the start-up of the new financial system (SAP –Systems, Applications and Programs), which included financial management, accounting, budget and purchasing modules. He underscored the need to incorporate the human resources management module into SAP, and to exercise greater control in the area of disbursements.
- 6.2.3 He recommended that the Internal Audit Unit acquire the tools and technical capabilities it needed to audit the operation of the SAP system effectively, and that the Director General approve its work plan before the beginning of the fiscal year.
- 6.2.4 Finally, he recommended that IICA document its policy on depreciation of fixed assets, which needed to be in line with generally accepted accounting principles.
- 6.2.5 The Chairman thanked Mr. Poland for his presentation of the ARC report.
- 6.3 *Election of a member to the Audit Review Committee (ARC)*

- 6.31 Mrs. Karen Kleinheinz, Director of Finance, noted that Mr. Raymond Poland would conclude his term as a member of the ARC on December 31, 2007, and that by regulation at least one of its three members must be elected from among the candidates presented by the six largest contributors to IICA, and one from among the candidates presented by all other Member States. To date, the only nomination received was that of Mr. Tracy LaPointe, from the United States of America.
- 6.3.2 The Chairman submitted this nomination to the consideration of the Representatives. Mr. LaPointe was elected as the new member of the ARC and would assume the post on January 1, 2008.
- 6.4 *Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector*
- 6.4.1 The Representative of Jamaica, on behalf of the Selection Committee, reported that 33 nominations had been received from 16 Member States. She said that efforts should continue to encourage the countries to present qualified candidates and to improve the corresponding rules and procedures. In this regard, the Selection Committee made the following recommendations: i) to update the regulations governing the selection of candidates by defining more precisely the requirements for each award; ii) to design a mechanism to encourage greater participation by the countries; iii) to establish a standardized format for the presentation of nominations; iv) to formalize nominations by accompanying them with a letter introducing the candidate and a justification for the nomination; v) to design a mechanism to encourage winners to continue to work on behalf of the rural sector; vi) to share with the Member States, through the General Directorate, the nominations received; vii) to create a new category intended to recognize the contributions made by innovative producers and the impact they have on their communities; and viii) to set up a working group to follow up on the implementation of these suggestions and recommendations. The recommendations were welcomed by the Representatives.
- 6.4.2 The persons and organizations recommended by the Committee were: i) Jorge Leon Arguedas, from Costa Rica, for the 2006 Inter-American Agricultural Medal; ii) Egbert Miller, from Jamaica, for the 2007 Inter-American Agricultural Medal; iii) Mayra Roxana Falck Reyes, from Honduras, for the 2006-2007 Inter-American Award for the Contribution of Women to Rural Development; and iv) the *Fundación Hondureña de Investigación Agrícola (FHIA)* (Honduran Agricultural Research Foundation), for the 2006-2007 Inter-American Award for Institutional Contributions to Agricultural and Rural Development.

Current Text	Proposed amendment of text <i>(The text underlined in bold is the proposed amendment)</i>
<p>FIRST CLAUSE.- The objective of the present Contract is to establish a scientific and educational civil association, with full legal standing, whose purposes shall be research in the agricultural sciences and on natural resources and related subjects, for the tropical regions of the Americas, especially in Mesoamerica and the Caribbean, and post-graduate training and other courses of study in the agricultural sciences and on renewable natural resources and related subjects, offered for the benefit of the Member States of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), under the agreements and programs established for those purposes.</p>	<p>FIRST CLAUSE.- The objective of the present Contract is to establish a scientific and educational civil association, with full legal standing, whose purposes shall be research in the agricultural sciences and on natural resources and related subjects, for the tropical regions of the Americas, especially in Mesoamerica and the Caribbean, and post-graduate training and other courses of study in the agricultural sciences and on renewable natural resources and related subjects, offered for the benefit of the Member States of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA). <u>As such, CATIE is empowered to grant academia degrees and professional credentials in its areas of competence, which will enable its graduates to exercise their respective professions</u></p>

- 6.4.3 The Committee also proposed the following honorable mentions: i) Luke Lee, from Jamaica, for the 2007 Inter-American Agricultural Award for Young Professionals; ii) Carlos Maria Arrechea Ortiz, from Paraguay, for the 2007 Inter-American Agricultural Award for Young Professionals; and iii) Rosita Benitez Portillo, from Paraguay, for the 2006-2007 Inter-American Award for the Contribution of Women to Rural Development.
- 6.4.4 Finally, the decision was made to declare the 2007 Inter-American Agricultural Award for Young Professionals void because none of the candidates met the requirements.

- 6.5 *Request by CATIE to amend its charter so as to give it the power to grant professional credentials and academic degrees*
- 6.5.1 The Chairman gave the floor to Mr. Pedro Ferreira, Director General of the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE), to make his presentation.
- 6.5.2 Mr. Ferreira stated that the purpose behind the proposed amendment to the CATIE Contract was to empower the Center to grant its own academic degrees, just as other public and private universities and other centers such as El Zamorano, EARTH University and INCAE did. He explained that this was a first step in gaining international accreditation.
- 6.5.3 He further explained that such a modification required the approval of the Governing Council of Ministers of CATIE (already obtained); the approval of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (a favorable vote of two thirds of its members); and ratification by the Legislative Assembly of Costa Rica. The proposed modification of the first clause of the Contract is:
- 6.5.4 The initiative was endorsed by the Representatives of Paraguay and Panama and the Observer Representatives of Colombia, Mexico and the United States of America.
- 6.5.5 The Director General stated that the proposed modification would strengthen both the research and educational programs of CATIE, a truly unique institution in the field a tropical agriculture.
- 6.5.6 The Chairman asked the Secretariat to prepare a resolution on CATIE's request for presentation at the next IABA meeting, and thanked Mr. Ferreira for his presentation.
- 6.6 *Draft resolutions "Thirteenth Annual Report of the Audit Review Committee (ARC)," "Election of a member of the Audit Review Committee," "Vote of Thanks to Mr. Raymond Poland," "Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector," "Date and Site of the Twenty-eighth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee," "Proposed modification of the first clause of the CATIE contract," and "Quota scale to finance the 2008-2009 Program Budget"*
- 6.6.1 The Rapporteur read out the draft resolutions, which were approved without modifications.

- 6.7 *Draft resolution “Agenda for the Fourteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA)”*
- 6.7.1 The Rapporteur read out the draft resolution, which was approved after the number of the document was changed at the request of the Representative of Brazil.
- 6.8 *Draft resolution “Strengthening of IICA’s partnership with the IDB”*
- 6.8.1 The Rapporteur read out the draft resolution, which was approved with the modification proposed by the Representative of Honduras calling for operative paragraphs 1 and 2 to be reversed.
- 6.9 *Draft resolution “Progress in the assessment of IICA’s technical capabilities”*
- 6.9.1 The Rapporteur read out the draft resolution, which was approved without modifications.
- 6.10 *Close of the session*
- 6.10.1 The Sixth Plenary Session was adjourned at 20:40

CLOSING SESSION

7.1 Opening of the session

- 7.1.1 The Closing Session was called to order at 20:45 on May 17, under the chairmanship of Mr. Paul Murphy, Representative of Canada.

7.2 Remarks from the Director General

- 7.2.1 The Director General of IICA reviewed the items addressed on the agenda of the meeting and concluded that it could indeed be qualified as a success, not only because a wide range of topics had been covered, but also because the Member States had provided important input on matters of great importance for the future actions of the Institute.
- 7.2.2 He underscored the progress made in assessing the Institute's technical capabilities, implementing the 2006-2010 Medium Term Plan and preparing for the Fourth Ministerial Meeting in the context of the Summit of the Americas process and the Fourteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA, to be held in Guatemala.
- 7.2.3 He then expressed his satisfaction with the approval of the 2008-2009 Program Budget , the report of the Audit Review Committee, the report of the external auditors on the Institute's financial statements, and the reports on the status of the resolutions of the Thirteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA and the Twenty-sixth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee.
- 7.2.4 As for the report on the assessment of the Institute's technical capabilities, he stated that his administration was committed to implementing those that were feasible and fell under the jurisdiction of the General Directorate. Important advances achieved in the institutional modernization process had been recognized both in and outside the Institute. The transformation and modernization of the Institute would continue.

7.3 Acknowledgments

- 7.3.1 The Director General called attention to the excellent job done by the

Chairman and the Rapporteur, thanks to which all objectives had been achieved and all items on the agenda had been addressed. He thanked the IICA Representatives in the Member States for their participation, contributions, continued dedication to the Institute and work. He underscored the work of the Technical Secretariat and thanked the translators, interpreters, précis writers, editors and all Institute staff who had a part in organizing and holding the meeting.

7.4. Remarks from the Chairman of the Executive Committee

7.4.1 The Chairman thanked the delegations for their support and highlighted the achievements achieved during the meeting. He thanked the Director General and the personnel of the Institute for their support, and expressed appreciation for the quality of the interpretation and translation services provided. He was pleased to say that, the long hours notwithstanding, a very full agenda had been covered.

7.5 Close of the meeting and signing of the final report

7.5.1 Mr. Paul Murphy, in his capacity as Chairman of the meeting, and Mr. Chelston W.D. Brathwaite, Director General of the Institute, signed the final report of the meeting.

7.5.2 The Twenty-seventh Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee was adjourned at 21:15.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTIONS

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IICA/CE/Res.459(XXVII-O/07)

15 May 2007

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 459

2006 IICA ANNUAL REPORT

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Twenty-seventh Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/ 498 (07), “2006 IICA Annual Report”,

CONSIDERING:

That Article 4(f) of its Rules of Procedure establishes that the Executive Committee is to receive, analyze and approve the Annual Report on the activities of the Institute, and take appropriate action;

That the General Directorate prepared and published the 2006 IICA Annual Report, which was presented to the Permanent Council of the OAS on April 18, 2007, pursuant to the provisions of Article 35 of the Rules of Procedure of the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States (OAS);

That the report describes the cooperation activities carried out by the Institute in 2006 for the purpose of implementing the national, regional and hemispheric cooperation agendas, and also details important programmatic, budgetary and financial aspects of institutional life; and

That the report is available in both printed and electronic format and may be accessed on the Institute’s web site (www.iica.int),

RESOLVES:

To approve the 2006 IICA Annual Report.

IICA/CE/Res.460(XXVII-O/07)

17 May 2007

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 460**STATUS OF THE 2006-2010
MEDIUM-TERM PLAN**

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Twenty-seventh Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

The documents and presentations on the activities accomplished by the Institute in the areas of biotechnology, biosafety, agricultural insurance, organic agriculture, agro-tourism and rural tourism for implementation of the 2006-2010 Medium-Term Plan,

CONSIDERING:

That by express delegation of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), provided for in Resolution No. IICA/JIA/Res.421 (XIII-O/05), approved the 2006-2010 Medium-Term Plan (MTP) of IICA as the guiding framework for the Institute's actions in that period by means of Resolution No. IICA/CE/Res. 444 (XXVI-O/06), adopted at its Twenty-sixth Regular Meeting; and

That it received the report on the activities accomplished by the Institute in 2006 as part of the process for implementation of the Plan and also took cognizance of progress achieved in several specific fields such as biotechnology, biosafety, agricultural insurance, agro-energy, biofuels, organic agriculture, agro-tourism and rural tourism,

RESOLVES:

To receive with satisfaction the report presented by the General Directorate on activities accomplished and under way in the process for implementation of the 2006-2010 Medium-Term Plan.

