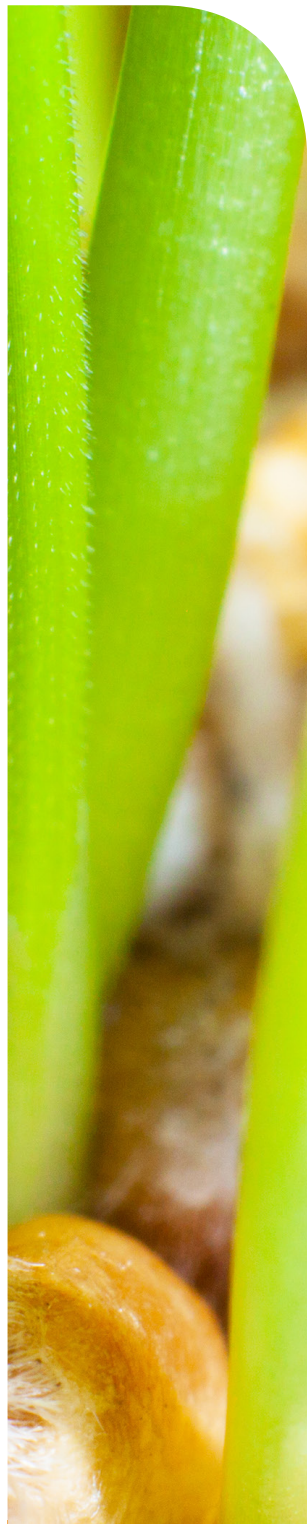


Significant achievements in 2014



United States of America

- The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) supported the strengthening of IICA's technical and financial capabilities and implementation of the following projects:
 - *CODEX* colloquium and *CODEX* coordination meeting attendance to provide a holistic approach to improve capacity and to increase regional cooperation for participation in *CODEX*.
 - Strengthening bilateral trade between USA and Latin American countries with which the USA has established free trade agreements to improve the ability of Latin American countries to implement and benefit from free trade agreements negotiated with the USA, and to promote bilateral trade.
 - Toto Agriculture (totoagriculture.org): a proof of concept for a significantly new approach to information delivery for farmers in the Americas to strengthen an alternative advisory and information delivery mechanism in Guatemala, using state-of-the-art technology to convey accurate, appropriate, localized knowledge to small and medium-scale farmers.
 - Technology improvement for selected market information systems (MIS), to strengthen the data management and technological capacity of market information systems in Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, Dominica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Panama, and the Dominican Republic.
 - Agricultural science leadership training program (managed jointly by IICA and CATIE) to promote and increase advanced training of professionals in select fields of study that apply to agriculture and rural development in IICA member countries (excluding USA and Canada).
- The total cost of these five technical cooperation projects is USD 1.45 million.
- The Organization of American States (OAS) received technical support from IICA with the elaboration of the Social Charter of the Americas, specifically in relation to the subjects of food security and family farming. As a permanent member of the Joint Summit Working Group, IICA has been involved in the preparation of the Seventh Summit of the Americas, which will be held in Panama City in April 2015.
- With the cooperation of the governments of the United States, Brazil, Chile, and Canada, a series of four seminars on public agricultural policy was held to construct the Post-2015 Development Agenda. More than 1500 professionals drawn from all parts of the hemisphere participated, either online or in person.
- Agricultural decision-makers and other stakeholders in the Americas enhanced their knowledge of policies for agriculture and current strategic issues. The information shared with them included material prepared jointly



with the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) on the following issues: a) short marketing circuits, b) U.S. agricultural policy, c) the Common Agricultural Policy of the European Union (EU), and d) the possible impact of the conflict between Russia and Ukraine on grain prices and trade in the region.

- IICA provided technical cooperation on water resource management, agricultural chains, innovation, policies, climate change, and food safety. The beneficiary institutions included the OAS, the World Food Programme (WFP), the McGill Institute for Global Food Security (Canada), and a number of Mexican institutions – the Colegio de Postgraduados, the Asociación Mexicana de Producción Animal de Traspatio, the Comisión Nacional del Agua (CONAGUA) and the Academia Mexicana de Ciencias. Cooperation was also delivered to Belize, Chile, Peru, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Bolivia, Uruguay, El Salvador, Ecuador, Colombia, Jamaica, and Haiti.

- The Institute continued to serve as the Technical Secretariat of the Cooperative Program in Agricultural Research and Technology for the Northern Region (PROCINORTE), within the framework of which the following results were achieved:

- Twenty-one specialists from Canada, Mexico, and the U.S. enhanced their expertise for the management and extraction of information from gene banks by means of the GRIN-Global system.
- Consolidation of the network and strengthening of the capabilities of specialists and regulators in Canada, Mexico, and the U.S. with regard to the identification, management and control of tuberculosis, including the cutting-edge techniques being used in molecular and genomic epidemiology.
- Establishment of a network of specialists in biological control, who shared knowledge about species of invasive insects of interest to the Northern Region.
- Development of a tool for measuring the firmness of avocados and mangoes without damaging the fruit, thus reducing losses in vegetable gardens and making them more profitable.