



Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture

# IICA's Achievements in 2005



# IICA's Achievements in 2005

---

Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture

© Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA). 2006

IICA encourages the fair use of this document. Proper citation is requested.

This publication is also available in electronic (PDF) format from IICA's Web site at [www.iica.int](http://www.iica.int).

Editorial coordination: Mario Seixas

Mechanical editing: Language Services Office

Layout: Catalina Lizano Quesada

Cover design: Zona Creativa

Printed: IICA Headquarters

IICA's Achievements 2005 / IICA.

– San José, C.R. : IICA, 2006.

24 p. ; 15 x 23 cm.

ISBN 92-90-39-738-1

1. Technical cooperation 2. International organizations

I. IICA II. Title

AGRIS

E14

DEWEY

338.181

San Jose, Costa Rica

2006



# Contents

<b>Introduction</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>Hemispheric Actions</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>Regional and National Actions</b> .....	<b>10</b>
 <i>Andean Region</i> .....	<i>10</i>
 <i>Caribbean Region</i> .....	<i>12</i>
 <i>Central Region</i> .....	<i>16</i>
 <i>Northern Region</i> .....	<i>19</i>
 <i>Southern Region</i> .....	<i>20</i>
<b>Relations with Strategic Partners</b> .....	<b>23</b>





# Introduction

Sixty-four years after its founding, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), working with its Member States, continues to promote sustainable agricultural development, food security and rural prosperity in the hemisphere.

In 2005, IICA increased circulation of the findings of its studies on the true value of agriculture and rural life demonstrating that both these areas are strategically important for integrated national development. This conclusion was endorsed by the Heads of State and of Government at the Fourth Summit of the Americas, held in Mar del Plata, Argentina, and by the hemisphere's Ministers of Agriculture at the Third Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas, held in Guayaquil, Ecuador.

The Institute's operating units and Offices helped implement the mandates issued within the framework of the summit process and the ministerial meetings. They provided technical cooperation to meet the needs of Member States, promoted integration processes, monitored the status of agriculture and rural life in the hemisphere and facilitated hemispheric consensus and the coordination of strategies and actions with other international and regional agencies.

At the Thirteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA, the Ministers recognized the Institute's efforts in recent years to modernize its operations while at the same time reaching agreement with the countries on their agendas for agriculture and presenting regular reports on its activities. The IABA also voted unanimously to reelect Dr. Chelston W. D. Brathwaite as the Director General of IICA for a second term (2006-2010).



## Hemispheric Actions

The “Working together” approach was strengthened by means of joint activities with organizations such as the WTO, ECLAC, the OAS, FAO, UNESCO, the ILO, the IDB, the World Bank, CATIE, the CTA, PAHO, USAID, AECI and the GTZ. These joint efforts yielded important results under our programs related to rural development, trade negotiations, agricultural health and food safety, information, agribusiness promotion, technological innovation, investment projects, environmental management and training.

IICA helped develop and enhance business skills and expertise through the Inter-American Program for the Promotion of Agricultural Trade, Agribusiness and Food Safety. The Institute identified trade opportunities, provided training, facilitated access to markets such as the United States, Canada and Europe, developed information systems, supported the modernization of markets and promoted small rural agroindustries.

With regard to trade policies and negotiations, the Institute adapted its cooperation actions to the new conditions created by trade liberalization and the proliferation of bilateral and multilateral agreements regulating production activities and agricultural trade. For example, it continued to provide strong support for the countries’ agricultural trade policy units, facilitating agricultural trade negotiations, evaluations of the impact of trade agreements on the agricultural sector and the important task of administering agreements of this kind.

In this area, IICA implemented the horizontal cooperation program “Policy and Trade Node: Focal Point Mexico,” designed to facilitate the sharing of experiences on these issues in the hemisphere. The Institute also served as the technical secretariat of several regional ministerial forums whose brief is to reach and consolidate consensus on policies for agriculture, rural prosperity and trade.