IICA/CE/Res.461(XXVII-O/07)

16 May 2007

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 461

**APPROVAL OF THE 2008-2010 HEMISPHERIC
PROGRAM ON AGRO-ENERGY AND BIO-FUELS**

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Twenty-seventh Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/Doc.504(07) “2008-2010 Proposed Hemispheric Program on Agro-energy and Bio-fuels”,

CONSIDERING:

That under resolution IICA/JIA/Res.410(XIII-O/05), the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) instructed the Director General to present to the Executive Committee at its Twenty-sixth Regular Meeting a proposal on the resources required to support activities promoted under the Hemispheric Program on Agro-energy and Bio-fuels;

That under resolution IICA/CE/Res.446(XXVI-O/06), the Executive Committee approved the bases for the Hemispheric Program on Agro-energy and Bio-fuels and instructed the Director General to present a proposal for funding the Program from 2008-2010;

That it determined that that Program should be financed with resources from the Institute’s Program Budget, from the collection of quota arrearages and from contributions from strategic partners, such as international financial institutions and other cooperation agencies; and

That at its regular meeting held in 2007, the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues analyzed the proposed 2008-2010 Hemispheric Program on Agro-energy and Bio-fuels and recommended submitting it to the Executive Committee at its Twenty-seventh Regular Meeting for approval,

RESOLVES:

1. To approve the proposed 2008-2010 Hemispheric Program on Agro-energy and Bio-fuels and to instruct the Director General to implement the version contained in document IICA/CE/Doc.504, "Hemispheric Program on Agro-energy and Bio-fuels".
2. To establish that the Program should be financed with regular resources allocated for it in the 2008-2009 Program Budget.
3. To instruct the Director General to include in the 2010 Program Budget the financial resources required to carry out activities under the Hemispheric Program on Agro-energy and Bio-fuels.
4. To recommend that the IABA urge the Member States to make voluntary financial contributions to IICA with which to fund studies, projects and priority horizontal cooperation actions to be carried out under the Program.

IICA/CE/Res.462(XXVII-O/07)

17 May 2007

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 462

**STATUS OF THE ASSESSMENT OF
TECHNICAL EXPERTISE AT IICA**

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Twenty-seventh Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

The presentation of the report on the assessment of technical expertise at IICA made before the Executive Committee by the consulting firm “Servicios Internacionales para el Desarrollo Empresarial SIDE S.A”,

CONSIDERING:

That under Resolution IICA/CE/Res. 447 (O/06) “Assessment of IICA’s Technical Capabilities”, the Executive Committee instructed the Director General to support and coordinate the assessment of the technical expertise of IICA’s personnel to be conducted by external experts and to present it to Member States and the Executive Committee for consideration before the end of the first half of 2007;

That pursuant to that mandate, the General Directorate hired the consulting firm “Servicios Internacionales para el Desarrollo Empresarial SIDE S.A”, which has presented to the Executive Committee a report on the assessment of the technical expertise of IICA’s personnel, based on the terms of reference approved by the Executive Committee, the guidelines of the Steering Committee and the work schedule prepared with the General Directorate;

That that report was presented by the consulting firm in the course of this Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee; and

That the Director General suggested to the Executive Committee classifying the recommendations in the report on the basis of the five following criteria: i) recommendations that may be implemented by decision of the Director General and

that do not require additional resources; ii) recommendations that may be implemented by decision of the Director General and that require additional resources; (iii) decisions that require the approval of the governing bodies of the Institute but that do not require additional funds; iv) recommendations that require the approval of the governing bodies of the Institute and that require additional funds; and v) recommendations that require an amendment to the Convention on IICA,

RESOLVES:

1. To accept the report on the status of the assessment of the technical expertise of IICA's personnel prepared by the consulting firm "Servicios Internacionales para el Desarrollo Empresarial SIDE. S.A.," and to thank the firm and the Steering Committee for the work accomplished.
2. To entrust the Chairman of the Executive Committee with addressing a letter to all of the Ministers of Agriculture of Member States forwarding the report and an executive summary prepared by the consulting firm and asking them to send their comments and observations to the Director General by August 31, 2007.
3. To hold a special meeting of the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues (SACMI) in the last quarter of 2007.
4. To extend the term of the Steering Committee until the next meeting of the SACMI.
5. To request that the Director General appoint the staff members who, in cooperation with the Steering Committee, will prepare an analysis of the report, which should prioritize the recommendations on the basis of the five criteria identified by the Director General at this Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee and that this analysis be presented as a working document for the special meeting of the SACMI.
6. To entrust the SACMI with preparing, at the special meeting to be held in the last quarter of 2007, a proposal for further reform in the Institute, taking into account the comments of the Member States and the analysis carried out by the General Directorate. That proposal will be presented to the Executive Committee in 2008 and to the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) in 2009.

IICA/CE/Res.463(XXVII-O/07)

17 May 2007

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 463

**STRENGTHENING OF THE REGIONAL FUND FOR
AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGY (FONTAGRO)**

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Twenty-seventh Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/Doc.507(07), “Strengthening of IICA Member States’ Support to FONTAGRO”,

CONSIDERING:

That technological research and technology are a critical and strategic factor for food security, the sustainable and competitive development of market-integrated agriculture and for the promotion of the wellbeing of rural communities and natural resource conservation;

That, except for a few countries in the Americas, the funding of agricultural research is far below (on average, 0.7% of agricultural GDP) investments by developing countries on other continents and developed countries (2 to 4% of agricultural GDP) and it is therefore imperative that this situation be reversed;

That the Regional Fund for Agricultural Technology (FONTAGRO), which has the support of IICA and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), is a mechanism of the participating countries for promoting joint regional agricultural research, where those countries establish their strategic priorities through the funding of regional projects, which they execute jointly and which have shown highly positive results;

That the 2006-2010 Medium-Term Plan provides for the “[S]trengthening of the hemispheric system for cooperation among countries in agricultural technological innovation” and, therefore, support for the strengthening of FONTAGRO is a priority; and

That at its Twenty-seventh Regular Meeting, it received the report on activities accomplished by FONTAGRO and the principal results of its activities,

RESOLVES:

1. To receive with satisfaction the report of FONTAGRO promoted jointly by the participating countries, with the support of IICA and the IDB.
2. To request that the Director General make that report available to all Member States of the Institute before the Fourteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture, to be held in Antigua, Guatemala.
3. To recognize the importance of strengthening FONTAGRO and to urge the Member States of IICA that are not yet part of that Fund to consider the possibility of joining that mechanism, in order to participate in a united effort for the development and adoption of technologies and share experiences.

IICA/CE/Res.464(XXVII-O/07)

17 May 2007

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 464

**FOLLOW-UP TO THE BIOTECHNOLOGY
AND BIOSAFETY PROGRAM**

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Twenty-seventh Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

The report presented by the General Directorate on the progress made with the execution of the Hemispheric Biotechnology and Biosafety Program,

CONSIDERING:

That, by Resolution IICA/CE/Res.445(XXVI-O/06), the Executive Committee adopted the Hemispheric Biotechnology and Biosafety Program;

That the General Directorate of IICA has been implementing the actions of the aforementioned program with the support of Member States; and

That it is important that the Institute continue its efforts to secure additional resources for the execution of the program from financial entities, strategic partners and other donors,

RESOLVES:

1. To approve, and express its satisfaction with, the report on the progress made in implementing the Biotechnology and Biosafety Program presented by the General Directorate.
2. To endorse the efforts that the General Directorate has been making to forge strategic partnerships and obtain financial and technical contributions intended to help consolidate the program.

IICA/CE/Res.465(XXVII-O/07)

16 May, 2007

Original: Spanish

DRAFT RESOLUTION No. 465**2006 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF IICA
AND REPORT OF THE EXTERNAL AUDITORS**

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Twenty-seventh Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/Doc.499(07), “2006 Financial Statements of the Institute and Report of the External Auditors,”

CONSIDERING:

That Article 4(d) of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee establishes that this Governing Body is to study the Institute’s financial statements and forward the corresponding report to the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA);

That the External Auditors have attested to the sound management of the Institute’s financial resources during 2006, and that the administration of IICA has acted in conformity with the regulations of the Institute; and

That, in its Thirteenth Annual Report, the Audit Review Committee (ARC) states that it has studied the report of the External Auditors on IICA’s 2006 Financial Statements and found the work performed to be thorough and in accordance with IICA’s rules and generally accepted auditing standards,

RESOLVES:

To approve the 2006 Financial Statements of the Institute and the Report of the External Auditors on said Financial Statements.

IICA/CE/Res.466(XXVII-O/07)

17 May 2007

Original: Spanish

DRAFT RESOLUTION No. 466

**THIRTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF
THE AUDIT REVIEW COMMITTEE (ARC)**

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Twenty-seventh Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/Doc.500(07), “Thirteenth Annual Report of the Audit Review Committee (ARC)”,

CONSIDERING:

That at its Seventh Regular Meeting, the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), by Resolution IICA/JIA/Res.231(VII-O/93), created the ARC and approved its Statute; and

That Article 3(k) of its Rules of Procedure establishes that the Executive Committee is to receive and approve the ARC’s reports and recommendations,

RESOLVES:

1. To approve the Thirteenth Annual Report of the ARC.
2. To instruct the Director General to implement the recommendations set forth in the Thirteenth Report of the ARC.
3. To thank the members of the ARC for the effective work accomplished.

IICA/CE/Res.467(XXVII-O/07)

17 May, 2007

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 467**ELECTION OF A MEMBER OF THE
AUDIT REVIEW COMMITTEE**

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Twenty-seventh Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/Doc.514(07), "Election of a Member of the Audit. Review Committee,"

CONSIDERING:

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

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

That the term of the candidate elected by the largest contributors among Member States expires on December 31, 2007;

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, only the proposal from the United States government nominating Mr. Tracy Lapoint was received,

RESOLVES:

To elect Mr. Tracy Lapoint to occupy the position of member of the ARC reserved for a candidate proposed by the major contributors among Member States for a six-year term commencing on January 1, 2008 and concluding on December 31, 2013.

IICA/CE/Res.468(XXVII-O/07)

17 May 2007

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 468**VOTE OF THANKS TO MR. RAYMOND POLAND**

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Twenty-seventh Regular Meeting,

CONSIDERING:

That the Audit Review Committee (ARC) is an important mechanism of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), both in terms of providing advisory services to the Director General for the administrative and financial stewardship of IICA and in terms of assisting the IABA itself with the administrative and financial supervision of the Institute;

That the members of the ARC, who are designated by Member States, are high-level public officials who are on loan to the Institute from the respective governments to perform functions that are of considerable importance for the running of the Institute; and

That Mr. Raymond Poland, Inspector General for the Southeast Region, USDA, a national of the United States of America, was a member of the ARC from 2003-2007 during which time his performance was outstanding,

RESOLVES:

1. To thank the Government of the United States for the support provided by Mr. Raymond Poland during the period in which he was a member of the ARC.
2. To acknowledge and express appreciation for the excellent and dedicated performance of Mr. Poland and his significant contribution to the administrative and financial betterment of the Institute.

