

OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS SERIES No. 105

# REPORT OF THE FORTIETH REGULAR MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

San Jose, Costa Rica

21 July 2020



# What is IICA?

More than 75 years ago, a group of visionaries recognized the need to create an agency specializing in agriculture for the American continent, with a purpose that still remains valid today: to promote agricultural development and rural well-being in this region.

As a result, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) was born. Throughout this time, the Institute has succeeded in identifying challenges and opportunities and, most importantly, evolving into an international technical cooperation organization that permanently responds to the new demands of the agriculture sector.

Our **mission** is to *encourage, promote and support our Member States in their efforts to achieve agricultural development and rural well-being through international technical cooperation of excellence.*

Our **vision** is to *be a modern and efficient institution supported by a platform of human resources and processes that are capable of mobilizing the knowledge available in the region and around the world, with the aim of achieving a competitive, inclusive and sustainable agriculture that takes advantage of opportunities to contribute to economic growth and development as well as to foster greater rural well-being and sustainable management of its natural capital.*

We provide cooperation by working closely and continuously with our 34 Member States, addressing their needs in a timely manner. Our most valuable asset is undoubtedly the close relationship we maintain with the beneficiaries of our work.

We have a wealth of experience in areas such as technology and innovation for agriculture, agricultural health and food safety, agribusiness, agricultural trade, rural development, natural resource management and training.

We are also committed to achieving results. Our 2018-2022 Medium Term Plan enables us to develop our technical cooperation model with the aim of consolidating IICA as an organization geared towards accomplishing concrete and visible results through our area of expertise, which is to facilitate positive changes in the agriculture and rural sectors of our Member States.



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Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) 2020



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# **MINUTES OF THE MEETING**



**MINUTES OF THE FORTIETH REGULAR MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR COOPERATION ON AGRICULTURE (IICA)**

The Fortieth 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 Resolution No. 657 of that governing body of the Institute. On this occasion, the meeting was held virtually.

The 2020 Executive Committee comprised the following Member States: Argentina, The Bahamas, Bolivia, Costa Rica, Guyana, Haiti, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, the United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela.

**PREPARATORY SESSION**

0.1 *Opening of the session*

0.1.1 The Preparatory Session of the Fortieth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) was called to order at 08:10 hours on 21 July 2020, and held virtually from the Sala Magna (United States and Canada rooms) at IICA Headquarters. The session was chaired from The Bahamas by Mr. Michael Pintard, Minister of Agriculture and Marine Resources of that country, which occupied the presidency of the Executive Committee at that time.

0.1.2 The Director General of IICA gave a warm welcome to the participants. He explained that the meeting was being held virtually in light of the global

health emergency triggered by the Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, noting that the majority of the Member States of the Committee had approved the virtual modality.

0.1.3 Next, he announced that the representatives of eleven of the Member States sitting on the 2020 Executive Committee were in attendance, and that 19 member states of the Institute were participating as observers.

## 0.2 Agreements

### 0.2.1 Election of the Chair and Rapporteur of the meeting

0.2.1.1 The representatives of the Member States on the Executive Committee unanimously elected Mr. Carlos María Uriarte, Minister of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries of Uruguay, as Chair of the meeting, following a proposal by the Representative of Argentina.

0.2.1.2 Next, the Technical Secretary proposed Mr. Edgar Mata, Executive Director of the Executive Secretariat for Agricultural Sectoral Planning (SEPSA), as Rapporteur, considering the fact that the meeting was being held virtually but that the delegation of Costa Rica was present at IICA Headquarters. The Member States of the Committee unanimously approved the proposal.

0.2.1.3 The Officers of the Meeting were elected as follows:

Chair:	Carlos María Uriarte
Rapporteur:	Edgar Mata
<i>Ex officio</i> Secretary:	Manuel Otero

### 0.2.2 Agenda of the meeting

0.2.2.1 The Chair submitted for consideration by the representatives the provisional work agenda of the meeting, included in document No. 705 (20). The provisional work agenda was approved without changes.

0.2.2.2 The Chair then informed the participants that the working and information documents of the meeting had been made available to the Member States in electronic format, and in Spanish and English, via the online information system.

0.2.3 Working committees

0.2.3.1 It was agreed that no working committees would be established, and that all matters would be dealt with in the plenary sessions.

0.2.4 Duration of the meeting

0.2.4.1 It was agreed that the Closing Session of the meeting would take place on Tuesday, 21 July 2020 at 12:00 hours.

0.2.5 Countries' right to vote

0.2.5.1 The Chair sought the opinion of the legal adviser with respect to the scope and application of the rules governing the right to vote in meetings of the Executive Committee, in accordance with its Rules of Procedure and other provisions relating to their application.

0.2.5.2 The legal adviser explained the provisions of Chapter IX of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee and of Article 24 of the IICA Convention, regarding the right to vote. He informed the meeting that, of all the members of the Executive Committee, only Bolivia was in arrears according to the provisions of that article; however, the country has been in discussions with the Director General to bring its outstanding quota payments up to date. Therefore, he recommended that the other countries grant Bolivia the right to vote during the meeting. The Member States of the Executive Committee endorsed the recommendation.

0.2.6 Credentials

0.2.6.1 The Technical Secretary reported that all delegations of Member States present that were part of the Executive Committee had been supported and accredited with the corresponding credentials issued by the responsible authorities in each country.

0.2.6.2 He also indicated that 19 IICA Member States—Antigua and Barbuda, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Dominica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saint Lucia, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago—would participate in the meeting as observers. He

added that Spain—an associate country of IICA—and four permanent observer countries—China, France, Russia and Turkey—were also attending the meeting.

0.3 *Close of the session*

0.3.1 The Preparatory Session of the Fortieth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee was adjourned at 08:39 hours on 21 July 2020.

## PLENARY SESSION

### 1.1 Opening of the session

1.1.1 The Plenary Session of the Fortieth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) was called to order at 08:40 hours on 21 July 2020, and was chaired by the Representative of Uruguay.

### 1.2 Challenges for the new technical cooperation model: The spirit of '42

#### 1.2.1 Introduction: Challenges for IICA: The spirit of '42

1.2.1.1 The Director General welcomed the representatives of the Member States, permanent observer countries, international organizations, special guests, Institute personnel and other participants in the Executive Committee meeting.

1.2.1.2 He noted that holding the regular meeting of the Executive Committee virtually for the first time ever, in light of the global pandemic caused by Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19), was a major milestone for IICA. He stated that the pandemic has triggered an unprecedented socioeconomic crisis that has clearly demonstrated the strategic nature and resilience of the agriculture sector, which is often undervalued and is not given the necessary priority in public agendas.

1.2.1.3 He added that agriculture is currently considered a crucial sector for development, given its important role in guaranteeing food and nutritional security, as well as in generating quality jobs and foreign exchange. He mentioned that it is necessary to foster the sector's interaction with science and technology.

1.2.1.4 He stressed the fact that the pandemic has made it necessary to redefine the foundation for multilateral cooperation as well as restructure the strategies of international organizations like IICA, whose actions must be better aligned with the real issues facing countries and must offer efficient and rapid solutions to their demands and needs.