Another activity intended to make agriculture more competitive was the promotion of the “Chains and Dialogue for Action” (CADIAC) methodology, mainly in countries in the Central, Andean and Caribbean regions. Applying this approach enabled public- and private-sector stakeholders to reach agreement on critical problems affecting the competitiveness of agri-food chains and on the implementation of joint activities to overcome them.

The Institute began formulating a hemispheric agrobiotechnology and biosafety program, with national experts and IICA specialists determining the priority joint lines of action. IICA also facilitated the effective implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and strengthened its ties with the North American Biotechnology Initiative and the CAS’s Biotechnology Group. It also concluded an analysis of the institutional situation with regard to agrobiotechnologies in LAC and launched a Web page on the subject.

The Institute further supported the modernization of the countries’ agricultural technological innovation systems, the preparation of regional studies on issues that are a priority for FORAGRO and the consolidation of the regional cooperative technology innovation system, through the PROCIs.

Given the growing importance of world agricultural trade, IICA strengthened cooperation in the field of agricultural health and



food safety (AHFS). Another important activity was the application of the “Performance, Vision and Strategy” (PVS) instrument. Evaluating and supporting the institutional modernization efforts of AHFS services helps boost agricultural trade.

The Institute continued to implement the Initiative for the Countries of the Americas in Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, under which representatives of the sanitary and phytosanitary services of the Member States took part in all the meetings of the WTO’s SPS Committee. Mindful of the scope of AHFS issues, the Institute beefed up its partnerships and cooperation with other organizations working in this area, such as the WHO-PAHO, Codex Alimentarius, the OIE and the IPPC.

IICA also continued to promote and disseminate the territorial approach to rural development and support the management of policies, mechanisms, strategies and investments consistent with this approach. The Institute’s activities in this field had an even bigger impact thanks to the synergies created by joint efforts undertaken with other organizations, both within the framework of the Inter-agency Group for Rural Development and the national inter-agency groups that have joined forces to address this issue.

One of the most important actions in the area of rural development was IICA’s support for the strategic area of work known as “BRAMCO,” which involves rural development institutions in Brazil, Mexico and Colombia, and the implementation of a master’s degree program in rural development management. Other important actions included the provision of technical assistance, the implementation of a large number of training events, the execution of pilot projects, the publication of technical documents and the work with strategic partners, including the

Rural Policy Research Institute, Global Environmental Change and Food Systems, the IUCN and RUTA.

Developing human capital remained a priority during 2005. IICA continued to support the integration of higher agricultural education, efforts to improve the relevance and quality of agricultural and rural education, and the recognition and standardization of agricultural courses in the Americas. In line with the national and regional agendas, it also developed distance education and training courses on subjects of strategic importance for agricultural and rural development in LAC.

To complement its direct technical cooperation, the Institute made a major effort in the field of agricultural and rural information and knowledge management, striving to become the hemisphere's benchmark platform. It modernized its portal ([www.iica.int](http://www.iica.int)), improved the technical content and increased the number of subscribers to the Infoagro information system (Trade, Infotec, Agrosalud, Rural Development, PRODAR), revamped the SIDALC and made the library system more visible, improved its publications management and strengthened the internal information system (Intranet and VPN).

At the regional level, in addition to serving as the technical secretariat of various ministerial standing forums, the Institute facilitated and managed thematic platforms and networks of professionals and specialists, and sought to achieve consensus between countries and between regions for the development of common agendas.



# Regional and National Actions

## *Andean Region*

**The technical cooperation agenda for the Andean Region**, presented to the Council of Ministers of Agriculture of the Andean Community, was agreed upon with the appropriate regional agencies.

A work program was then drawn up with the General Secretariat of the Andean Community that now forms the basis of IICA's activities at the regional level.

With regard to the strengthening of rural communities, IICA supported the formulation of the Andean Rural Development Plan, which the presidents approved at the meeting of the Andean Council of Presidents.

Through the Working Group for Integration and Border Development, IICA presented two projects to the ministries of foreign affairs of the Andean countries:

- **“Development of territorial competitiveness in the border areas of the Andean countries”**
- **“Strengthening of rural agroindustrial clusters in the border areas of the Andean countries”**

Once the ministries of foreign affairs approve the projects, IICA will provide follow-up to the processes of negotiating external funds.