IICA/CE/Res.469(XXVII-O/07)

15 May 2007

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 469

**PROGRESS IN COLLECTING QUOTAS
OWED TO IICA AS OF MAY 15, 2007**

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Twenty-seventh Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/Doc.501(07) "Report from the Director General on the Current Status of Quota Payments and Progress in Collecting Quotas owed to the Institute",

CONSIDERING:

That by Resolution IICA/JIA/Res.414(XIII-O/05), the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) adopted the document "Revised Measures for Collecting Quotas owed to the Institute";

That the aforementioned document draws and improves on the provisions of Resolutions IICA/CE/Res.417(XXIV-O/04) of the Executive Committee, and IICA/JIA/Res.392 (XII-O/03) of the IABA for the purpose of establishing a set of measures intended to encourage Member States to make current their financial obligations 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, and the efforts of the General Directorate, it has been possible to decrease considerably the total amount of quotas owed to the Institute;

That the above has enabled the Administration to fund the approved Program Budget and to fund the special budget approved by the governing bodies of the Institute for the execution of high-priority programs; and

That the financial strengthening of the Institute and the normal execution of the programs and projects included in the national, regional and hemispheric cooperation agendas can only be possible if Member States pay their quota arrearages and keep up to date with payments of their annual quotas,

RESOLVES:

1. To thank the Ministers of Agriculture, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and other high-level government officials in the Member States of IICA 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 Member States to make their annual quota payments to the Institute in a timely fashion and to pay quota arrearages for previous years.
3. To instruct the Director General to: a) continue efforts to collect quotas for the current year and those in arrears for previous years and b) to keep the Member States informed of progress in this area.
4. To urge Member States to keep up to date with their quota payments to the Institute and to fulfill the terms of the payment plans agreed to for payment of quotas for previous years.

IICA/CE/Res.470(XXVII-O/07)

16 May 2007

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 470

**APPOINTMENT OF EXTERNAL AUDITORS FOR
IICA AND CATIE FOR THE 2008-2009 BIENNIUM**

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Twenty-seventh Regular Meeting,

CONSIDERING:

That Article 100 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Directorate states that External Auditors shall be designated by the Executive Committee to perform the tasks described in Chapter VIII of said Rules of Procedure; and

That based on a properly conducted competitive bidding process, the Director General has recommended that the Executive Committee appoint the firm of Deloitte and Touche as the External Auditors of the Institute and CATIE for the 2008-2009 biennium,

RESOLVES:

To appoint the firm of Deloitte and Touche as the External Auditors for the Institute and CATIE for the 2008-2009 biennium, a period that may be extended by the Director General for a period of up to two years.

IICA/CE/Res.471(XXVII-O/07)

15 May 2007

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 471**2008-2009 PROGRAM BUDGET**

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Twenty-seventh Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/Doc.503(07), "Proposed 2008-2009 Program Budget",

CONSIDERING:

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

- a) 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 by the affirmative vote of two thirds of its members";
- b) 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";
- c) In Article 14(b) that a function of the Executive Committee is "[T]o 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"; and

That the Director General submitted the proposed 2008-2009 Program Budget to the Executive Committee for consideration at its Twenty-seventh Regular Meeting in a format consistent with the structure and content established in the rules currently in effect,

RESOLVES:

To recommend that the Inter-American Board of Agriculture:

1. Approve the amount of US\$ 31,267,572 annually from the Regular Fund as the overall allocation for the 2008-2009 Program Budget of the Institute, financed with quota contributions from the Member States in the amount of US\$27,167,572.00 per year and with the expected receipt of miscellaneous income in the amount of US\$4,100,000 per year, consisting of US\$3,600,000 in expected income per year and up to US\$1,000,000 from the Miscellaneous Income Fund: US\$500,000 for each year of the biennium.
2. Approve the use of resources from the 2008-2009 Program Budget in accordance with the allocations for each of the chapters, strategic priorities, scopes of action and major objects of expenditure detailed in document IICA/CE/Doc.503 "Proposed 2008-2009 Program Budget". The summary of allocations by chapter is attached as Appendix A to this resolution.
3. Authorize the Director General to make transfers among chapters of the 2008-2009 Program Budget, provided that the total transfers do not increase or reduce the chapters by more than 10 per cent and do not significantly affect the priorities approved.
4. 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 2008 and 2009 fall below estimated levels for the biennium in question, and inform the Executive Committee and the IABA of this situation.

APPENDIX A
2008-2009 PROGRAM BUDGET
SUMMARY BY CHAPTER
(US\$ 000)

CHAPTER	2008			2009		
	QUOTAS	MISCE-LLANEOS	TOTAL	QUOTAS	MISCE-LLANEOS	TOTAL
I: DIRECT TECHNICAL COOPERATION SERVICES	24,290.3	3,587.9	27,878.2	24,290.3	3,587.9	27,878.2
Strategic Priority						
1. Trade and Competitiveness of Agribusiness	6,077.6	922.0	6,999.6	6,077.6	922.0	6,999.6
2. Technology and Innovation	5,447.4	574.4	6,021.7	5,447.4	574.4	6,021.7
3. Agricultural Health and Food Safety	5,079.6	935.6	6,015.2	5,079.6	935.6	6,015.2
4. Development of Rural Communities	3,672.2	710.2	4,382.4	3,672.2	710.2	4,382.4
5. Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and the Environment	1,792.8	206.0	1,998.9	1,792.8	206.0	1,998.9
6. Repositioning of Agriculture and Rural Life and Renewal of their Institutional Framework	2,220.8	239.6	2,460.4	2,220.8	239.6	2,460.4
II: MANAGEMENT COSTS	1,292.5	82.8	1,375.3	1,292.5	82.8	1,375.3
Office of the Director General	629.0	20.0	649.0	629.0	20.0	649.0
Directorate of Administration and Finance	663.5	62.8	726.3	663.5	62.8	726.3
III: GENERAL COSTS AND PROVISIONS ¹	1,103.2	0.0	1,103.2	1,103.2	0.0	1,103.2
Governing Bodies	400.0	0.0	400.0	400.0	0.0	400.0
Insurance	320.0	0.0	320.0	320.0	0.0	320.0
Pensions	262.7	0.0	262.7	262.7	0.0	262.7
OAS Administrative Tribunal	25.0	0.0	25.0	25.0	0.0	25.0
External Audit	95.5	0.0	95.5	95.5	0.0	95.5
IV: RENEWAL OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND EQUIPMENT	481.6	429.4	911.0	481.6	429.4	911.0
TOTAL	27,167.6	4,100.0	31,267.6	27,167.6	4,100.0	31,267.6

1/ Does not include Cuba's quota.

IICA/CE/Res.472(XXVII-O/07)

17 May 2007

Original: English

RESOLUTION No. 472

**QUOTA SCALE FOR FINANCING THE
2008-2009 PROGRAM BUDGET**

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Twenty-seventh Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN,

Document IICA/CE/Doc.502(07) “Approval of the Quota Scales for Financing the 2008-2009 Program Budget”,

CONSIDERING:

That Article 23 of the Convention on the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA Convention) requires the Member States to fund the Institute “through annual quotas established by the Board in accordance with the system for calculating quotas of the Organization of American States,” and that Article 8(b) of the Convention charges the Board with “determining the quotas of the Member States by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of its Member States”;

That pursuant to the provisions of Articles 23 and 8(b) of the Convention, since the entry into force of the present IICA Convention in 1980, the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) has consistently approved an IICA Quota Scale which incorporates the percentages set out in the OAS Quota Scales then in force;

That on January 31 2006, a Special Session of the OAS General Assembly adopted a new OAS Quota Scale for the first time in 16 years for the 2007-2008 fiscal years, and charged the OAS Permanent Council with the task of proposing an alternative scale for the consideration of the General Assembly in 2007 for possible implementation in 2009 or earlier;

That by Resolution AG/RES. 2257 (XXXVI-O/06), the OAS General Assembly reconfirmed for implementation in 2007 the Quota Scale it had approved on January

31, 2006, the so-called “Transitional Quota Scale”, and renewed the mandate for developing an alternative scale for consideration in future years;

That at its Thirty-seventh Regular Session in early June 2007, the OAS General Assembly is likely to reconfirm its January 31, 2006 decision to apply the Transitional Quota Scale for the 2008 fiscal period;

That the OAS has not yet concluded its work for the development of a more definitive quota scale for 2009 and future years, and such work is likely to continue for the foreseeable future;

That Article 14(b) of the IICA Convention authorizes the Executive Committee to make recommendations to the IABA “as it deems appropriate” on the proposed biennial Program Budget, including its financing; and

That the approval of the applicable Quota Scales for financing the 2008-2009 Program Budget at the Fourteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA in July 2007 is essential for the functioning of IICA during the 2008-2009 fiscal period,

RESOLVES:

To recommend as follows:

1. Pending the decision on the 2008 OAS quotas scale by the Thirty-seventh Regular Session of the OAS General Assembly, to maintain for 2008 the current IICA quota scale.
2. Based on the ongoing discussions at the OAS regarding the 2009 quota scale the Member States should make the corresponding consultations.
3. The Special Advisory Committee on Management Issues (SACMI) should make a recommendation to the next Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee for adoption of the 2009 quota scale in accordance with the IICA Convention and applicable rules of procedures.

IICA/CE/Res.473(XXVII-O/07)

16 May 2007

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 473

**REPORT OF THE 2007 MEETING OF THE SPECIAL
ADVISORY COMMISSION ON MANAGEMENT ISSUES**

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Twenty-seventh Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/Doc.497(07), "Report of the 2007 Meeting of the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues",

CONSIDERING:

That by Resolution IICA/JIA/Res.341(X-O/99), the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) created the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues (SACMI) "to facilitate more regular discussion between the Director General and the Member States on administrative and financial initiatives and issues in order to facilitate the process of reaching consensus on those issues and initiatives in the Executive Committee and in the IABA";

That by Resolution IICA/JIA/Res.394(XII-O/03), the IABA extended the term of the SACMI until the Thirteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA; and

That the SACMI held its 2007 regular meeting at IICA Headquarters from March 13-14, 2007 and delivered its report with recommendations for the Director General of IICA,

RESOLVES:

To accept the Report of the 2007 Regular Meeting of the SACMI.

IICA/CE/Res.474(XXVII-O/07)

17 May 2007

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 474**STATUS OF THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE
THIRTEENTH REGULAR MEETING OF THE IABA
AND THE TWENTY-SIXTH REGULAR
MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Twenty-seventh Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/Doc.510(07), “Status of the Resolutions of the Thirteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture” and document IICA/CE/Doc.511 (07), “Status of the Resolutions of the Twenty-sixth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee” ,

CONSIDERING:

That the above-mentioned reports demonstrate that the General Directorate has complied with the resolutions adopted at the Thirteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA, and satisfactorily carried out the tasks required to comply with the resolutions adopted at the Twenty-sixth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee,

RESOLVES:

1. To accept the reports: (i) “Status of the Resolutions of the Thirteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture” ; and (ii) “Status of the Resolutions of the Twenty-sixth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee” .
2. To express satisfaction with the progress reported in complying with the resolutions issued by IICA’s governing bodies referred to in operative paragraph 1 above.