- 1.2.1.5 He called for recapturing the spirit with which the Institute was founded in 1942 during times of war and uncertainty, in which technical cooperation had played a crucial role in providing raw materials to rebuild the world. He underscored the fact that, amidst the pandemic, swift efforts have been undertaken to build a virtual IICA, which has succeeded in adequately addressing the issues facing rural areas as well as the needs of governments, seeking to provide effective and timely responses. He noted that the Institute has supported and fostered regional and intraregional trade, as well as contributed to guaranteeing food supply and driving the establishment of agreements to create protocols that facilitate the operation of value chains, particularly to support family farming.
- 1.2.1.6 Next, he referred to two partnerships that the Institute had recently established to foster the development of the rural and agriculture sectors: a) the agreement with Precision Agriculture for Development (PAD), a foundation led by Michael Kremer, winner of the 2019 Nobel Prize in Economics, which will allow for driving a digital agricultural revolution; and b) the implementation of a hemispheric soil health program under the guidance of Rattan Lal, winner of the 2020 World Food Prize, who had been recently appointed IICA Goodwill Ambassador and bestowed the title of IICA Chair.
- 1.2.1.7 He added that, within the context of the pandemic, the Institute has deepened its transformation process through a series of necessary reforms. He explained that these extraordinary times call for extremely efficient and transparent organizations that are capable of undertaking more actions with limited resources. He mentioned that this institutional transformation process would be completed by 2022, the year in which IICA would celebrate 80 years of history built with support from all its member countries.
- 1.2.2 Message from the Chair of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA)
- 1.2.2.1 Mr. Osmar Benítez, Minister of Agriculture of the Dominican Republic, praised the organization of the Fortieth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee, which was geared towards discussing the major challenges facing agriculture, food and food security in the Americas and around the world, as well as the challenges for technical cooperation with respect to these issues.



- 1.2.2.2 He noted that, within the context of the current public health crisis, governments must guarantee food security by designing public policies that facilitate farming activities. He mentioned that public-private partnerships are required to strengthen production systems and ensure that distribution channels provide access to safe, quality food. As an example, he remarked that the Dominican Republic is undertaking efforts to encourage farmers to continue producing food, generating income and providing their families with safety and stability.
- 1.2.2.3 Lastly, he underscored the importance of analyzing IICA's foundations, with a view to guaranteeing food supply, trade and food security through joint efforts.
- 1.2.3 Challenges for the new technical cooperation model
- 1.2.3.1 Mrs. Rebeca Grynspan, Ibero-American Secretary General (SEGIB), indicated that, within the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Institute has proven to be at the forefront of agriculture, rural life and food. She underscored the fact that international organizations have bolstered their leading role and power to convene, fostering dialogues at the technical and political levels in order to identify ways to overcome the current crisis whilst building an impressive international network. She added that countries must raise their voices in favor of multilateralism, considering the fact that the international context has been characterized by national and even nationalistic responses to a global issue.
- 1.2.3.2 She highlighted the fact that international cooperation in the 21<sup>st</sup> century must become more horizontal, in order to foster the joint development of solutions to the effects of the current pandemic. To this end, she considered that it will become necessary to build new ecosystems for international cooperation, in which all parties can serve as recipients and suppliers of knowledge and experience. She added that SEGIB and IICA have been undertaking efforts in this regard.
- 1.2.3.3 She noted that international organizations must serve as networks, given the fact that sufficient resources are not available to resolve issues unilaterally. She added that, in difficult times such as those we are currently facing, organizations must provide hope and channel multilateral efforts towards

transforming reality, with a view to achieving greater equity and fostering sustainable development.

1.2.4 The status of food security in the Americas

1.2.4.1 Mr. Cassio Luiselli, member of IICA's Advisory Council for Food Security in the Americas, stated that the key word in food security is "access", explaining that it is crucial to provide minimum levels of food and nutrition to enable people to lead healthy, productive lives in a sustained manner over time.

1.2.4.2 He pointed out that Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) is facing food security issues due to the uneven distribution of wealth in most countries. He indicated that, over the past two years, economic conditions in the region have affected the progress that had been achieved with respect to food security, adding that the current pandemic could drastically aggravate this situation. However, he mentioned that LAC is the region with the greatest agricultural potential in the world, noting its unique opportunities and capabilities thanks to its fertile land, biodiversity and good water supply, which are necessary to guarantee food security in the countries and contribute to feeding the world.

1.2.4.3 He stated that the phenomenon has had different manifestations depending on the subregion. He explained that the Atlantic region of South America is the subregion with the greatest potential for agricultural production, given the fact that Brazil and Argentina are the main agrifood superpowers in LAC. He mentioned that Brazil is the world's fourth largest producer of food, with great production potential and an agricultural frontier of more than one million square kilometers; that Argentina has highly fertile land; and that Paraguay and Uruguay have very good production levels.

1.2.4.4 He indicated that there are contrasting situations in the Andean subregion, where poverty and food insecurity are growing in urban areas, despite the high levels of productivity in inland valleys, areas along the Pacific coast, and plains of the Atlantic coast.

1.2.4.5 He noted that Central America has achieved substantial progress with respect to production, highlighting the fact that Mexico has become a net exporter of

food at the global level, a situation that is in stark contrast to the food issues that have emerged in the Central American Dry Corridor.

1.2.4.6 With respect to the Caribbean subregion, he underscored the need to provide Haiti with urgent support in matters related to food security. He mentioned that the rest of the countries in the subregion have good levels of per capita income, but, with the exception of Suriname and Guyana, are net food importers because of the low productive capacity of the land.

1.2.4.7 He explained that, within this context, cooperation actions must be geared towards reactivating trade and increasing local production, based on the specific characteristics of each country. He reported that, according to data available, countries have continued to produce despite the pandemic, achieving good harvests, storing grains, maintaining an acceptable flow of trade and facing little variation in prices. He commented that the main issues have been associated with demand, due to the closure of economic activities; he warned that this could contribute to increases in poverty and a reduction in food security, both in urban and rural areas.

1.2.4.8 He concluded his remarks by citing actions that the Advisory Council for Food Security in the Americas had proposed to the Institute and in which efforts are being undertaken: a) providing direct food support to vulnerable rural and urban populations by means of food donations, transfers and subsidies, through joint work with civil society and the private sector; b) strengthening support for production, particularly family farming, through specific actions, such as the provision of seeds, fertilizers and credit opportunities to swiftly activate production and reactivate supply chains; and c) achieving greater international trade openness by fostering integration in LAC and guaranteeing smooth trade with no administrative or tariff barriers, while taking into account agricultural health and food safety.

## 1.2.5 Partnerships for the future of IICA

1.2.5.1 A video was transmitted to provide an overview of the awards received by scientist Rattan Lal, a former member of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, who received the Nobel Peace Prize in 2007; was awarded the 2020 World Food Prize; was appointed as an IICA Goodwill Ambassador in sustainable development issues; and was awarded the title of IICA Chair in Soil Science, in recognition of his contributions to and research on

protecting the health of this resource, which is essential for agriculture, food security and the health of all living beings.

- 1.2.5.2 The video indicated that the Director General of the Institute had presented Mr. Lal with these distinctions during a virtual ceremony attended by the Ministers of Agriculture of Barbados, Chile and Costa Rica; the Administrator of the Foreign Agricultural Service of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA); the Vice Provost for Global Strategies and International Affairs of Ohio State University; the President of the World Food Prize Foundation; and the Ambassador of the United States to the United Nations (UN) Agencies.
- 1.2.5.3 The Director General of IICA highlighted Mr. Lal’s career and commitment to preserving soil health.
- 1.2.6 Analysis and comments
- 1.2.6.1 The Representative of the United States of America thanked the Director General for the hard work the Institute has been undertaking amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. He applauded the leadership of the Minister of Agriculture of Chile and the Secretary of Agriculture of Mexico in hosting two high-level meetings with the Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas, which were held in April and July and were successfully organized by IICA and FAO with a view to undertaking actions to support food security during these difficult times.
- 1.2.6.2 He stated that his country pays tribute to those who, during these times of uncertainty, work to support the agriculture sector, which has demonstrated a high level of resilience to the pandemic and is playing a leading role in improving the economy and fostering development on our continent. He reiterated the commitment of the United States to the Institute, which it views as a key partner in building capacities and providing technical cooperation to foster food security, international trade and agricultural markets.
- 1.3 Technical cooperation, from dialogue to action
- 1.3.1 The Director General announced that, as part of the efforts to reenvision IICA, a presentation entitled “Technical cooperation, from dialogue to action” had been prepared to describe the new context for cooperation and its

linkages to food security during COVID-19. A report on the progress of the 2018-2022 Medium-term Plan (MTP) would also be shared.