In **Ecuador**, the Institute consolidated the program for the inspection of export bananas to ensure plant health quality. The results of this program can be seen in the quality of fruits that are exported to major world markets.

In **Bolivia**, IICA supported the successful implementation of two IDB-funded projects aimed at technological training, job creation and income generation for rural women (alpaca wool graders) in La Paz.

In **Colombia**, the Center for Plant Health Excellence began operations with support from the ICA, APHIS and USAID. It conducted six risk analysis studies, shared experiences with Brazil and Canada and obtained approval for imports of new Colombian products into the United States.

In **Peru**, the Institute stepped up its activities under the “Network of Peoples” project, financed by the CAF. The project is aimed at strengthening financial and production capabilities in the Province of Huaura.

In **Venezuela**, IICA is cooperating in projects such as the one aimed at the integral development of coffee growing in the district of Andres Eloy Blanco, sustainable development in the Valle de Quibor, and a series of production projects in the Yacambu area. The Institute worked on the creation of a “new institutional fabric” based on the territorial approach in the service area of the Yacambu-Quibor Water System; it also consolidated the INFOAGRO Zulia information system.

## *Caribbean Region*

**The technical cooperation agenda for the Caribbean Region** has permitted IICA to play a leadership role, contributing to efforts to reposition agriculture and improve rural life in the region.

IICA has been actively involved in the development of programs linking agriculture and tourism. This work resulted from the creation of the region's "**Agro-tourism Linkages Center**", in Barbados.

This center has promoted and facilitated mutually beneficial relations between the agricultural community and the tourist industry in Barbados, Jamaica, Saint Lucia and Saint Kitts and Nevis, promoting the concepts of quality and reliability in local food production.

To help build consensus through dialogue, IICA spearheaded the preparation of the report "**State of and outlook for agriculture and rural life in the Caribbean.**" It was approved by the forum of ministers of agriculture and the alliance for the sustainable development of agriculture and rural areas in the Caribbean.

This document served as the basis for the presentation that President Jagdeo gave to the regional conference of heads of government in 2004, entitled "**A framework for repositioning agriculture in the Caribbean.**" This is now called the Jagdeo Initiative.

In cooperation with FAO, and the CARICOM and OECS secretariats, IICA sponsored meetings and workshops to identify

the chief barriers to the repositioning of agriculture in the region and ways of overcoming them.

The frequency of natural disasters in the Caribbean has resulted, unfortunately, in the loss of human lives and property, and has become an important constraint to the sustainability of agriculture in the region.

The Institute provided emergency assistance to mitigate the effects of such disasters and permit the immediate production of food in the affected areas. IICA also helped assess the damage and prepare plans for restructuring and modernizing the agricultural sector in Grenada and Guyana.

In the **Caribbean**, IICA helped the **Organization of Eastern Caribbean States** establish a local chapter of the Caribbean AgriBusiness Association. This has improved access to the closest markets. With UNESCO, IICA is spearheading a project to enhance the participation of marginalized youth in the development process.

In **Antigua and Barbuda**, IICA supported the implementation of a plan to deal with phytosanitary emergencies, established the Sanitary and Phytosanitary Committee and organized training workshops on the technical barriers to trade. Special attention was given also to rural development projects with an emphasis on training rural women.

In **Dominica**, IICA is managing a system of targeted revolving credit aimed at small-scale producers, who have also received training in the area of production and management. IICA also supported the establishment of the National Sanitary and Phytosanitary Committee, and facilitated the implementation of the national agenda on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures.

In **Grenada**, the Institute gave courses on organic agriculture, E-commerce, farm management, good agricultural practices, planning and trade management. IICA also assisted in strengthening the agribusiness capacity for planning and commercial management, and reinforced the agricultural quarantine services.

In **Saint Lucia**, IICA promoted the adoption of policies and measures to facilitate the trade opportunities of producers, in particular those related to the tourist industry. IICA also strengthened local capacity to tackle emergency situations in agricultural health and food safety.