IICA/CE/Res.475(XXVII-0/07)

17 de May 2007

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 475

2006-2007 INTER-AMERICAN AWARDS
IN THE RURAL SECTOR

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Twenty-seventh Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/Doc.508 (07), "2006-2007 Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector" and the report presented by the Selection Committee for Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector (Selection Committee) and its recommendations for granting the awards for 2006-2007,

CONSIDERING:

That as can be seen from the Selection Committee's report, that Committee has conducted a thorough review of the nominations received in the light of the existing Regulations governing inter-American awards in the rural sector and has recommended granting the awards in the various categories; and

That the persons and institutions recommended by the Awards Committee meet the requirements and have the distinction that warrant the granting of the Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector as international public recognition of their worthy contribution to the development of agriculture and the improvement of rural life in the Americas,

RESOLVES:

1. To grant the:
 - a. Inter-American Agricultural Medal for 2006 to Jorge Leon Arguedas from Costa Rica;

- b. Inter-American Agricultural Medal for 2007 to Egbert Miller from Jamaica;
 - c. Inter-American Award for the Contribution of Women to Rural Development for 2006-2007 to Mayra Roxana Falck Reyes from Honduras;
 - d. Inter-American Award for Institutional Contributions to Agricultural and Rural Development for 2006-2007 to the *Fundación Hondureña de Investigación Agrícola (FHIA)* (Honduran Agricultural Research Foundation).
2. To declare the Inter-American Award for Young Professionals void for 2006-2007.
3. To grant the following honorable mentions:
 - a. The Inter-American Agricultural Award for Young Professionals for 2006-2007: to Luke Lee from Jamaica;
 - b. The Inter-American Agricultural Award for Young Professionals for 2006-2007: to Carlos Maria Arrechea Ortiz from Paraguay;
 - c. The Inter-American Award for the Contribution of Women to Rural Development for 2006-2007: to Rosita Benitez Portillo from Paraguay.
4. To thank Member States for their active and significant participation in the process for identifying and nominating an outstanding group of candidates to receive the Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector.
5. To instruct the Director General to organize the awards ceremony within the framework of the Fourteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture.

REPORT OF THE SELECTION COMMITTEE FOR THE AWARDS
IN THE RURAL SECTOR (AWARDS COMMITTEE)

The Awards Committee comprised Philippa Forde from Trinidad and Tobago, as Chair; Carmen Galdona from Paraguay; and Gabriela de Morales from Panama.

We reviewed the curricula vitae of 33 candidates based on the regulations governing the Inter-American Awards. We note that nominations were received from only 16 of the 34 countries that make up the Inter-American System.

Inasmuch as the main purpose of the Inter-American Awards is to serve as an instrument for recognizing the outstanding contributions made by individuals and institutions to bring about the sustainable development of agriculture and the improvement of rural life, this Committee wishes to make certain recommendations regarding improvement of the process for selecting candidates and the work of the Awards Committee.

Below are the recommendations of this Committee:

- To update and improve the regulations governing the selection of candidates for the national and the Inter-American awards by defining more precisely the requirements for each award;
- To design a mechanism to encourage greater participation by the countries;
- To establish a standardized format for the presentation of curricula vitae. This will enable the Awards Committee to learn more about what the candidates have accomplished and how they have contributed to agriculture and the improvement of rural life;
- All nominations should be accompanied by a formal letter introducing the candidate, along with a brief justification for the nomination. This letter could come from the government, business, academic or nongovernmental sector;
- To design a mechanism to encourage prize laureates to continue to work on behalf of agriculture and the improvement of rural life;
- To entrust the Director General with publicizing the accomplishments and contributions of the laureates and to share them with other countries of the Inter-American System;
- To create a new category intended to recognize the contributions made by innovative producers and the impact they have on their communities.

We recommend to the Executive Committee that it set up a working group to implement these suggestions and recommendations. That working group would comprise representatives of IICA and the member countries of the IABA.

IICA/CE/Res.476(XXVII-O/07)

17 May 2007

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 476

**AGENDA FOR THE FOURTEENTH REGULAR MEETING
OF THE INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (IABA)**

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Twenty-seventh Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/Doc.513(07), "Provisional Agenda for the Fourteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA)",

CONSIDERING:

That Article 4(p) of the Executive Committee's Rules of Procedure provides that the Committee shall "analyze the provisional agendas for the meetings of the Board"; and

That it analyzed the Agenda for the Fourteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA),

RESOLVES:

1. To accept the Provisional Agenda for the Fourteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) attached.
2. To thank Honorable Mr. Erasmo Sanchez Ruiz, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Food of Guatemala, in charge of all matters related to the Peten, for his report on preparations for the Fourteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA, to take place in Antigua, Guatemala, in the framework of the Week of Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas, "Guatemala 2007".

INTERAMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (IABA)**-PROVISIONAL AGENDA-**

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| <p>1. Programa de la reunión</p> <p>1.1 Programa Provisional
IICA/JIA/Doc.307(07)</p> <p>2. Política institucional y servicios de cooperación técnica</p> <p>2.1 Mensaje del Director General
(sin número)</p> <p>2.2 Fortalecimiento de la capacidad técnica del IICA: Informe de situación
IICA/JIA/Doc.308(07)</p> <p>3. Asuntos presupuestarios y financieros</p> <p>3.1 Estados financieros del IICA 2005 y 2006 e informes de los auditores externos
IICA/JIA/Doc.309(07)</p> <p>3.2 Duodécimo y Decimotercer Informes del Comité de Revisión de Auditoría (CRA)
IICA/JIA/Doc.310(07)</p> <p>3.3 Estado actualizado del pago de cuotas y avances en la recaudación de cuotas adeudadas al Instituto</p> | <p>1. Schedule of the Meeting</p> <p>1.1 <i>Provisional Schedule</i>
<i>IICA/JIA/Doc.307(07)</i></p> <p>2. Institutional Policy and Technical Cooperation Services</p> <p>2.1 <i>Message of the Director General</i>
<i>(Unnumbered)</i></p> <p>2.2 <i>Strengthening IICA Technical Expertise: Status report</i>
<i>IICA/JIA/Doc.308(07)</i></p> <p>3. Budgetary and Financial Matters</p> <p>3.1 <i>IICA's Financial Statements for 2005 and 2006 and Reports of the External Auditors</i>
<i>IICA/JIA/Doc.309(07)</i></p> <p>3.2 <i>Twelfth and Thirteenth Reports of the Audit Review Committee (ARC)</i>
<i>IICA/JIA/Doc.310(07)</i></p> <p>3.3 <i>Current Status of Quota Payments and Progress in the Collection of Quotas Owed to the Institute</i></p> |
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IICA/JIA/Doc.311(07)

IICA/JIA/Doc.311(07)

- 3.4 Proyecto de Programa-
Presupuesto 2008-2009
IICA/JIA/Doc.312(07)

- 3.4 *Proposed 2008-2009 Program
Budget
IICA/JIA/Doc.312(07)*

4. Relaciones interinstitucionales

4. *Inter-Institutional Relations*

- 4.1 Avances en el fortalecimiento
de las relaciones entre la FAO
y el IICA
(sin documento)

- 4.1 *Progress with strengthening
relations between the FAO and
IICA
(No document)*

- 4.2 Contribución del Instituto de
Investigación y Desarrollo
Agrícola del Caribe (CARDI)
a los Acuerdos Hemisféricos
Ministeriales e Informe 2005-
2006
IICA/JIA/Doc.313(07)

- 4.2 *Contributions of the Caribbean
Agricultural Research and
Development Institute (CARDI)
to the Hemispheric Ministerial
Agreements and 2005-2006
Report
IICA/JIA/Doc.313(07)*

- 4.3 Contribución del Centro
Agronómico Tropical de
Investigación y Enseñanza
(CATIE) a los Acuerdos
Hemisféricos Ministeriales e
Informe 2005-2006
IICA/JIA/Doc.314(07)

- 4.3 *Contributions of the Tropical
Agriculture Research and
Higher Education Center
(CATIE) to the Hemispheric
Ministerial Agreements and
2005-2006 Report
IICA/JIA/Doc.314(07)*

- 4.4 Propuesta para fortalecer el
papel del IICA como
organismo ejecutor de
proyectos y programas de
desarrollo agrícola y rural en el
marco de la nueva política del
BID
IICA/JIA/Doc.315(07)

- 4.4 *Proposal for Strengthening
IICA's Role as an Executing
Agency for Agricultural and
Rural Development Projects
and Programs within the
framework of the New IDB
Policy
IICA/JIA/Doc.315(07)*

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| <p>5. Asuntos de los órganos de gobierno del IICA</p> <p>5.1 Avance en el cumplimiento de las resoluciones de la Decimotercera Reunión Ordinaria de la JIA
IICA/JIA/Doc.316(07)</p> <p>5.2 Avance en el cumplimiento de las resoluciones de la Vigésima Sexta y Vigésima Séptima Reuniones Ordinarias del Comité Ejecutivo
IICA/JIA/Doc.317(07)</p> <p>5.3 Ratificación de las enmiendas al Reglamento de Personal y a los Reglamentos del CE y la JIA
IICA/JIA/Doc.318(07)</p> <p>5.4 Fecha y sede de la Decimoquinta Reunión Ordinaria de la JIA
IICA/JIA/Doc.319(07)</p> <p>6. Otros temas institucionales</p> <p>6.1 Recomendación del Comité Ejecutivo respecto al Sistema para la Determinación del Salario del Director General del IICA
IICA/JIA/Doc.320(07)</p> <p>6.2 Galardones Interamericanos en el Sector Rural 2006-2007
IICA/JIA/Doc.321(07)</p> | <p>5. Matters pertaining to the Governing Bodies of IICA</p> <p>5.1 <i>Report on the Status of the Resolutions of the Thirteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA</i>
IICA/JIA/Doc.316(07)</p> <p>5.2 <i>Report on the Status of the Resolutions of the Twenty-sixth and Twenty-seventh Regular Meetings of the Executive Committee</i>
IICA/JIA/Doc.317(07)</p> <p>5.3 <i>Ratification of the Amendments to the Staff Rules and to the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee and the IABA</i>
IICA/JIA/Doc.318(07)</p> <p>5.4 <i>Date and Site of the Fifteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA</i>
IICA/JIA/Doc.319(07)</p> <p>6. Other Institutional Business</p> <p>6.1 <i>Recommendation of the Executive Committee regarding the System for the Determination of the Salary of the Director General of IICA</i>
IICA/JIA/Doc.320(07)</p> <p>6.2 <i>2006-2007 Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector</i>
IICA/JIA/Doc.321(07)</p> |
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IICA/CE/Res.477(XXVII-O/07)

17 May 2007

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 477

**DATE AND SITE OF THE TWENTY-EIGHTH REGULAR
MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Twenty-seventh Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/Doc.512(07), "Date and Site of the Twenty-eighth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee",

CONSIDERING:

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

That it is necessary to set the date and site of the Twenty-eighth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee to be held in 2008; and

That, in accordance with Article 25 of these Rules of Procedure, if no site is offered by one of the Member States to hold the meeting in another country, the meeting will be held at IICA Headquarters,

RESOLVES:

1. To hold the Twenty-eighth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee at IICA Headquarters, in San Jose, Costa Rica, during the first half of 2008.
2. To instruct the Director General to issue the convocation to the Member States to participate in the Twenty-eighth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee, in accordance with the procedures outlined in the rules currently in effect.

IICA/CE/Res.478(XXVII-O/07)

17 May 2007

Original: English

RESOLUTION No. 478**SYSTEM FOR DETERMINING AND REVIEWING
THE COMPENSATION OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL**

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Twenty-seventh Regular Meeting,

CONSIDERING:

That at its Thirteenth Regular Meeting, the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) tasked the Special Advisory Committee on Management Issues (SACMI) with studying the subject of the Director General's compensation and making a proposal on that issue to the Twenty-sixth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee;

That at its Twenty-sixth Regular Meeting, it adopted Resolution IICA/CE/Res.456 (XXVI-O/06) which: (i) instructed the Director General to engage the services of the External Auditor for completing a study and recommendations regarding the competitiveness of the Director General's current compensation in comparison with the compensation paid the occupants of similar posts in similar organizations; (ii) asked the Audit Review Committee (ARC) to review the External Auditor's study and report its conclusions and recommendations to the Executive Committee in 2007; and (iii) encouraged the next Executive Committee to make a recommendation on this issue to IABA based on the External Auditor's Report and the ARC's review; and

That the ARC has reported that upon reviewing the External Auditor's report, it decided to return it to the External Auditor for further development and elaboration, and for that reason, the ARC was unable to make final recommendations on the Director General's compensation for consideration by this meeting of the Executive Committee,

RESOLVES:

1. To urge the External Auditor to proceed towards completion of its study in accordance with the recommendations and guidelines established by the

ARC within a timeframe which permits the ARC to provide its observations and recommendations to the SACMI prior to its next meeting.