### 1.3.2 Report on the progress of the 2018-2022 MTP

1.3.2.1 The Institute's Director of Technical Cooperation mentioned a few aspects that characterize today's IICA: an organization with "open doors" that has provided uninterrupted technical cooperation over the course of 78 years, that has renewed its image and philosophy, that possesses an innovative knowledge management platform, and that has established strategic linkages through numerous public-private partnerships.

1.3.2.2 He commented that, amidst the crisis situation generated by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Institute has fostered technical dialogues with a view to strengthening cooperation with various sectors, prioritizing relationships with governments through their ministries and secretariats of Agriculture. He recalled that more than 23 meetings have been held at the sub-regional level since March, including with the Southern Agricultural Council (CAS), the Central American Agricultural Council (CAC), the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the Andean Community (CAN). He added that more than 30 bilateral dialogues have also been held, including with the recently created Agricultural Parliamentary Group of the Southern Region, as well as virtual meetings with representatives of international companies involved in the private agrifood sector and stakeholders of the poultry and dairy chains.

1.3.2.3 Among the most noteworthy dialogues, he cited the two hemispheric meetings of ministers and secretaries of Agriculture that had been jointly organized by IICA and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to address issues of interest to the Member States, such as inter- and intraregional trade, food security, family farming, agrifood supply, actions to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and sanitary and phytosanitary measures in agrifood systems.

1.3.2.4 He noted that IICA had created the Advisory Council for Food Security in the Americas, which is made up of renowned specialists from nine countries and has allowed for strengthening the Institute's analytical capacity. The Council issues recommendations to manage the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on food security in the region as well as to improve the performance of the agrifood sector to drive economic recovery.

- 1.3.2.5 The Director of Technical Cooperation commented that IICA had created the Food Security Monitor for the Americas, a tool that compiles and analyzes information related to food production, trade and supply; the IICA Blog, a platform for hemispheric dialogue among agricultural leaders regarding the impact of COVID-19 and the responses of countries to the pandemic; and a Food Vulnerability Index.
- 1.3.2.6 He added that IICA had organized a series of eleven seminars entitled “Reflections on the World and Food Security in Latin America and the Caribbean post-Covid-19”, which has been viewed more than 22,000 times. The Institute had also signed an agreement with Precision Agriculture for Development (PAD) to increase the use of digital technologies with support from the foundation. Furthermore, with support from Dr. Rattan Lal, winner of the 2020 World Food Prize, an initiative had been launched with the aim of maintaining soil health in the Americas, as a key element in addressing the threats posed by climate change.
- 1.3.2.7 He noted that significant efforts have been undertaken with respect to communication, with a view to strengthening the social and political standing of agriculture as well as generating greater awareness about the sector and rurality. He pointed out that the annual volume of content produced by the Institute had increased by 50%, and that the annual number of followers on its social networking site had grown by 30%. He mentioned that the Institute had established a Communications Council involving the *ad honorem* participation of 11 journalists from the Americas and media outlets related to the agriculture sector; the Council members advise on and contribute to disseminating and continuously updating information on IICA’s cooperation actions.
- 1.3.2.8 He explained that these actions are aligned with five programs and two cross-cutting issues, which are implemented in a coordinated manner by means of a solid structure of 35 offices supported by five regional coordinators. He noted that more than 200 technical cooperation actions have been implemented over the past year, and cited the main results achieved by each program and cross-cutting issue:
- As part of the Bioeconomy and Production Development Program, 23 actions are being carried out at the hemispheric, regional and national levels. One of the main activities involves promoting virtual platforms to

analyze the potential afforded by the bioeconomy with respect to food security and economic recovery in the aftermath of COVID-19.

- Within the framework of the Territorial Development and Family Farming Program, 81 technical cooperation actions are being carried out. One example is the “Knowledge Management for the Adaptation of Family Farming to Climate Change” (INNOVA-AF) project, which is being implemented in Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, the Dominican Republic and Bolivia with financial support from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). Thus far, the project has reached 2,500 direct beneficiaries and 12,500 indirect beneficiaries.
- The Climate Change, Natural Resources and Management of Production Risks Program is implementing 23 actions aimed at fostering resilient, low-carbon agriculture. One of the most important actions is the development of the “Matelot” climate-smart villages, which have allowed for providing training to 300 people in six Caribbean countries. Another relevant action is the validation of a sustainable rice intensification system, which has demonstrated that it is possible to maintain rice productivity while reducing water and seed use by more than 60% and 85%, respectively.
- The International Trade and Regional Integration Program has developed 21 technical cooperation actions, one of the most noteworthy of which was a virtual business roundtable jointly organized by the Latin American Integration Association (ALADI), the Secretariat for Central American Economic Integration (SIECA), the Secretariat for Central American Economic Integration (SICA) and FAO, in which 550 companies from across the region participated, and which allowed for identifying business opportunities representing more than USD 4.5 million. He also highlighted the creation of an application for exclusive use by ministers and secretaries of Agriculture, aimed at fostering intraregional trade between Central America, Mexico and the Dominican Republic within the framework of the AGROINNOVA project, implemented with support from the European Union. On the other hand, he noted that a course entitled “Preparing to Export Agrifood Products”, developed together with the Forum for International Trade Training (FITT), had been carried

out, which had allowed for providing training to staff from more than 600 companies.

- The Agricultural Health, Safety and Food Quality Program is implementing 52 actions, including meetings and training sessions with the USDA to support Codex Alimentarius, as well as the signing of a long-term agreement in the amount of USD 3.5 million with the United States Codex Office. More than 3,648 producers have also received training to improve their compliance with the requirements for exporting fresh produce to the United States. Furthermore, with support from the European Union, the Institute held a Course on Prevention Measures Within the Agriculture Sector During Covid-19, which had more than 2,000 participants.
- As part of the cross-cutting issue Innovation and Technology, IICA had developed the “AgriExt” application to support agricultural extension services in the Caribbean, implementing the pilot plan in Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. Furthermore, together with the private sector and under the leadership of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock of Ecuador, IICA has begun the process of developing a hackathon aimed at designing technological tools to facilitate linkages between family farmers and consumers.
- Lastly, as part of the cross-cutting issue of Gender and Youth, IICA had organized a hemispheric forum and two regional forums for rural youth with a total of 16,900 participants, as well as a hemispheric forum and four regional forums for rural women, which were attended by more than 17,400 women. Additionally, the Institute had created the Platform for Women Entrepreneurs involved in Family Farming in the Expanded Mercosur Region, which is made up of women’s organizations as well as civil society and institutional sector organizations from Argentina, Chile, Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Paraguay and Uruguay.

1.3.2.9 The Director of Technical Cooperation of IICA highlighted direct cooperation efforts that had been undertaken with the Mexican Association of Food Banks, which provides support in response to migrations from Central America. He commented that IICA had also worked directly with the Mesoamerican Coffee Board; had provided technical and administrative assistance to the Coffee Bonus and Solidarity Bonus for Food Security of the



Government of Honduras; had supported the management of the Technical Training and Assistance Program for Sustainable Coffee and Cocoa Production in Ecuador; and had collaborated in the implementation of the Central American Program for Integrated Coffee Rust Management (PROCAGICA) and the Adapted Agroforestry Systems for the Central American Dry Corridor (AGRO-INNOVA).