In **Saint Vincent and the Grenadines**, producers were trained in the impact of the Bioterrorism Law of the United States and on agribusiness administration, improving its efficiency and competitiveness. IICA also trained personnel in the control and eradication of pests and diseases.

In **St. Kitts and Nevis**, the actions focused on promoting a better understanding of world market tendencies and improving the local capacity to comply with the Sanitary and Phytosanitary agreement. In addition, we collaborated with the government in the diversification of sugar cane, and the implementation of various rural development projects.

In the **Commonwealth of The Bahamas**, IICA developed and implemented a framework for a food safety system, and assisted in the establishment of a National Board on this theme. Action plans were developed to tackle sanitary and phytosanitary emergencies, and assistance was provided for the rehabilitation of rural areas affected by the hurricanes.

In **Guyana**, IICA provided technical support to the local dairy development program and the program for the economic development of Linden. New technologies were introduced in two indigenous communities in the Essequibo region, and the Institute spearheaded the process of developing a plan for the rehabilitation of the agricultural and rural sectors in the wake of the devastation caused by Hurricane Ivan.

In **Jamaica**, in cooperation with the Jamaica Bauxite Institute, IICA is rehabilitating mined-out bauxite lands for goat production in the Mocho region. With resources from the Canadian International Development Agency, a project got under way in Clarendon to strengthen the competitive advantage of primary producers, with an emphasis on rural women in agriculture.

In **Suriname**, IICA supported the management of carambola fruit fly control and strengthened the quarantine and certification infrastructure, thanks to financing from USDA, IFAD and the Dutch Treaty Fund. It also helped set up the National Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures Committee, financed by the IDB. Working with the University of Suriname, IICA set up the country's first virtual library. The effort has made available all the agricultural data of six partner institutions.

In **Barbados**, in addition to the Regional Agro-tourism Centre already mentioned, IICA promoted the production of organic products and direct ties between producers and the tourist industry; supported the commercial production of black belly sheep; and provided training in hydroponics and the sustainable management of soils.

In the **Dominican Republic**, the Institute gave particular importance to the development of capacities for the agricultural trade



negotiations, analysis of competitiveness and programs for the promotion of agricultural exports. Moreover, it assisted in consolidating cooperation between the public and private sectors to comply with the sanitary and phytosanitary measures of the WTO. It is important to highlight also the continued support to the “Milk Bank” project and the development of agro-tourism and organic agriculture programs.

In **Haiti**, the Institute executed the program for the control of classical swine fever and, in an alliance with the EARTH University, supported student exchanges, and reengineered the study programs of Haitian universities. Also worthy of mention is the continued support to the “PWOTOKOL” project, particularly in relation to the “Kredifanm” credit program for rural women.

In **Trinidad and Tobago**, efforts were made to sensitize the authorities and entrepreneurs regarding the implications of trade liberalization processes and current issues related to agricultural health and food safety. In addition, IICA coordinated work aimed at establishing the real contribution of agriculture to the Trinidadian economy and to the development of an agro-biotechnology strategy.

## *Central Region*

**The technical cooperation agenda for the Central Region** has focused on the analysis and systematization of information and training in how to negotiate and manage trade agreements in the context of the CAFTA negotiations.

IICA assisted the Central American Agricultural Council (CAC) and the private sector in analyzing and defining positions during the process of negotiating the free trade agreement with the United States.

Agricultural exports were promoted through “**Export Platforms**” and the Institute formulated a project to strengthen agribusiness management, to enable Central American firms to gain access to markets. The project was selected to compete for non-reimbursable funds from the Spanish International Cooperation Agency.

In collaboration with OIRSA, CATIE, SAGARPA and the CAC, IICA directly supported the design of a regulatory framework for living modified organisms used in agriculture and a regional strategy on agro-biotechnology, and has since monitored their application.

In **Costa Rica**, the Institute provided direct technical support for the formulation of a program for integrated water resource management and strategic services for conservation and production, designed to achieve economic efficiency, social development with equity and environmental sustainability. It is also important to mention IICA’s joint participation with the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock in the planning and implementation of the Sustainable Rural Development Program.