2. To request that the ARC review the External Auditor's study on the Director General's compensation and send its observations and recommendations to the members of the SACMI at least forty-five days prior to the SACMI's next meeting.
3. To request that the SACMI review the External Auditor's study on the Director General's compensation, together with the observations and recommendations of the ARC, and that it submit its recommendations to the Executive Committee, so that the Executive Committee may make a proposal to the Fifteenth Meeting of the IABA on this issue.
4. In considering the SACMI's recommendation, the Executive Committee shall give due regard to making any adjustment in the Director General's compensation retroactive to December 31, 2006.

IICA/CE/Res.479(XXVII-O/07)

17 May 2007

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 479**PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF THE FIRST CLAUSE
OF THE LAW ESTABLISHING CATIE**

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Twenty-seventh Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Resolution No. CS-Extraordinary No.1-2007 of the Governing Council of Ministers of the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE) and the presentation made before the Executive Committee by the Director General of CATIE, Dr. Pedro Ferreira,

CONSIDERING:

That CATIE, created in 1973 by means of a contract between IICA and the Government of Costa Rica, is an entity dedicated to research in the agricultural sciences and on natural resources and related subjects and also to post-graduate training and other courses of study in the agricultural sciences and on renewable natural resources and related subjects, for the benefit of the Member States of IICA;

That Law No. 8028, of the Republic of Costa Rica, of September 12, 2000, establishes that CATIE's participation in post-graduate programs must be based on "such agreements and programs as may be agreed upon for this purpose;"

That under such law, CATIE does not have the legal authority to grant on its own academic degrees or professional credentials, a situation that is not consistent with its caliber as the oldest post-graduate school that is one of the most prestigious in Latin America and that does not recognize the track record of this Center as an institution of learning;

That, by virtue of the above, the Board of Directors of CATIE, through ratification of resolution 14-07/XXVIII ROCEF, requested the Director General to negotiate with

CATIE's Governing Council authorization, as a matter of duress, to propose an amendment of Law No. 8028 of CATIE in order to give the Center authority to grant academic degrees and professional credentials;

That Article 34 of Law No. 8028 provides that before any modification of that law can be presented to Costa Rica's Legislative Assembly for consideration, it must first be approved by the CATIE's Governing Council and the Inter-American Board of Agriculture;

That the Governing Council of CATIE approved, in Resolution CS/Extraordinary No. 1-2007, said modification and requested that same be submitted for approval to the Inter-American Board of Agriculture; and

That, as a precedent, by means of an amendment to Law No. 7044 creating EARTH University (*Escuela de Agricultura de la Región del Trópico Húmedo-EARTH*)(Law No. 7357 of 1993) of the Republic of Costa Rica, that institution was granted the right to offer academic degrees and professional credentials which give authority to exercise the respective professions,

RESOLVES:

To recommend to the Inter-American Board of Agriculture that it give favorable consideration to the proposed amendment of the Contract between IICA and the Government of Costa Rica establishing the Center, set out in Annex 1, so as to give that Center the power to grant professional credentials and academic degrees.

ANNEX 1

Current Text	Proposed amendment of text (The text underlined in bold is the proposed amendment)
<p>FIRST CLAUSE.- The objective of the present Contract is to establish a scientific and educational civil association, with full legal standing, whose purposes shall be research in the agricultural sciences and on natural resources and related subjects, for the tropical regions of the Americas, especially in Mesoamerica and the Caribbean, and post-graduate training and other courses of study in the agricultural sciences and on renewable natural resources and related subjects, offered for the benefit of the Member States of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), under the agreements and programs established for those purposes.</p>	<p>FIRST CLAUSE.- The objective of the present Contract is to establish a scientific and educational civil association, with full legal standing, whose purposes shall be research in the agricultural sciences and on natural resources and related subjects, for the tropical regions of the Americas, especially in Mesoamerica and the Caribbean, and post-graduate training and other courses of study in the agricultural sciences and on renewable natural resources and related subjects, offered for the benefit of the Member States of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA). <u>As such, CATIE is empowered to grant academia degrees and professional credentials in its areas of competence, which will enable its graduates to exercise their respective professions.</u></p>

IICA/CE/Res.480(XXVII-O/07)

17 May 2007

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 480

STRENGTHENING OF IICA'S PARTNERSHIP WITH THE IDB

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Twenty-seventh Regular Meeting,

CONSIDERING:

That the IDB has been reviewing its financing policies for the region in order to bring its priorities into line with the mandates issued as a result of the Summits of the Americas process and the efforts that the countries of the hemisphere have been making to achieve the millennium goals;

That, both in the decisions being taken within the framework of the Summits of the Americas process and in the millennium goals, high priority is attached to the development of sustainable and competitive agriculture, and the improvement of living conditions in rural communities;

That, for various reasons, in recent years, there has been a reduction in the financing that international financial institutions (IFIs) grant for agricultural and rural development, and the funding agencies themselves wish to reverse that trend;

That IICA has technical capabilities in fields that are essential for the modernization of agriculture and for promotion of the development of rural territories, capabilities that are a natural complement to those of the international development banking system operating in the hemisphere;

That the IDB approved the policy of opportunities for the majority that will make it possible to improve the living conditions of the region's rural population;

That, in order to tap the new opportunities that the countries have been identifying in agro-energy and biotechnology, it is important for the IDB to have a technical partner, to ensure that the projects financed in those new fields are technically viable; and

That, thanks to the efforts of the General Directorate of IICA, the Institute's ties with the IDB and the other IFIs are being strengthened, an effort that requires decisive support from the governments to increase the benefits for the nations of the hemisphere,

RESOLVES:

1. To request that the Director General submit for the consideration of the Fourteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) a proposal for strengthening IICA's participation as the executing technical arm of agricultural and rural development programs and projects within the framework of the new IDB policy.
2. To endorse the ongoing efforts of the General Directorate to strengthen ties with the IDB and to instruct the Director General to present a report on the progress made in strengthening those relations to the Twenty-eighth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee.

SUSCRIPCIÓN DEL INFORME

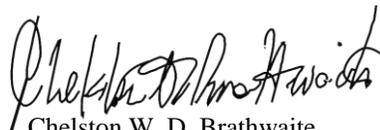
SIGNING OF THE REPORT OF THE TWENTY-SEVENTH REGULAR MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Pursuant to Article 97 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee, the Report of the Twenty-seventh Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee is hereby signed at 21:00 hours on the seventeenth day of May of the year two thousand seven, in the city of San Isidro de Coronado, San Jose, Costa Rica.

The 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 text in the archives of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, will post electronic files of same on the Institute's web page and send copies of 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.

San Isidro de Coronado, San Jose, Costa Rica



Chelston W. D. Brathwaite
Director General of IICA and
Ex officio Secretary of the Executive
Committee



Paul Murphy
Executive Director
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
President of the Executive Committee
2007

**OPENING REMARKS BY DR. CHELSTON W. D. BRATHWAITE,
DIRECTOR GENERAL OF IICA, AT THE INAUGURAL SESSION**

I am indeed pleased to welcome all the distinguished delegations of the Member States of the Americas to this 27th Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee of our Institute.

I thank you all on behalf of the Institute and on my own behalf for your continued support of this administration as we continue to reform our Institute as an instrument to promote modernization of the agricultural and rural sector of the Americas.

On behalf of our Institute and on my own behalf, I wish to congratulate the Government and people of Paraguay who are celebrating 196 years of independence today. Paraguay declared its independence from Spain on May 15, 1811. It was the only bloodless victory in all of the struggles for the independence of the colonies. I would ask Minister Alfredo Silvio Molinas to convey our congratulations to the Government and people of Paraguay.

I thank you for your presence and I hope that the meeting will meet your expectations. Unfortunately, I have one sad note to introduce into what would otherwise be an occasion of happiness.

Today we continue to mourn the loss of the Chairman of the Inter-American Board, Pablo Rizzo, former Minister of Agriculture of Ecuador, whose vision and resolve was an important element in the success of the 3rd Ministerial Meeting and JIA in Guayaquil, Ecuador in 2005.

We remember him well for his accomplishments as a Minister in developing a National Policy for Agriculture in his country and for his astute chairmanship of those meetings.

We have extended our deepest sympathy and condolences to his wife and family.

We are also extend our condolences to Minister Roger Clarke of Jamaica who recent lost him mother.

I ask that we stand to observe one minute of silence as a mark of respect for the souls of the departed. May they rest in peace.

We are pleased to welcome the distinguished delegation of Ecuador to this meeting and wish that you convey the new Minister of Agriculture of Ecuador, Mr. Carlos Vallejo López, our best wishes for success in the discharge of his new responsibilities.

I wish to welcome to the community of agriculture of the Americas the following leaders who have been appointed since our last Executive Committee Meeting.

Dr. Javier María de Urquiza
Secretario de Agricultura, Ganadería,
Pesca y Alimentos
Argentina

Señor Carlos Vallejo López
Ministro de Agricultura, Ganadería,
Acuicultura y Pesca
Ecuador

Honourable Larry Cartwright
Minister of Agriculture and Marine
Resources
Bahamas

Ing. Alberto Cárdenas Jiménez
Secretario de Agricultura, Ganadería,
Desarrollo Rural, Pesca y Alimentación
México

Dra. Susana Rivero Guzmán
Ministra de Desarrollo Rural,
Agropecuario y Medio Ambiente
Bolivia

Señor Ariel Bucardo Rocha
Ministro Agropecuario y Forestal
Nicaragua

Senhor
Reinhold Stephnaes
Ministro de Estado da Agricultura,
Pecuária e Abastecimento
Brasil

Ing. Agr. Alfredo Silvio Molinas
Maldonado
Ministro de Agricultura y Ganadería
Paraguay
Honourable Ezechiel Joseph
Minister for Agriculture, Lands,
Forestry and Fisheries
Saint Lucia, W.I.

Lic. Marco Vargas Díaz
Ministro de Producción
Costa Rica

This year, as we celebrate 65 years of service to the Agriculture of the Americas, I have the honour to inform you that we propose to celebrate this important milestone at the OAS in Washington, D.C. in October of 2007 and throughout the Hemisphere.

We will also hold the Fourth Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas and the 14th Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board in cooperation with the Government of Guatemala in Antigua, Guatemala, the last week of July, 2007.

We are pleased to welcome Ing. Erasmo Alonso Sánchez Ruiz, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Food of Guatemala in charge of on matter related to the Peten and his delegation to this meeting and to thank him for continued support.

In this meeting, we will report on the achievements of the Institute in 2006 and we will seek your support for the proposed program budget for 2008/2009.

We will make presentations on the progress in the implementation of the Medium Term Plan in the areas of such as biotechnology, agricultural insurance, agro-energy and biofuels, organic agriculture, the IICA Forum for Ministers of Agriculture and the Institute's experience with rural tourism and agro-tourism in the Caribbean. The Executive Committee will also receive a progress report of FONTAGRO.

Under the section on the work of the Governing Bodies of the Institute (IABA and EC), we will report on compliance with the resolutions of the Thirteenth Meeting of the IABA (Guayaquil) and the Twenty-sixth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee (2006). Participants will also receive a report on progress of preparations for the Fourth Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Rural Life in the context of the Summit of the Americas process and the Fourteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA, to take place in Antigua Guatemala, Guatemala from July 24 through 27, 2007.