- 1.3.2.10 He advised that, in the area of knowledge management and horizontal cooperation services, the Institute had delivered 45 online courses to 30,000 participants over the first seven months of the year; documents in the institutional repository had recorded more than one million additional views and that the Alliance of Agricultural Information and Documentation Services of the Americas (SIDALC) had assisted more than 2 million users in 2020.
- 1.3.2.11 In closing, he remarked that IICA was striving to engage more closely with countries to strengthen actions at the sub-regional level; to promote the creation of supranational public goods that would provide concrete, timely and impactful solutions; to strengthen the innovative knowledge management platform; to increase its high-level strategic partnerships; and to drive the procurement of external resources, through donor roundtables and participation in project formulation processes.

### 1.3.3 Analysis and comments

- 1.3.3.1 The Representative of Bolivia remarked that the Institute is not solely a service provider, but an integral part of its Member States. He underscored the role that IICA had played in assisting his country to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic, by providing support in matters related to the strategic issue of food and in developing a plan to reactivate production chains within a two-year period. He proposed that IICA should become a facilitator for international cooperation between countries and that a public-private fund be established to spur horizontal cooperation in the post-pandemic period.
- 1.3.3.2 The Representative of Canada pointed out that for many years the Institute had geared its actions and projects toward food security, particularly for vulnerable communities, expressing her confidence that it would be able to avoid taking any measures that would prevent it from continuing to offer its services. She highlighted the importance of the many meetings that IICA had

organized with governments, the private sector, international organizations and other sectors, in particular, the two successful hemispheric ministerial meetings that had facilitated the sharing of perspectives and experiences on how to reduce the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the region. She acknowledged the value of the technical cooperation instruments and actions discussed in the Report on the Progress of the 2018-2022 MTP.

1.3.3.3 The Representative of the United States of America thanked the Director General and the Institute staff for the achievements outlined in the report on the MTP and for the proposed plan of action, which seek to call attention to the importance of agriculture and food. He spoke of the importance of public-private exchange, as well as the need to avoid policies that restrict the trade of safe food and measures that are not science-based. The Representative also maintained that innovation and technological development will be essential to sustainability and to overcoming the crisis. In his view, e-commerce and virtual platforms will be vital to ensuring food security and spurring trade in the region.

1.3.3.4 The Representative of Argentina thanked IICA for its ceaseless efforts and commitment to food security in the Americas, highlighting the following: a) hemispheric dialogue during the pandemic, which he felt should be continued; b) the establishment of partnerships with the private sector, an initiative of tremendous strategic importance; c) continuous support on Codex matters, through the Agricultural Health, Safety and Food Quality Program; and d) the promotion of international trade, based on transparency and science-based rules.

#### 1.3.4 Reading and approval of the draft resolution

1.3.4.1 The Rapporteur read out draft resolution “IICA’s Actions within the Framework of its 2018-2022 Medium-term Plan, to Support its Member States in Overcoming the Crisis Triggered by the COVID-19 Emergency”.

1.3.4.2 The Representative of Colombia remarked that the Institute had been a leader in the area of agricultural policy to address the COVID-19 pandemic. He felt that IICA’s recommendations for the short and medium term had proven relevant to maintaining the joint fight to address the pandemic.

- 1.3.4.3 The Representative of Guyana expressed his support for the resolution and underscored the importance of its content.
- 1.3.4.4 The draft resolution was approved without modifications.
- 1.4 *Institutional transformation process to advance towards a renewed IICA*
- 1.4.1 Presentation of a report on the institutional transformation process
- 1.4.1.1 The presentation summarized the main actions undertaken by the Institute in pursuit of institutional transformation, which were based on the seven principles of administrative management defined in the 2018-2022 MTP: transparency and accountability, decentralization and operational flexibility, budgetary administration, efficient and effective support of technical cooperation activities, timely information, a process culture and a results-based approach.
- 1.4.1.2 Furthermore, it mentioned that there were two corporate priorities:
  - a) institutional transformation, shifting from a hierarchical culture to a process culture that facilitates alignment, coordination and collaborative work; and
  - b) more efficient and effective institutional management that enables greater optimization of resources and increased provision of excellent technical cooperation services.
- 1.4.1.3 It also explained that through its multidisciplinary teams, IICA was promoting the decentralization of operational management, as well as a series of organizational culture actions that would allow employees to improve their performance, enhance their training and develop conscious leadership skills.
- 1.4.1.4 The presentation also stressed that IICA prioritizes transparency and accountability, which are critical to maintaining the confidence of the Member States. This had been borne out by the fact that since 2018, the Institute's financial statements had received a clean audit opinion, in accordance with international rules and procedures.
- 1.4.1.5 On the other hand, it maintained that Headquarters communicated extensively with the Delegations, taking the specific characteristics of each country into account in the planning processes, to ensure that technical cooperation actions would achieve the greatest possible impact.

- 1.4.1.6 It stressed that digital transformation was important for IICA and therefore it had been developing systems to automate its processes and decision-making, as well as to drive the use of new digital technologies in the countries.
- 1.4.1.7 Another point highlighted was the fact that, on assuming office, the current Administration had introduced a policy of austerity, adopting the following measures: the freezing of vacant positions, promotion of voluntary separation, restructuring of 16 offices, reduction of the fleet of vehicles, negotiation of the amount paid for rental of office facilities, renegotiation of service contracts, promotion of virtual meetings, reduction of paper use and savings in costs for international travel. All of this had enabled the Institute to redirect USD 4.78 million into technical cooperation.
- 1.4.1.8 It emphasized that IICA would need all Member States to assist in this transformation process, by paying their quotas on a timely basis. Due to the crisis triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Institute had estimated that the quota resources collected could fall short of the projections in the 2020-2021 Program Budget by 35%. Given this situation, the General Directorate had acted responsibly and efficiently, by applying austerity measures; increasing the flexibility of operational procedures; creating the Single Fund for Technical Cooperation; strengthening the Emergency Fund and protecting the cash flow.
- 1.4.1.9 Finally, the presentation highlighted the fact that IICA was moving towards adopting a new business model to enable it to provide services that are extremely timely, relevant, flexible, of the highest quality and readily accessible. To this end, it would boost staff productivity; create conditions to enable the technical units to operate in line with the technical cooperation value chains; and adopt a more effective financial architecture to achieve the institute's mission, by way of new models for capturing and executing resources. The business model includes a plan for administrative decentralization, digitalization of processes, an analysis that involves the classification of the offices and the implementation of administrative clusters.
- 1.4.2 Twenty-sixth report of the Audit Review Committee (ARC)
- 1.4.2.1 On behalf of the ARC, Mrs. Carla Pike presented the report on the financial statements of the Institute. She congratulated IICA for the results of the audit

for 2019 and for having received a clean audit opinion from the external auditors for two years consecutively. She mentioned that these results should encourage the Institute to follow-up on the timely collection of quotas, continue its cost-saving initiatives and to safeguard the Institute's financial situation.

#### 1.4.3 Analysis and comments

- 1.4.3.1 The Representative of Argentina congratulated IICA for its transformation process, while recognizing its efforts to promote financial austerity and to channel more resources into technical cooperation. He underscored the commitment of his country to support the actions of the Institute and to bring its quota payments up to date.
- 1.4.3.2 The Representative of Haiti applauded IICA's efforts and advised that his country was facing a difficult situation, due to the decline in external financial resources. He also expressed an interest in finding out more about the cooperation activities that the Institute would continue to undertake in his country.
- 1.4.3.3 The Representatives of the United States of America and of Canada agreed on the importance of Member States paying their quotas in a timely manner, to ensure that the Institute could continue to operate effectively. They also thanked the Director General for his continuous efforts to adeptly manage the resources and for his actions to transform the Institute.
- 1.4.3.4 The Representative of Mexico indicated that she was pleased to observe the proactive way in which the Institute was leading the response of the agriculture sector to the COVID-19 emergency, having demonstrated a tremendous capacity for action to benefit this sector. She thanked the Director General for IICA's support in implementing a project involving the Food Bank in her country. She reiterated Mexico's support for the Institute, explaining that the IICA Mexico Delegation had relocated to a Federal Government building, thereby allowing IICA to generate USD 100,000 annually in savings for office rental.
- 1.4.3.5 The Director General thanked the participants for their show of support for the management of the Institute. He reiterated to the Representative of Haiti his commitment to support that country and to intensify cooperation actions

to assist its farmers and institutions, and by extension, those of the other Member States.