In **El Salvador**, IICA and its partners continued to implement the National Fruits Program (MAG-Frutales), which has generated nearly 6,000 jobs and a market potentially worth US\$50 million per year. As a member of a consortium with CATIE, the Central American University and the Catholic Aid Service, IICA carried out the first phase of the Environmental Program for El Salvador

(PAES). The second phase is under way in the departments of Santa Ana and Chalatenango.

In **Guatemala**, the Institute prepared an investment strategy for agro-rural development and took part in the creation of both a fund to encourage private investment in agribusinesses and a rural financial system, based on shared social responsibility. With the National Coffee Association and CATIE, and under the aegis of PROMECAFE, IICA improved productivity by producing the improved seed varieties, releasing parasitoids, creating and disseminating traps and setting up a plant breeding database.

In **Nicaragua**, the large portfolio of projects includes an improved seed program called “Pound for Pound,” aimed at increasing the production and yields of staple grains. This project was carried out jointly with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), MAGFOR and the private sector, and made it possible to replace agricultural imports and increase the country’s export capacity.

In **Honduras**, IICA has successfully implemented the Second Export Platform and has facilitated the participation of agro-exporters in the SIAL and ANUGA market fairs in Canada and Germany, respectively. The institute also has supported the modernization of the country’s sanitary and zoo sanitary regulations, which was harmonized with WTO agreements.

In **Belize**, IICA improved the competitiveness of the sugar sector and conducted research on tropical fruits and roots.

In **Panama**, IICA supported the strengthening of capacities in trade negotiations in general, and the FTA with United States in

particular. IICA assisted in preparing analyses of the competitiveness of sensitive products, and supported the modernization of the program for agricultural services. Moreover, IICA participated in the improvement of the educational program in the INA and the National University, as well as the implementation in the rural development project called “Triple C” in three provinces of the country.

## *Northern Region*

**For the Northern Region,** IICA supported the market integration initiatives aimed at strengthening the regional integration process by playing an active role in the informal group on integration set up under NAFTA.

IICA worked with the Food Safety Institute of the Americas to assist Member States to improve agricultural health and food safety in the region and throughout the Americas.

In this region, several horizontal cooperation activities were implemented with the support of the **United States, Mexico and Canada**. Among them, I would like to mention the Canada-CARICOM alliance to enhance food safety capabilities, targeting specialists in the Caribbean.

With support from USDA, IICA helped the victims of the torrential rains in Haiti by means of job creation programs, watershed management and disaster prevention.

In **Mexico**, one of the most important actions was the implementation of Zocalo Rural, an initiative designed to coordinate technical cooperation that provides direct support to the Government of Mexico in implementing the Sustainable Rural Development Act.

Another major contribution was the preparation of a study on the **impact of the U.S. Farm Bill on Mexico's agricultural sector**, at the request of the Secretariat of Agriculture.

## *Southern Region*

**In the Southern Region**, the Institute provided support to the Technical Secretariat of the South Agricultural Council (**CAS**) and other forums for analysis and dialogue, such as the Agricultural Policy Coordination Network of the Southern Region (REDPA), the Informal Group of Agricultural Negotiators and PROCISUR.

In the area of food safety and agricultural health, IICA helped strengthen the Plant Health Committee (COSAVE), including its technical management and the operation of the Standing Veterinary Committee.

New technological platforms were set up through PROCISUR to coordinate the work of the region's national agricultural research institutes; and an environmental sustainability program was implemented to strengthen technological innovation in the region.

In **Argentina**, the Institute supported forums on the “Agroindustrial Outlook: the countryside as a linchpin of Argentine society;” and on “China in the world agrifood market”, in collaboration with the Secretariat of Agriculture and the Commodity Exchange of Buenos Aires, respectively.

Another important activity was the organization of seminars for agricultural producers and entrepreneurs entitled “How to export agrifood products,” “New forms of financing-trusts” and “Competitiveness of the production chain for rabbit.”