The agenda also includes a special item, which is the presentation by the consultants on the assessment of technical capacity of IICA.

Finally, under other institutional matters, the Executive Committee will discuss and decide on the granting of the Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector. The winners will receive these awards at the meeting of the IABA in Antigua, Guatemala.

Five years ago, when we distributed the document "Repositioning IICA to face the challenges of the 21st Century", we set out a bold strategic vision for the future of this Institute. Today, five years later, I am pleased to announce that a significant part of the plans and proposals presented in that document have been achieved.

The fundamental achievement of the past 5 years is that we were able to reposition our institution and refocus it so that today it is recognized as an important component of the development framework of the Americas; one which can contribute to the promotion of sustainable agricultural development, food security, and the promotion of rural prosperity in our hemisphere.

This was achieved through the implementation of a new model of technical cooperation which resulted in:

- a. The development of a new relationship with Member States based on participation, transparency and accountability, with the national and regional cooperation agendas serving as instruments for prioritizing IICA's activities and tailoring them to the needs of Member States.
- b. The development of the Agro 2003-2015 Plan, a common agenda for Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas, fashioned in cooperation with Member States.
- c. The promotion of increased operational efficiency which enabled the institution to do more with limited resources; thanks to prudent and responsible financial management.
- d. The promotion of a culture of excellence in performance and respect for ethical principles and values, with an emphasis on recognition of the contribution made by individuals and groups to the goals of the Institute.
- e. The development of expanded relations with strategic partners as a means of providing a more holistic approach to agricultural and rural development.
- f. The strengthening of the Institute's financial base. Thanks to the financial contribution of the Member States.

Today, all Member States are now in regular or special "status". I have been told that this is the best payment situation since 1986 (21 years ago). The payment of the annual quota by all Member States can only be interpreted as a signal of satisfaction with our work. The external auditors of the Institute have for the third year, confirmed that there has been financial prudence, transparency and accountability in the management of the finances of our Institute.

The contribution of the Member States to the financial health of the Institute has allowed us to carry out a number of important initiatives:

- a. Renewal of the infrastructure at Headquarters long overdue to buildings constructed in 1976 (30 years ago).
- b. Purchase of a new financial system.
- c. Development of Funds for Training, Emergencies and Horizontal Cooperation.
- d. Assignment of resources to new actions in agrotourism, agroindustry and organic agriculture.

- e. Implementation of new programs in Biotechnology, Agricultural Insurance, Agroenergy and Financing of our office in Miami to support trade, agribusiness and food safety in the hemisphere.

We also established a new institutional structure which **(i)** emphasizes the technical leadership of the Institute; **(ii)** facilitates cooperation and team work between operational and technical units; **(iii)** develops effective linkages between the national, regional and hemispheric agendas of the countries; and **(iv)** aligns these agendas with the MTP 2006-2010. The incorporation of knowledge management in the structure seeks to improve the technical quality of the technical support services which the Institute provides to our Member States and recognizes technical knowledge as a critical input for development.

The Medium-Term Plan of the Institute for 2006-2010 has as its global objective to contribute to the reduction of rural poverty and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by promoting prosperity in the rural communities of the Americas. It defines the strategic orientation for the work of the Institute during the next three years and proposes mechanisms to help our countries create greater opportunities in the rural economy.

We are preparing the Institute to cooperate in implementing a model for development where agriculture and rural life are priority themes on the development agenda. We hope to work with the development banks, with IDB, the World Bank and development partners in achieving this goal.

In this administration, we have been following the eight strategic elements for a successful change process as described by John P. Kotter, Professor of Leadership at Harvard Business School. During the first five years we have:

- a. Developed the vision and the strategy for change.
- b. We have communicated the vision.
- c. We have established a sense of urgency.
- d. We have built a team for managing the change process.
- e. We have empowered our Staff especially our Representatives.
- f. We have reported on some short term successes.

In the next three years we will

- a. (vii) Consolidate the gains of the past while introducing some new changes, and
- b. (viii) Anchor the new approach into the institutional culture.

Our achievements have not led to complacency as we believe that in this rapidly changing world, innovation and continuous reform is a necessity of our times. We therefore propose in 2007 to:

- a. implement the new integrated financial management system;
- b. to support the evaluation of the technical capacity of the Institute;
- c. implement the new policy on education and training including the Sabbatical Program for Professional Staff;
- d. develop knowledge management as part of our institutional culture;
- e. strengthen performance management and evaluation systems;
- f. promote more horizontal technical cooperation and interchange of experiences among the countries;
- g. strengthen the regional integration mechanisms to ensure better coordination of regional actions and regional initiatives;
- h. continue to promote transparency and accountability at levels of the operation of the Institute.
- i. develop of a Program for Leaders in Agriculture.

I wish to express our profound gratitude for the sterling contribution which the Executive Committee has made in the past, which has helped the institute to make steady progress toward fulfilling its vision and achieving its mission. Thanks to your sound recommendations and advice, we have been able to make significant strides in a number of key areas. However, ladies and gentlemen, given the growing number of issues that we are being asked to service and in light of the increasing challenges facing the agricultural sector, we need to appeal to you for your continued support to help us keep this institution on a firm financial foundation so that we can maintain our position as a leader in the agricultural sector in the Americas and so that we can continue to be an organization with the technical capacity to provide meaningful solutions to Member States when they seek our assistance.

At 65, the Institute is not ready to retire but begin a new life. We will continue to pursue goals and strategies to ensure that the Institute becomes a world class institution and the partner of choice for the Member States of the Americas in the provision of technical cooperation services to the agricultural sector. I therefore look forward to your cooperation and support in the pursuit of these noble goals.

I now call on Mr. Chris Hansen, our Director of Strategic Partnerships and Head of our Office in Washington to present the Annual Report for 2006.

Intervention after the presentation of the IICA Annual Report

This report was presented to the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States on 18 of April, 2007. I would like to request your patience for a few more minutes in order to share with you the comments of the Ambassadors of the Member States after the presentation of the Report in the OAS.

Thank you.

**OPENING REMARKS BY DR. CHELSTON W. D. BRATHWAITE,
DIRECTOR GENERAL OF IICA, AT THE INAUGURAL SESSION**

We have come to the end of the 27th Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee, and I wish to thank all of you for your contribution to our achievements during this meeting.

We started this meeting on Tuesday with a long agenda and due to the skill of the Chairman, Mr. Paul Murphy, and your cooperation we have completed the task. The Rapporteur, Dr. Víctor Villalobos, has also played a key role in our success and I wish to thank him, the Deputy Director General, the Technical Secretary and Mr. Bill Berenson for their invaluable contribution.

We have made considerable progress in advancing the agenda of the Institute. We received reports on (1) the progress in the technical evaluation of the Institute; (2) the progress in the implementation of the Medium Term Plan 2006-2010; (3) the report on plans for the Ministerial Meeting and the JIA to be held in Guatemala; (4) the report of the Audit Review Committee.

The status of the financial affairs of the Institute were reviewed.

5. We approved the budget for the program budget for 2008-2009 biennium for submission to the Inter-american Board.

We approved the report of the External Auditors and a new member of the Audit Review Committee was appointed.

We decided on the Inter-american Awards and we agreed to the report on compliance with the resolutions of the Thirteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA and the Twenty Sixth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee.

The Medium Term Plan 2006-2010 marks the beginning of the process to make this institution a more development oriented organization that can assist our Member States in modernizing agriculture and reducing rural poverty.

The achievements of this meeting are achievements of all of us and I wish to congratulate all delegations for their contribution to these achievements. The

intervention were of high quality and we have advanced in the organization and the management of our meetings.

I welcome the report of the technical evaluation and should the Member States adopt the report, we will implement those changes that are feasible and which fall within the competence of the General Directorate as part of the process of institutional reform which we began in 2002.

We are convinced that we have advanced in the process of modernization and our achievements are being recognized not only within the Institute but outside the Institute as well. One point about reducing the bureaucracy when I assumed this job in 2002 there were 36 D level management positions in Headquarters we have reduced these to 21 today. We closed the regional centres and saved the Institute \$1.2 million. Just two examples of our work at reducing bureaucracy.

For example, the proposal of the consultant to close IICA Offices in the Caribbean would be a decision for the Ministers of Agriculture of the Caribbean, the Governments of the Caribbean and the Inter-American Board of Agriculture. The report has administrative, diplomatic, technical and political implications for the Institute and it should be carefully analysed.

I thank to you all for your hard work and cooperation
All support Staff; Translators; Editors; Directors, etc.

I would like to offer a small gift to the Relator. I would like to offer a small gift to the Minister of Agriculture of Paraguay on the celebration of Paraguay's independence. Mr. President, there is no free lunch at IICA but I seek your approval to offer our support staff a lunch next week for their cooperation and support.

We are achieving the objectives of our Institute. All that is left is to wish all of you a safe trip back home and hope to see you all in Guatemala at the Ministerial Meeting and the JIA in July, 2007.

Mr. Chairman I now offer you our traditional gift which should be used only in situations of peace.

Thank you.

APPENDICES

AGENDA
IICA/CE/Doc.495(07)

- 1. Provisional Schedule** *IICA/CE/Doc.496(07)*

- 2. Reports to the Executive Committee**
 - 2.1 Message from the Director General *(Unnumbered)*
 - 2.2 Report of the 2007 Meeting of the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues *IICA/CE/Doc.497(07)*
 - 2.3 IICA 2006 Annual Report *IICA/CE/Doc.498(07)*

- 3. Financial and Budgetary Matters**
 - 3.1 Financial Statements of the Institute for 2006 and Report of the Independent Auditors *IICA/CE/Doc.499(07)*
 - 3.2 Thirteenth Report of the Audit Review Committee (ARC) *IICA/CE/Doc.500(07)*
 - 3.3 Current Status of Quota Payments and Progress in the Collection of Quotas Owed to the Institute *IICA/CE/Doc.501(07)*
 - 3.4 Approval of the Quota Scales for Financing the 2008-09 Program Budget *IICA/CE/Doc.502(07)*
 - 3.5 Proposed Program-Budget for 2008-2009 *IICA/CE/Doc.503(07)*

- 4. Technical Cooperation Services**
 - 4.1 Progress in implementing the 2006-2007 Medium Term Plan: Presentations on technical topics for information: *(Unnumbered)*
 - a. Biotechnology and Biosafety

- b. Plan of Action in the Area of Agricultural Insurance
- c. IICA's Experience in Agrotourism and Rural Tourism in the Caribbean
- d. IICA action in Support of the Development of Organic Agriculture

- 4.2 Agro-Energy and Bio-Fuels *IICA/CE/Doc.504(07)*
- 4.3 IICA Leadership Forum *IICA/CE/Doc.505(07)*
- 4.4 Advances in the Assessment of IICA's Technical Capabilities *IICA/CE/Doc.506(07)*
- 4.5 Increased support for FONTAGRO from IICA's Member States and the IDB *IICA/CE/Doc.507(07)*

5. The Governing Bodies of IICA and the Ministerial Meeting

- 5.1 Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector 2006-2007 *IICA/CE/Doc.508(07)*
- 5.2 Implementation of Resolution 456 of the Executive Committee on the System for Determining and Modifying the Salary of the Director General *IICA/CE/Doc.509(07)*
- 5.3 Status of the Resolutions of the Thirteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA *IICA/CE/Doc.510(07)*
- 5.4 Status of the Resolutions of the Twenty-Sixth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee *IICA/CE/Doc.511(07)*
- 5.5 Date and Site of the Twenty-eighth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee *IICA/CE/Doc.512(07)*
- 5.6 Holding of the Fourteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture

6. Other Institutional Business

- 6.1 Election of a member of the Audit Review Committee (ARC) *IICA/CE/Doc.514(07)*

- 6.2 Request to modify the first Clause of CATIE's constitutional contract, with a view to acquiring the legal capacity to grant professional and academic degrees *IICA/CE/Doc.515(07)*

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

MEMBER STATES SITTED AT THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTE 2007

Brazil

Lino Luiz Da Motta Colsera
Secretário Adjunto de Relações
Internacionais do Agronegócio
Ministério da Agricultura, Pecuária
e Abastecimento – MAPA
Brasília
Tel.: (55 61) 3218 2468
Fax: (55 61) 3225 4738
colsera@agricultura.gov.br

Sérgio Rodrigues dos Santos
Encargado de Negocios, a.i.
Embajada de la República Federativa
del Brasil
en Costa Rica
San José, Costa Rica
Tel.: (506) 295 6875
Fax: (506) 295 6874
Sergio.santos2005@gmail.com

Canada

Paul Murphy
Executive Director
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
930 Carling Avenue, Room 1011
Ottawa Ontario K1A 0C5
Tel.: (613) 759 1167
Fax: (613) 759 6690
murphypa@agr.gc.ca

Maureen Dolphin
Deputy Director
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
9700 Jasper Ave, Suite 720,
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 4G5
Tel.: (780) 495 5524
Fax: (780) 495 3324
dolphinm@agr.gc.ca

Rachel Archer
Multilateral Affairs Officer
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
930 Carling Ave, Room 1011
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0C5
Tel.: (613) 715 5018
Fax: (613) 759 6690
archerr@agr.gc.ca

Dominica

John Collin McIntyre
Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries
and the Environment
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries
and the Environment
Government Headquarters
Kennedy Ave., Roseau
Commonwealth of Dominica
Tel.: (767) 448 2401 Ext 3211
Fax: (767) 440 1856 or 448 7999
minagriculture@cwdom.dm

Ecuador

Jaime Oswaldo Durango Flores
Viceministro de Agricultura,
Ganadería
Acuicultura y Pesca
Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería
Acuicultura y Pesca
Amazonas N30-350 y Eloy Alfaro
Quito
Tel.: (593) 2 396 0167 / 255 4617
Fax: (593) 2 256 4645
viceministro@mag.gov.ec

Lotty Andrade
Directora General de Comercio
Mundial
Dirección General de Comercio
Mundial
Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores,
Comercio e Integración
Quito
Tel.: (593) 2 299 3237
Fax: (593) 2 299 3239
loandrade@mrrree.gov.ec

Eduardo Andrade Martínez
Adjunto Civil
Embajada de la República de Ecuador
en Costa Rica
San José, Costa Rica
Tel.: (506) 232 1503 ext. 103
Fax: (506) 232 1503 ext 105
embecuar4@hotmail.com

Honduras

Roberto Villeda Toledo
Asesor del Despacho Ministerial
Secretaría de Estado en los Despachos
de Agricultura y Ganadería
Tegucigalpa
Tel.: (504) 239 7886
Fax: (504) 239 7827
rvt@honduras.quik.com

Jamaica

Donovan Stanberry
Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Agriculture and Lands
Kingston
Tel.: (876) 927 1790
Fax: (876) 927 1904
dpstanberry@moa.gov.jm

Nicaragua

Ana Cecilia Navarro
Asesora Legal
Embajada de la República de
Nicaragua
en Costa Rica
San José, Costa Rica
Tel.: (506) 221 2957
Fax: (506) 221 3036

Panama

Guillermo A. Salazar
Ministro de Desarrollo Agropecuario
Ministerio Desarrollo Agropecuario
Altos de Curundú, Edificio 576
Ciudad de Panamá
Tel.: (507) 507 0606
Fax: (507) 232 5045
gsalazar@mida.gob.pa

Gabriela Díaz de Morales
 Directora Nacional de Política
 Comercial
 Ministerio de Desarrollo Agropecuario
 Altos de Curundú, Calle Manuel E.
 Melo, Edif. 577
 Ciudad de Panamá
 Tel.: (507) 507 0725
 Fax: (507) 507 0718
 gdmorales@mida.gob.pa

Paraguay

Alfredo Molinas Maldonado
 Ministro de Agricultura y Ganadería
 Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería
 Presidente Franco N° 475 casi 14 de
 Mayo
 Asunción
 Tel.: (595) (21) 440 718
 Fax: (595) (21) 449 951
 gabinete@mag.gov.py

Julio Cesar Arriola
 Encargado de Negocios a.i.
 Embajada de la República de Paraguay
 en Costa Rica
 San José, Costa Rica
 Tel.: (506) 234 0891
 Fax: (506) 234 0891

Carmen Galdona Galván
 Directora General de Planificación
 Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería
 Presidente Franco N° 475 casi 14 de
 Mayo
 Asunción
 Tel.: (595) (21) 445 420
 Fax: (595) (21) 492 954
 dgpmag@pla.net.py

Estefanía Laterza de los Ríos
 Embajada de la República de Paraguay
 en Costa Rica
 San José, Costa Rica
 Tel.: (506) 234 0891
 Fax: (506) 234 0891

Trinidad and Tobago

Jarrette Narine
 Minister of Agriculture, Land
 and Marine Resources
 Ministry of Agriculture, Land
 and Marine Resources
 St. Clair Circle, Port of Spain
 Tel.: (868) 622 1119
 Fax: (868) 628 0385
 ministeragriculture@tstt.net.tt

Philippa Forde
 Acting Permanent Secretary
 Ministry of Agriculture, Land
 and Marine Resources
 St. Clair Circle, Port of Spain
 Tel.: (868) 622 5596
 Fax: (868) 622 8202
 psmalnr@tstt.net.tt

Roma Collymore
 Acting Planning Officer II (Ag.)
 Ministry of Agriculture, Land
 and Marine Resources
 St. Clair Circle, Port of Spain
 Tel.: (868) 622 1221/4 ext. 2137 or
 2138
 Fax: (868) 622 8762
 agrilibp@tstt.net.tt
 romacolly3@hotmail.com

***MEMBER STATES NOT SITTED
AT THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTE***

Colombia

Luis Guillermo Fernández
Embajador Extraordinario y
Plenipotenciario
Embajada de la República de
Colombia en Costa Rica
San José, Costa Rica
Tel.: (506) 283 6871
Fax: (506) 283 6818

Alba Sánchez Ríos
Directora de Planeación y Seguimiento
Presupuestal
Ministerio de Agricultura y Desarrollo
Rural
Botogá
Tel.: (57 1) 341 2968
Fax: (57 1) 282 2010
planeación@minagricultura.gov.co

Costa Rica

Román Solera Andara
Oficial Mayor
Ministerio de la Producción
San José
Tel.: (506) 231 1051
Fax: (506) 232 0677
rsolera@mag.go.cr

United States of America

Michael W. Yost
Administrator
Foreign Agricultural Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Washington D.C. 20520
Tel.: (202) 720 3935
Fax: (202) 690 2159
Michael.Yost@fas.usda.gov

Charles R. Bertsch
Director
Multilateral Negotiations and
Agreements
Foreign Agricultural Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington D.C. 20520
Tel.: (202) 720 6278
Fax: (202) 720 1139
charles.bertsch@usda.gov

Stacy Williams
Specialized Organizations Advisor
U.S. Mission to the OAS
2201 C Street, NW Room 5914
Washington, D.C. 20520
Tel.: (202) 647 8099
Fax: (202) 647 0911
williamssd3@state.gov

Evelyn M. Alexander
International Economist
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington D.C. 20520
Tel.: (202) 720 5683
Fax: (202) 690 0677
Evelyn.Alexander@fas.usda.gov

Katherine Nishiura
 Agricultural Attaché
 Office of Agricultural Affairs
 Embajada de los Estados Unidos
 de América
 San José, Costa Rica
 Tel.: (506) 519 2000
 Fax: (506) 519 2180

Robert R. Rosado
 Special Assistant to the Administrator
 U.S. Department of Agriculture
 1400 Independence Avenue, SW
 Washington D.C. 20520
 Tel.: (202) 720 4261
 Fax: (202) 690 2159
 Robert.Rosado@fas.usda.gov

Susan Sadocha
 International Relations Advisor
 Foreign Agricultural Service
 U.S. Department of Agriculture
 1400 Independence Avenue, SW
 Washington D.C. 20520
 Tel.: (202) 690 0855
 Fax: (202) 720 1139
 Susan.Sadocha@usda.gov

Guatemala

Erasmus Sánchez Ruiz
 Viceministro de Agricultura,
 Ganadería
 y Alimentación, Encargado de los
 Asuntos del Petén
 Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería
 y Alimentación
 Ciudad de Guatemala
 Tel.: (502) 2413 7195
 Fax: (502) 2413 7197
analucia.contreras@maga.gob.gt

Anabella Osorio
 Asesora del Despacho y Delegada
 Ministerial
 Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería
 y Alimentación
 Ciudad de Guatemala
 Tel.: (502) 596 68733
aosorio@maga.gob.gt

Mirna Patricia Zamora Herrarte
 Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería
 y Alimentación
 Ciudad de Guatemala
 Tel. (502) 241 37000
 Fax:(502) 241 37007
patty.zamora@maga.gob.gt

Mexico

Víctor M. Villalobos
 Coordinador General de Asuntos
 Internacionales
 Secretaría de Agricultura, Ganadería,
 Desarrollo Rural, Pesca y
 Alimentación
 SAGARPA
 Tel.: (525) 918 31000 ext. 33160
 Fax: (525) 918 31000 ext 33209
vvilla@sagarpa.gob.mx

Luis Carlos Gutiérrez Jaime
 Director General de Eficiencia
 Financiera y
 Rendición de Cuentas
 Secretaría de Agricultura, Ganadería,
 Desarrollo
 Rural, Pesca y Alimentación
 (SAGARPA)
 México, D.F. 03310
 Tel.: (55) 91 83 1221 / 91 83 1222
 Fax: (55) 91 83 1000 ext. 33809
cgutierrez@sagarpa.gob.mx

Peru

Guillermo Russo Ismodes
 Director de Cooperación Técnica
 y Financiera
 Ministerio de Agricultura
 Pasaje Francisco de Zela No. 150
 Piso 9 - Lima 11
 Tel.: (511) 433 2951
 Fax: (511) 433 2951
grusso@minag.gob.pe

Uruguay

Octavio Brugnini García Lagos
 Embajador Extraordinario y
 Plenipotenciario
 Embajada de la República del Uruguay
 en Costa Rica
 San José, Costa Rica
 Tel.: (506) 253 6644
 Fax: (506) 234 9909
embajrou@racsa.co.cr

AUDIT REVIEW COMMITTEE

Raymond Poland
 Regional Inspector General
 Office of Inspector General - USDA
 401 West Peachtree Street, N.W., Suite
 2328
 Atlanta, Georgia 30308
 Tel.: (404) 730 3210
 Fax: (404) 730 3221
rgpoland@oig.usda.gov

OBSERVADORES PERMANENTES**Czech Republic**

Josef Pokluda
 Primer Secretario
 Embajada de la República Checa
 en Costa Rica
 San José, Costa Rica
 Tel.: (506) 296 5671
 Fax: (506) 296 5595
sanjose@embassy.mzv.cz

Germany

Julia Monar
 Consejera
 Embajada de la República de Alemania
 en Costa Rica
 San José, Costa Rica
 Tel.: (506) 232 5533 /2325450
 Fax: (506) 231 6403