#### 1.4.4 Reading and approval of draft resolutions

1.4.4.1 The Rapporteur read out the following draft resolutions: “Report on the Collection of Quotas”, “2019 Financial Statements of IICA, Report of the External Auditors and Twenty-sixth Report of the Audit Review Committee (ARC)”, which were approved without modifications.

1.4.4.2 At 11:02 hours on 21 July 2020, the Plenary Session was temporarily halted, at the request of the Director General, to facilitate the holding of a Private Session with the representatives of the member countries on the Executive Committee, after which the Plenary Session would resume.

## PRIVATE SESSION

### 2.1 Opening of the session

2.1.1 The private session of the Fortieth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) was called to order at 11:03 hours on 21 July 2020 and was chaired by the Representative of Uruguay.

2.1.2 The Chair explained that the Director General would use the private session to submit certain matters for the consideration of the representatives of the Member States on the Executive Committee, who would then be given an opportunity to make their comments. He also mentioned that a draft resolution would be presented.

### 2.2 Remarks of the Director General

2.2.1 The Director General remarked that he was grateful for the opportunity to share his concerns about the current circumstances facing the Institute, whose financial situation had been aggravated by the pandemic. He indicated that, having rationalized resources as much as possible, IICA had achieved real savings of approximately USD 5 million, without having to neglect its cooperation actions at the national, regional and hemispheric levels. However, he shared his concerns that continued adjustments to rationalize the use of resources could compromise the operations of IICA in the countries and the effectiveness of its technical cooperation.

2.2.2 He then outlined other initiatives that could contribute to the financial sustainability of the Institute: a) the development of a new operational model at the national, regional and hemispheric levels to increase impact and reduce costs; b) the reduction of outstanding quota payments, given that these resources currently fund the Institute's operations; c) the issuing of an appeal to the countries, requesting that they offer a vote of confidence to IICA, providing it with external resources to administer and execute national projects, which would assist it in bolstering its quota resources; and d) assessment of other options, such as the provision of voluntary contributions by countries, in addition to the quota payments; the creation of

a foundation and the establishment of specific funds (crowdfunding or an international fund).

- 2.2.3 He stressed the need to garner additional external resources, as the Institute had projected that in 2020 it would collect only 50% of the quotas due and would be able to attract no more than USD 100 million in external resources, which would mean that in 2021 this would severely restrict its ability to deliver the technical cooperation that its Member States require.
- 2.2.4 He asked the members of the Executive Committee to endorse his proposal to convene at least two additional meetings of the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues (SACMI) during the final six months of the year, with a view to informing them about proposals regarding a new operational model and a new financial structure for IICA, and receiving their feedback. He stressed that the aim was to identify other means of mobilizing resources to enable IICA to improve its cooperation services to the countries.
- 2.2.5 He mentioned that in 2022 the Institute would celebrate 80 years of existence, a year in which it should honor its founders, by consolidating its position as a leading institute, striving to transform agriculture in the Americas in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.
- 2.2.6 In closing, he expressed his pride to be at the helm of an institution with an extensive track record and shared his desire to launch a new phase in IICA's history, which would be marked by transformation that would point the way to a future in which agriculture would be the strategic sector that would reactivate the region's economies.

### 2.3 Analysis and comments

- 2.3.1 The Representative of Argentina recognized the value of the Institute's work in supporting agriculture and rurality. He shared the Director General's concerns about the current difficulties and agreed that while austerity was a positive measure, it could not be pursued indefinitely, as it would affect the quality of the technical services provided. He therefore suggested that other options be explored. He advised that the Government of Argentina considered the payment of the quota to be a priority.



- 2.3.2 The Representative of the United States of America thanked the Director General for his remarks. He felt that a difficult moment like the present would call for innovative models and that the identification of new external resources could be challenging. He remarked that a survey of the data since 2009 demonstrated that there had been noticeable fluctuations in the amount of external resources that had been procured, which had affected the income derived from indirect cost recovery. The Representative explained that his country would not be able to offer voluntary contributions to IICA, as it had done to the United Nations (UN), and recommended that other options to attract private sector resources be explored, to develop more collaborative actions. He endorsed the initiative to hold additional meetings of the SACMI in the remainder of the year. However, given that the Statute of that Commission empowered the Director General to convene a meeting of the advisory body at his discretion, he therefore requested clarification as to the purpose of the draft resolution that had been proposed with regards to that matter.
- 2.3.3 The Representative of Honduras thanked the Institute for the assistance and support offered since he had assumed office as the Secretary of Agriculture and Livestock of his country. He commented that as Chair of the Central American Agricultural Council (CAC), during the first quarter of 2020 he had witnessed how critical IICA's support had been in defining a roadmap to tackle the pandemic triggered by Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) and its impact. He explained that his government had given the Institute a vote of confidence, by entrusting it to manage approximately USD 20 million for the administration and provision of technical assistance to the Coffee Bonus and Solidarity Production Bonus programs, which would benefit close to 91,000 and 180,000 small farmers, respectively, and assured the meeting that the management of the resources had been transparent and rapid, generating significant savings. In his capacity as Secretary of Agriculture and Livestock, he thanked the Director General and his regional and national technical teams for providing effective and immediate technical solutions in providing guidance for the creation of new projects and the handling of difficult situations.
- 2.3.4 The Representative of Paraguay commended and endorsed the actions that had been spearheaded by the Director General of IICA, which he believed were timely and appropriate for improving IICA's technical and financial management. According to him, the funding of the Institute had been a

recurring topic that the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) had been dealing with since 2013, the year in which it had approved an increase in the quotas. He applauded IICA's cost saving efforts. He also felt that the suggestion to explore the management of external resources was a wise one, given that health had now become the priority sector for countries. He confirmed the willingness of Paraguay to continue working with the Institute and to pay the 2020 quota.

- 2.3.5 The Representative of Colombia congratulated the Director General and committed to arrange for the processing of the payment of the outstanding quotas with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, despite the difficult situation that his country was currently facing. He indicated that the President of Colombia had issued a strong message of support for the agriculture sector, amidst the challenges it was experiencing, and that he was convinced that with the assistance of IICA it would be able to overcome them.
- 2.3.6 The Representative of Panama thanked the Director General and the Institute's technical teams for their support to his country and underscored the importance of cooperation in tackling the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the agriculture sector. He highlighted the fact that conquering it would require creativity, firstly, in the area of health, and then in the economic and social spheres, which had been affected by the suspension of production activities. He urged the countries to remain united, share experiences and to act in unison. The Representative assured the meeting that his country would pay its quota for this year and had already begun to plan for the payment for the upcoming year. He also advised that Panama was working with multilateral agencies to identify external resources for the agriculture sector.
- 2.3.7 The Representative of Mexico endorsed the efforts of the Director General of IICA to identify external resources for technical cooperation. She agreed with the comments of the Representative of the United States regarding the need to seek private sector funding. She informed the meeting that IICA Mexico was managing a significant number of national projects. Finally, she expressed her support for the Director General's proposal regarding the convening of the SACMI meetings.
- 2.3.8 The Chair, in his capacity as the Representative of Uruguay, recognized IICA for its efforts to transform the institution, applauding the transparency of its

actions and its reduced use of resources. He also urged the countries to promote Inter-American solidarity and reaffirmed the willingness of his country to continue supporting the Institute.