The last of these seminars led to the creation of the Argentina Chamber of Rabbit Breeders.

In **Brazil**, the Institute’s supported the preparation and management of projects to combat rural poverty in several States, financed by the IDB. The creation of the “**Agribusiness node: Focal Point Brazil**” marks the start of an important project that will make Brazil’s experiences in the agribusiness field available to other IICA member countries.

In **Chile**, with the creation of the “**Horizontal Cooperation Node: Focal Point Chile**” we are initiating an important project whose objective is to provide IICA’s Member States with information on the Chilean experience in the development of agricultural exports.

IICA and FAO organized the First Hemispheric Meeting on the Control of Animal and Plant Diseases at International Borders. The IV Region of Chile also benefited from the creation of a technical group comprising farmers and professionals from

public institutions, under the program “Generation of capabilities for small-scale agricultural producers in Convento Viejo,” and the characterization of women producers in the area.

In **Paraguay**, IICA provided technical and administrative assistance in the execution of agricultural projects with financial resources from IDB. Among the most important initiatives, are the Support to the Development of Small Cotton Farms; the Technical Improvement and Diversification of Rural Production; the Support to the Environmental National System; the Strengthening of the Indigenous Paraguayan Institute; and the Health Education Program for the Protection of Public Health and Zoonosis.

In **Uruguay**, working with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries, IICA produced the Directory of Experts on Agricultural and Rural Topics, an important contribution to the projection of the country’s image and the implementation of an aggressive international cooperation policy.

The Institute also implemented a major lecture series entitled “**State policies: the agricultural sector in the years ahead**,” related to the facilitation of competitiveness and trade.

In this area, the Office continued to provide advisory services and training to Uruguay’s agricultural export sector, with support from the IDB.



## Relations with Strategic Partners

**B**y continuing to strengthen its relations with strategic partners, IICA was able to leverage resources for the implementation of agricultural and rural development activities and provide information about investment portfolios and priorities. The Committee to Coordinate Work with Strategic Partners was set up and given the task of defining an institutional approach for forging effective strategic partnerships and facilitating internal coordination.

The Institute continued to strengthen its alliances and ties with organizations involved in aspects of the agricultural trade negotiations, such as the WTO, FAO, the IDB/INTAL, ECLAC, ALADI, SIECA and CARICOM.

During 2005, IICA focused on the creation of alliances with new partners, such as Croplife, Starbucks, the World Food Prize Foundation and ECOSOC. It also made preliminary contacts with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and, working with USAID, made IICA Offices more efficient by instituting new institutional arrangements that take maximum advantage of the technical, financial and political resources available.

Efforts were made to increase the capabilities and opportunities offered by U.S. public institutions, companies and education centers involved in the improvement of agriculture and rural communities in the Americas. The Institute also continued to



strengthen relations with PAHO and the OAS in complementary areas of work.

IICA stepped up its joint activities with the IDB; reached agreement on a joint work plan with the OAS Rural Development Unit; negotiated a cooperative agreement with the University of Florida and the FAVA/Central America; and established strong ties with the MIGA, a key entity of the World Bank group with which a cooperation agreement is being drawn up.

Through its Office in Spain, the Institute developed and strengthened new partnerships with the European Commission and the bilateral agencies of the EU. It prepared and negotiated several EU-sponsored programs involving small business development, education, training and rural poverty alleviation, as well as projects designed to increase the use of science and technology in agriculture. Finally, a new cooperation agreement was signed with the Government of Spain, paving the way for continued IICA operations in Europe.

In the area of hemispheric integration, the Institute stepped up its work with the Inter-agency Group for Rural Development and the GECAFS, and negotiated initiatives for joint work with the RUPRI (the United States) involving the comparative evaluation of rural development policies.



Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture

**Headquarters**

P.O. Box 55-2200 Coronado, Costa Rica

Tel. (506) 216 0222

Fax. (506) 216 0233

E-mail: [iicahq@iica.int](mailto:iicahq@iica.int)

[www.iica.int](http://www.iica.int)