Israel

Ehud Moseh Eitam
 Embajador Extraordinario y
 Plenipotenciario
 Embajada de Israel en Costa Rica
 San José, Costa Rica
 Tel.: (506) 221-6011/221-6444
 Fax: (506) 257-0867
embofisr@sol.racsa.co.cr

Ahuva Spieler Reshef
 Embajada de Israel en Costa Rica
 San José, Costa Rica
 Tel.: (506) 221-6011/221-6444
 Fax: (506) 257-0867
embofisr@sol.racsa.co.cr

ORGANISMOS**Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE)**

Pedro Ferreira Rossi
 Director General
 CATIE 7170
 Turrialba, Cartago
 Costa Rica
 Tel.: (506) 556 6081
 Fax: (506) 558 2048
ferreira@catie.ac.cr

Glenn Galloway B.
 Director Programa de Educación
 Decano de la Escuela de Posgrado
 CATIE 7170
 Turrialba, Cartago
 Costa Rica
 Tel.: (506) 558 2422; 558 2621
 Fax: (506) 558 2044
galloway@catie.ac.cr

Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI)

Frank Bruce Lauckner
 Executive Director (Ag)
 UWI Campus, St Augustine
 CARDI
 Trinidad and Tobago
 Tel.: (868) 645 1205/7
 Fax: (868) 645 1208
blauckner@cardi.org

Regional Fund for Agriculture Technology (FONTAGRO)

Nicolás Mateo
 Secretario Ejecutivo
 Inter-American Development Bank
 1300 New York Avenue, NW
 Washington, D.C. 20577, USA
 Tel.: (202) 623 2873
 Fax: (202) 623 3968
nicolasm@iadb.org

Other Guests

Gustavo Arambarri
 Consejero y Cónsul General
 Embajada de la República de Argentina
 en Costa Rica
 San José, Costa Rica
 Tel.: (506) 234 6520
 Fax: (506) 283 9983

Martín Callisaya Coaquira
 Embajador Extraordinario y
 Plenipotenciario
 Embajada de la República de Bolivia
 en Costa Rica
 San José, Costa Rica
 Tel.: (506) 231 2306
 Fax: (506) 231 2306

Mario Laguë
 Embajador Extraordinario y
 Plenipotenciario
 Embajada de Canadá en Costa Rica
 San José, Costa Rica
 Tel.: (506) 242 4400
 Fax: (506) 242 4410

Esteban Córdoba
Consejero Asuntos de Cooperación
Embajada de la República de Chile
en Costa Rica
San José, Costa Rica
Tel.: (506) 280 0973
Fax: (506) 253 7016

Gustavo Paredes
Segundo Secretario
Embajada de la República de
Colombia en Costa Rica
San José, Costa Rica
Tel.: (506) 283 6871
Fax: (506) 283 6818

Juan Miguel Leoro Almeida
Embajador Extraordinario y
Plenipotenciario
Embajada de la República del Ecuador
en Costa Rica
San José, Costa Rica
Tel.: (506) 232 1503
Fax: (506) 232 1503 ext. 105

Juan José Barrios
Embajador Extraordinario y
Plenipotenciario
Embajada de la República de
Guatemala en Costa Rica
San José, Costa Rica
Tel.: (506) 291 6208
Fax: (506) 290 4111

Marco Antonio Hepburn
Embajador Extraordinario y
Plenipotenciario
Embajada de la República de Honduras
en Costa Rica
San José, Costa Rica
Tel.: (506) 231 1642

Harold Rivas Reyes
Embajador Extraordinario y
Plenipotenciario
Embajada de la República de
Nicaragua
en Costa Rica
San José, Costa Rica
Tel.: (506) 221 2957
Fax: (506) 221 3036

Milton José Colindres U.
Embajador Extraordinario y
Plenipotenciario
Embajada de la República de El
Salvador en Costa Rica
San José, Costa Rica
Tel.: (506) 257 7855
Fax: (506) 257 7683

Miguel Guzmán
Primer Secretario
Embajada de la República de Perú
en Costa Rica
San José, Costa Rica
Tel.: (506) 225 9145
Fax: (506) 253 0457

Beglis Alfaro
Agregada de Prensa
Embajada de la República Bolivariana
de Venezuela en Costa Rica
San José, Costa Rica
Tel.: (506) 234 0728
Fax: (506) 253 1453
www.embajadadevenezuelaencostarica.org

IICA STAFF

Chelston W.D. Brathwaite	Director General
James G. Butler	Deputy Director General
Mario Seixas	Subdirector General Adjunto
Christopher Hansen	Subdirector General Adjunto, Director de Relaciones con Socios Estratégicos y Director de Operaciones e Integración para la Región Norte
Francisco Barea	Director de Administración y Finanzas
Fernando Del Risco	Secretario del Gabinete y Secretario Técnico del Comité Ejecutivo y la JIA
James French	Director de la Dirección de Liderazgo Técnico y Gestión del Conocimiento
Dowlat Budhram	Director de Gestión del Desempeño y Evaluación
Mariano Olazábal	Director de la Dirección de Operaciones Regionales e Integración
Pamela Stroude	Coordinadora del Despacho del Director General
Luis Condines	Auditor Interno
François Dagenais	Director a.i. de la Dirección de Financiamiento Externo y Proyectos de Inversión
H. Arlington Chesney	Director de Operaciones Regionales e Integración para la Región Caribe
Roger Guillén	Director de Operaciones Regionales e Integración para la Región Central
Jaime Muñoz-Reyes	Director de Operaciones Regionales e Integración para la Región Andina
Gonzalo González	Director de Operaciones Regionales e Integración para la Región Sur
Guillermo Toro	Director de Cooperación Técnica Horizontal
Karen Kleinheinz	Directora de la División de Finanzas
Linda Landry	Directora de la División de Desarrollo de Recursos Humanos
Lizardo de las Casas	Director de la Oficina de Seguimiento del Proceso

	de las Cumbres de las Américas
Yanko Goic	Jefe de la División de Presupuesto y Control
Assefaw Tewelde	Director de Biotecnología y Bioseguridad
Enrique Alarcón	Director de Tecnología e Innovación
Ena Harvey	Representante del IICA en Barbados
Benjamín Jara	Representante del IICA en Guatemala
Pedro Cussianovich	Especialista en Agricultura orgánica

MEETING STAFF

- Secretaría de la Reunión

Secretario <i>ex officio</i> y Director General del IICA	Chelston W.B. Brathwaite
Secretario Técnico	Fernando Del Risco
Organización Logística y Asistente del Secretario Técnico	Leda Celina Ávila

- Asesoría legal

William Berenson

- Difusión y prensa

Patricia León Coto
Andrea Vásquez
Mónica Montero
Rafael Cartín

- Diplomacia y protocolo

Michel Chartier
Sonia González

- Atención a Representantes

- *Inscripción*
 - *Atención a participantes*
- Mariantonieta Cordido
Leda Camacho
Mariantonieta Cordido
- *Atención en el hotel*
- Leticia Giménez
Marielos Salazar
- *Atención en aeropuerto*
- Ronald Hidalgo
Yorleni Chinchilla
Rebeca Martínez
Marvin Rodríguez
Evelyn Roldán

- *Atención en sala*

Eduardo Lovell
 Mariela Madrigal
 Marlen Montoya
 Melania Rodríguez
 Geancarlo Salazar
 Gina Rodríguez
 Ericka Soto

- Documentos e informe

- *Clasificación y distribución*

Laura Gutiérrez
 Sandra Zúñiga

- *Control y seguimiento*

Leticia Quirós

- *Redacción de actas*

Ronald Aragón
 Henry Benavides
 Silvia Delgado
 Manuel Jiménez
 Patricia Matamoros
 Viviana Palmieri
 Flor Sánchez

- *Interpretación y traducción*

Coordinadora

Marguerite Groves

Interpretación simultánea

Inglés

Esteban Rojas
 Elizabeth Lewis

Español

Anita Kaufman
 Sharona Wolkowicz

Portugués

Lauro de Barros
 Reginaldo Alcantara

Traducción

Inglés

Peter Leaver
 Paul Murphy

Español

Liliana Mora
 Máximo Araya

Portugués	Marilia Álvarez
Digitación	
Inglés/portugués	Laura Cartín
Español	Viviana Chacón
- Internet, sonido y grabación digital	David Álvarez Minor Carvajal Manuel León Alexander Díaz Ricardo Montero
Servicios de apoyo:	
- Servicios generales	Edwin Chavarría Alberto Muñoz
- Fotocopiado de documentos	Manuel Salazar

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- 1 General Plan of IICA
(1970 - English and Spanish)
- 2* Advisory Committee
(1970 - English and Spanish)
- 3* CIES Resolutions on Rural Development
(1971 - Spanish)
- 4 Eleventh Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors - San Salvador, El Salvador, May 5 to 9, 1972
(English and Spanish)
- 5 Sixth Inter-American Conference on Agriculture - Lima, Peru, May 27-June 2, 1971
(Spanish)
- 6* Twelfth Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors - Santiago, Chile, May 10-13, 1973
(English and Spanish)
- 7 Principal Resolutions of the Board of Directors - Washington, D.C., 1962 to 1972
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- 8 Thirteenth Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors - Caracas, Venezuela, May 16-18, 1974
- 9* Fourteenth Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors - Ottawa, Canada. May 6-9, 1975
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- 10* Implementation of IICA's General Plan (Elements for Analysis)
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- 11 Fifteenth Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors - Washington, D.C., May 6-12, 1976
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- 12* Simon Bolivar Fund -Rules and Regulations
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- 13* Sixteenth Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors - Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, May 11-19, 1977
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- 14* Seventh Inter-American Conference on Agriculture - Tegucigalpa, Honduras, September 5-10, 1977
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- 15* Medium-Term Indicative Plan. IICA: The Next Five Years
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- 16 Seventeenth Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors - Asuncion, Paraguay, 22-24, 1978
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- 17* Eighteenth Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors - La Paz, Bolivia, May 14-16, 1979
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- 18 Nineteenth Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors - Mexico, D.F., September 22-26, 1980
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- 19 Principal Resolutions of the Board of Directors, Washington, D.C., 1973-1980
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- 20 First Special Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture - San José, Costa Rica, February 17-19, 1981
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- 21 Eighth Inter-American Conference on Agriculture – Santiago, Chile, April 6-11, 1981
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- 22 Base Documents: Convention on the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture; Rules of Procedure of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture, the Executive Committee and the General Directorate
(Third Edition, 1990 - English, Spanish, French and Portuguese)
- 23 Resolutions Adopted by the Board of Directors of the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences and Still in Force
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- 24 First Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee and the Inter-American Board of Agriculture - San Jose, Costa Rica, June 9-12, 1981 and Buenos Aires, Argentina, August 7-13, 1981
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- 25 Second Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee - San Jose, Costa Rica, September 12-17 and October 25-26, 1982
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- 26 Second Special Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture - San Jose, Costa Rica, October 27-29, 1982
(English, Spanish, French and Portuguese)
- 27 General Policies of IICA
(1982 - English, Spanish, French and Portuguese)
- 28 Medium-Term Plan 1983-1987
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- 29 Second Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture - Kingston, Jamaica, October 24-28, 1983
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- 30 Fourth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee - San Jose, Costa Rica, December 2-7, 1984

(English, Spanish, French and Portuguese)
- 31 Fifth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee -San Jose, Costa Rica, July 29 August 2, 1985
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- 32 Third Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture -
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Note: The publications of the Executive Committee and the IABA are available on the IICA
Web site: www.iica.int