2.3.9 The Technical Secretary explained to the Representative of the United States of America that the proposed resolution sought to make it explicit that the Executive Committee had endorsed the actions and proposals presented by the Director General. With respect to the proposal to conduct additional meetings of the SACMI, he indicated that the Statute stipulates that a maximum of three meetings may be convened each year. Therefore, the intent was to introduce greater flexibility, given the extraordinary times, which may necessitate the convening of more meetings. He also stressed that the idea was to allow other Member States that were not members of the SACMI to also offer ideas and suggestions, thereby enriching the discussions.

#### 2.4 Reading and approval of the draft resolution

2.4.1 The Rapporteur read out the draft resolution “Support for IICA’s Institutional Transformation Process”.

2.4.2 The Representative of the United States requested clarification regarding the relevance of the resolution, specifically with respect to two matters: a) how the SACMI meetings could be held with all the Member States in attendance, if this was not in keeping with the provisions of SACMI; and b) the fact that the resolution mentioned issues referring to actions that were already underway, such as the execution of the 2018-2022 Medium-term Plan (MTP). He indicated that while he was not opposed to the resolution, he was requesting further details, particularly since a new business model and new financial structure were complex issues, which may require changes in institutional rules and policies.

2.4.3 The Technical Secretary explained that the resolution sought to clearly demonstrate the support expressed for the transformation process of the Institute and the fact that no change would be implemented without the authorization of the Executive Committee and the IABA. He noted that since the SACMI was an advisory rather than a governing body, it would be able to allow for more in-depth discussions and greater participation by Member States, which would not violate the Statute in any way. He assured the

meeting that the recommendations of the SACMI would be presented to the Executive Committee and then to the IABA.

2.4.4 The Director General remarked that it was his responsibility to carry out the directives issued by Member States via the governing bodies. The difficult situation at that moment would require the Institute to accelerate its transformation process. Thus, he felt the need to be assured that his actions were supported, and wished to give the SACMI a leading role in this process, while also providing him with an avenue to inform Member States about the changes being made and to receive their feedback. He made it clear that the intent of the resolution was to create a forum for discussion with the mandators of the Institute regarding complex issues.

2.4.5 The Representative of the United States insisted that he understood the need for discussion, in light of the current situation, and therefore pledged his support for the convening of as many meetings as necessary. He reiterated that he was not opposed to the resolution, on the understanding that it did not interfere with other spheres of competence.

2.4.6 The draft resolution “Support for IICA’s Institutional Transformation Process” was approved without modifications.

## 2.5 Close of the session

2.5.1 The Private Session of the Fortieth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee was adjourned at 11:58 hours on 21 July 2020.

## PLENARY SESSION

### 3.1 Resumption of the Plenary Session

3.1.1 At 11:59 hours, it was time for the Plenary Session to resume. The Chair asked the Technical Secretary to allow the other participants to rejoin the Fortieth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), so that the meeting could proceed with the items on the agenda.

### 3.2 Strengthening of strategic partnerships

#### 3.2.1 Strategic proposal on the operational framework for the Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE)

3.2.1.1 The Representative of Mexico presented the report on behalf of the Special Committee created by the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) to study, analyze and issue recommendations to the Fortieth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee regarding the feasibility of incorporating CATIE as an operational branch of the Institute, as well as other structural options to address the needs of Member States and measures to make the lands belonging to IICA and CATIE more productive. Mexico served as the Technical Secretary of the Committee, which was also comprised of Costa Rica, Ecuador, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico and the United States.

3.2.1.2 The Representative indicated that in February 2020, a virtual meeting had been held, with the support of IICA, which enjoyed the participation of members of the Committee and the Directors General of IICA and CATIE. The report requested by the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) had then been prepared in April.

3.2.1.3 She explained that the legal structure of the two institutions had been reviewed, and having assessed their regulatory structure, their legal scope and other considerations, it was determined that the conditions did not exist to facilitate the incorporation of CATIE into the Institute in a way that would contribute to the future viability of the Center.

- 3.2.1.4 Notwithstanding, the Committee was proposing the following recommendations to strengthen the existing conditions: a) analyze and evaluate modifications to the institutions that would facilitate their convergence; b) create a joint IICA/CATIE unit; c) earmark part of the Institute's contribution to CATIE to finance the activities of that unit; d) integrate the financial system of CATIE with IICA's system, via the SAP information system; e) combine activities in the member countries, to make common use of physical spaces and to manage projects jointly; and f) conduct an analysis of the salary scale for CATIE international staff to bring it in line with the Institute's scale. She advised that the proposed recommendations would not require any amendment of Law 8028 of the Republic of Costa Rica, and thus could be executed by the Directors General.
- 3.2.1.5 With respect to measures to make the lands belonging to IICA and CATIE more productive, she explained that the recommendations of the Committee were as follows: a) prepare a "master plan" for the strategic use of the real estate and production assets owned by the Institute and CATIE, and b) devise mechanisms for CATIE to generate its own income. She remarked that, based on these recommendations, a draft resolution had been prepared for the consideration of the Executive Committee, which had been made available to the countries via the online information system of the meeting.
- 3.2.2 Analysis and comments
- 3.2.2.1 The Representative of the United States of America proposed the addition of the following operative paragraph: "Prior to implementing provisions contained in this resolution, CATIE's Director General will consult with the Center's Governing Council of Ministers at their October 2020 meeting". He also indicated the importance of CATIE's training and research to small farmers in the region.
- 3.2.2.2 The Representative of Canada thanked the Special Committee for its work and stated that she agreed with the remarks of the Representative of the United States of America. She indicated that in view of the renewal of the IICA-CATIE contract for an additional 20 years, it would be necessary to explain how the restructuring of CATIE would be beneficial to the Center, and also how it would benefit the Institute. She also asked if the establishment of the IICA-CATIE unit would require IICA to contribute additional resources.

3.2.2.3 The Technical Secretary advised that the period to make any changes regarding the extension of the IICA-CATIE contract had expired two years earlier. However, he explained that adjustments could be made, with the agreement of the Government of Costa Rica. He also explained that the proposal would not require additional resources from the Institute, but instead was seeking to ensure that the resources contributed by IICA to CATIE, in accordance with the contract, would be used as efficiently as possible, while safeguarding the interests of both parties.

### 3.2.3 Reading and approval of the draft resolution

3.2.3.1 The Rapporteur read out the draft resolution “Report of the Special Committee on the Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE)”, having incorporated the text proposed by the United States of America.

3.2.3.2 The draft resolution was approved, with the change proposed by the Representative of the United States of America.

### 3.2.4 Relationship between IICA and CATIE

#### 3.2.4.1 2019 Report of CATIE

3.2.4.1.1 The Director General of CATIE reported on the main activities that the Center had undertaken in 2019. He explained that CATIE had remained true to its established purpose, given that its actions continue to focus on higher education and holistic research. He indicated that this had led to the adoption of new areas of focus, among them, agroforestry systems and silvopastoral systems for agriculture and sustainable livestock, model forests, forestry concessions, the blue economy and ecosystem services. He also expressed the hope that CATIE would soon be recognized as an international academic center.

3.2.4.1.2 Furthermore, he pointed out that CATIE’s research and development actions had been in keeping with the 15 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as they had contributed to the development of a resilient, inclusive and green agricultural economy and to natural resource conservation. He reported on specific actions that the Center had undertaken, most notably, projects focusing on climate smart agriculture for coffee and cocoa cultivation, as well

as on climate change; water harvesting and watersheds; sustainable livestock and biodiversity. He mentioned that CATIE was training students from 18 countries; had graduates from 20 countries; and had released 137 publications, as part of its work in knowledge management.

3.2.4.1.3 Finally, he referred to the main joint actions that had been pursued by the Center and the Institute, as partners for sustainable development, in particular, the following: a) the creation of a food bank to bolster the food security of vulnerable communities in Costa Rica; b) the implementation of the Central American Program for Integrated Coffee Rust Management (PROCAGICA) in the area of applied research and technology transfer; and c) the implementation of the Adapted Agroforestry Systems for the Central American Dry Corridor (AGRO-INNOVA) project, which is contributing to enhancing the climate resilience and food security of the extremely vulnerable households of small farmers in Central America.

### 3.2.5 Reading and approval of the draft resolution

3.2.5.1 The Rapporteur read out the draft resolution “2019 Report of the Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE)”, which was approved without modifications.

### 3.2.6 Relationship between IICA and the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI)

#### 3.2.6.1 Report of CARDI for the 2019-2020 biennium

3.2.6.1.1 The Executive Director of CARDI outlined the main actions undertaken during the 2019-2020 period. He recalled that the relationship between IICA and CARDI had begun 20 years before, when it was determined that the institutions could more effectively contribute to agricultural research and development in the Caribbean through inter-institutional collaboration rather than through independent action.

3.2.6.1.2 He listed the main achievements that had resulted from this IICA-CARDI partnership: management of germplasm, rehabilitation and resilience programs, institutional strengthening and the capacity development of key actors in the agriculture sector. He also mentioned two important actions undertaken in 2019, which were the establishment of the IICA-CARDI



Steering Committee, comprising six persons, three from each institution; and the creation of a project coordination mechanism, with the participation of one representative from each institution. He informed the meeting that joint initiatives had been implemented at the regional level in the Caribbean, as well as in Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Grenada and Trinidad and Tobago.

- 3.2.6.1.3 Finally, he listed some joint actions that would be developed by the institutions: a) activities aimed at post-COVID-19 recovery in the Caribbean; b) continued work in conjunction with the International Potato Center (CIP) to improve the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Regional Sweet Potato Germplasm Management Program and to build on the gains achieved in the Pilot Project for Climate Resilience, implemented by CARDI; c) close collaboration in pursuit of agreements in the framework of various CARICOM institutional mechanisms, among them, the Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Cluster, the Thematic Groups, and the Commodity Working Groups, as well as in the organization of Caribbean Week of Agriculture; and d) the continued participation of IICA as a key partner in the Regional Coconut Commodity Innovation Platform (RCCIP).

### 3.2.7 Reading and approval of the draft resolution

- 3.2.7.1 The Rapporteur read out the draft resolution “Report of the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute for the 2019-2020 Biennium”, which was approved without modifications.

### 3.3 Activities of the General Directorate and the governing bodies of IICA

- 3.3.1 The Technical Secretary suggested to the Chair that, given the virtual format of the meeting and subject to the approval of the Member States, the meeting could proceed directly to review the subsequent resolutions, bearing in mind that they related to reports that had been made available to the members sufficiently in advance via the information system of the Executive Committee. He explained that the Technical Secretariat would stand ready to address any queries regarding the reports.
- 3.3.2 The Chair submitted the suggestion of the Technical Secretary to the Member States for their consideration, and no objection was raised.

- 3.3.3 Consequently, the Rapporteur read out the draft resolution “2019 Annual Report of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)”, which was approved without modifications.
- 3.3.4 The Chair gave the floor to the Technical Secretary so that he could speak on the Report by the Representative of the IABA to the Governing Council and Board of Directors of CATIE for the 2019-2020 period.
- 3.3.5 The Technical Secretary explained that this report was pursuant to the mandate of the IABA that stipulates that the Board should appoint a representative from among those IICA Member States that are not members of the Center to serve on the Governing Council of CATIE.
- 3.3.6 The Rapporteur then proceeded to read out the draft resolution “Report of the 2020 Regular Meeting of the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues (SACMI)”, which was approved without modifications.
- 3.3.7 Next, the Chair handed the floor to the Technical Secretary so that he could speak to the 2019-2020 Report of the Inter-American Commission on Organic Agriculture (ICOA).
- 3.3.8 The Technical Secretary advised that since its establishment, as a matter of course, the report of the ICOA had been presented as an information document in the meetings of the Executive Committee, as required by the IABA. However, he explained that the draft resolution in reference to that matter had been submitted for the consideration of the Committee, given that the member countries of the ICOA had asked the Institute for the opportunity to revise and update the statute, which is an action that would require the approval of the Executive Committee. The purpose of the resolution, therefore, was to task the Director General of IICA with the responsibility to work with these countries to revise the statute.
- 3.3.9 The Rapporteur then read out the following drafts resolutions: “Report of the Inter-American Commission on Organic Agriculture (ICOA) 2019-2020”, “Status of the Resolutions of the Thirty-ninth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee and of the Twentieth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA)” and “Date and Venue of the Forty-first Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee”, which were approved without modifications.

3.4 Close of the session

- 3.4.1 The Plenary Session of the Fortieth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee ended at 13:04 hours on 21 July 2020.



## CLOSING SESSION

### 4.1 Opening of the session

4.1.1 The closing session of the Fortieth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) was called to order at 13:05 hours on 21 July 2020, chaired by the Representative of Uruguay.

### 4.2 Remarks by the Director General

4.2.1 The Director General congratulated the Chair for his competence and leadership in steering this first virtual meeting of the Executive Committee under such extraordinary circumstances. He thanked the member countries, associate members and observer countries of the Institute that had participated, as well as the international organizations and everyone in general, for their support to an Institute that he said he was honored to lead.

4.2.2 He reiterated certain key words that were mentioned during the meeting—innovation, tenacity, creativity and cooperation—all of which he felt were so necessary in these difficult times. He expressed his commitment to continue working to forge alliances, both with the public and private sector. He added that the new context creates multiple threats but also offers a tremendous opportunity to again prioritize the role of agriculture, recognizing it as a strategic sector that can provide timely and essential solutions to reactivate the economies and societies of the countries of the Americas, an objective for which IICA places itself at the service of its Member States.

4.2.3 He advised that in the coming months, meetings of the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues (SACMI) would be convened, with a view to submitting for its consideration various ideas that the Institute was proposing to implement, as well as to engage the support of the countries during this process.

4.2.4 He thanked the management, technical and support teams for their work and tremendous efforts in organizing this first virtual meeting of the Executive Committee, explaining that he wished to close with a video summarizing a

campaign that IICA had spearheaded to pay tribute to all the rural workers in the Americas, with the assistance of a number of renowned artistes.

#### 4.3 Analysis and comments

4.3.1 The Representative of Brazil reiterated his country's commitment to IICA, an institution that, having demonstrated its ability to triumph over adversities since 1942, had given him confidence that it would be able to overcome the difficulties of the present time as well as the budgetary constraints. He expressed the faith of his country in the Director General and the team of the Institute, while also sharing his hope that subsequent meetings would be organized that would facilitate more dynamic participation, to explore issues such as voluntary contributions and partnerships with the public sectors of non-member countries and with the private sector.

4.3.2 He remarked that the urgency of the current situation called for commitment and participation in the search for solutions that would increase the efficiency of actions to support farmers, which are the *raison d'être* of IICA. Furthermore, thanks to the work of the Institute, the countries would be able to move ahead, despite the Covid-19 pandemic.

4.3.3 The Representative of the United States of America remarked that this meeting of the Executive Committee had demonstrated that meetings can also be conducted virtually. He thanked all the IICA staff for their work in organizing the meeting; the Chair of the Executive Committee, for steering the meeting so efficiently; and the Director General for his leadership in the search for new ways to expand cooperation in the Americas and to tackle present and future challenges.

#### 4.4 Close of the meeting

4.4.1 The Fortieth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee was adjourned at 13:20 hours on 21 July 2020.

## **RESOLUTIONS**





## RESOLUTIONS

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IICA/CE/Res. 658 (XL-O/20)

21 July 2020

Original: Spanish

**RESOLUTION No. 658**

**2019 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE  
FOR COOPERATION ON AGRICULTURE (IICA)**

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Fortieth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/Doc. 712 (20), “2019 Annual Report of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)”,

CONSIDERING:

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

That the General Directorate prepared and published the 2019 Annual Report of IICA, which was presented to the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (OAS) in due time and form;

That the report describes the cooperation activities carried out by the Institute in 2019 for the purpose of implementing its cooperation agendas at the national, regional and hemispheric levels, within the framework of its 2018-2022 Medium-term Plan (MTP);

That the Representative of IICA in each of its 34 member countries presented to the national authorities the respective report on the cooperation that the Institute provided to the country in 2019; and

That the 2019 Annual Report of IICA is available for consultation in digital format on the Institute's website ([www.iica.int](http://www.iica.int)),

RESOLVES:

To approve the 2019 Annual Report of IICA.

IICA/CE/Res. 659 (XL-O/20)

21 July 2020

Original: Spanish

**RESOLUTION No. 659**

**IICA'S ACTIONS, WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF ITS 2018-2022 MEDIUM-TERM PLAN, TO SUPPORT ITS MEMBER STATES IN OVERCOMING THE CRISIS TRIGGERED BY THE COVID-19 EMERGENCY**

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Fortieth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/Doc. 707 (20), “IICA strategy in light of the COVID-19 emergency”, and the report presented by the Director General,

CONSIDERING:

That on 18 July 2018, in fulfillment of the mandate of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), and by means of resolution IICA/CE/Res. 629 (XXXVIII-O/18), the Executive Committee analyzed and approved the 2018-2022 Medium-term Plan (MTP) of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) as the guiding framework for its actions during that period;

That the 2018-2022 MTP outlines a new cooperation paradigm that is geared towards achieving an efficient and flexible IICA that prioritizes knowledge management and the development of public-private partnerships;

That the global health emergency triggered by the COVID-19 disease has profoundly altered social and economic relations in countries throughout the Americas, which has affected the lives and health of millions of people;

That in light of the ever-growing number of people infected and the unfortunate loss of thousands of human lives, governments and citizens have adopted restriction and containment measures to tackle the emergency, which, however, have paralyzed important economic activities;

That, despite the negative impact of the health emergency on some chains of the agrifood sector, agriculture has been key to overcoming the crisis, given that it has maintained production and demonstrated its leading role in guaranteeing food security for the population; and will be one of the decisive sectors for economic recovery post-COVID-19;

That there is an urgent need to bolster, by means of innovative mechanisms, the resilience of the agriculture and rural sectors to natural or economic external shocks, particularly with the aim of addressing the profound current crisis and its effects, as well as to involve all relevant stakeholders in this fundamental task;

That it has become evident that solidarity and international cooperation, particularly the work carried out by multilateral technical cooperation organizations like IICA, are tremendously valuable in overcoming the pandemic; and

That, despite the challenging circumstances, the General Directorate of the Institute has strengthened its support to the Member States by developing innovative mechanisms aimed at fostering dialogue, providing information and improving capacities,

#### RESOLVES:

1. To acknowledge the efforts undertaken by IICA's Member States during the current emergency to maintain and improve the performance of the agriculture sector at the national, regional and hemispheric levels, as well as to guarantee food security and protect the well-being of rural workers.
2. To acknowledge and endorse the work that the Institute and its Director General have carried out to support the countries, particularly the ministries of agriculture, which has enabled IICA to consolidate its standing as an institution that listens to its member countries and proposes solutions to address their demands and needs.
3. To urge the Member States to reinforce their support to the Institute, making the greatest possible efforts to bolster its technical and financial capacity, so that it may continue to provide technical cooperation of excellence for agricultural and rural development.

4. To request that the Director General continue to explore innovative solutions to strengthen IICA's technical cooperation services, especially through activities that allow for bringing together all sector stakeholders to create a sustainable and resilient agriculture sector.

IICA/CE/Res. 660 (XL-O/20)

21 July 2020

Original: Spanish

**RESOLUTION No. 660****SUPPORT FOR IICA'S INSTITUTIONAL TRANSFORMATION PROCESS**

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Fortieth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

The presentation by the Director General on the situation of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and his proposal to advance the institutional transformation process,

CONSIDERING:

That the emergency situation triggered by the COVID-19 global pandemic has, among other things, resulted in an increased demand for technical cooperation from IICA; and

That, in order to implement the Institute's 2018-2022 Medium-term Plan and respond to the emerging needs of the Member States, it is necessary to advance IICA's institutional transformation process, as well as mobilize human resources and additional external financial resources that would allow for bolstering its support for agricultural development and rural well-being,

RESOLVES:

1. To support the Director General's initiative to advance the institutional transformation process, which should involve efforts consistent with the Institute's objectives, including: a) the definition of a new business model, b) the development of a new financial architecture and c) the mobilization and collection of external resources from various funding sources.



2. To instruct the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues (SACMI) to serve as an extended permanent working group aimed at supporting, analyzing and developing a proposal for IICA's comprehensive transformation.

IICA/CE/Res. 661 (XL-O/20)

21 July 2020

Original: Spanish

**RESOLUTION No. 661****REPORT ON THE COLLECTION OF QUOTAS**

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Fortieth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/Doc. 709 (20), “Status of the Collection of Quota Contributions”,

CONSIDERING:

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

That the timely payment of quota contributions and the collection of arrears from previous years facilitate the implementation of the programs and projects included in the cooperation strategies established at the national, regional and hemispheric levels in the 2018-2022 Medium-term Plan (MTP) of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA); and

That the payment of quotas by the member countries must be accelerated to enable the Institute to continue fulfilling its mission to encourage, promote and support agricultural and rural development in the countries, especially given the issues they are facing as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic,

RESOLVES:

1. To thank the ministers of Agriculture and Foreign Affairs, as well as other high-level government officials in IICA’s Member States, for the efforts they have been making to honor their annual quota payments to the Institute.

2. To acknowledge the fact that, amidst the difficult situation that IICA and its member countries are facing as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, it has become even more important to maintain in effect the measures established by the Executive Committee and the IABA to urge the Institute's Member States to make their annual quota payments and pay arrears for previous years in a timely fashion.
3. To instruct the Director General to: a) continue efforts to collect the quotas for 2020 and those owed for previous years; and b) keep IICA's member countries informed of progress in this area.
4. To urge the Member States to remain current with the payment of their quotas to the Institute, and those that are in arrears, to follow through with the plans agreed upon to meet their financial obligations to IICA, which are key actions to enable the Institute to remain a strong institution that effectively carries out its mission to support its Member States.

IICA/CE/Res. 662 (XL-O/20)

21 July 2020

Original: Spanish

**RESOLUTION No. 662****2019 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR COOPERATION ON AGRICULTURE (IICA), REPORT OF THE EXTERNAL AUDITORS AND TWENTY-SIXTH REPORT OF THE AUDIT REVIEW COMMITTEE (ARC)**

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Fortieth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Documents IICA/CE/Doc. 710 (20), “2019 Financial Statements of IICA and Report of the External Auditors” and IICA/CE/Doc. 711 (20), “Twenty-sixth Report of the Audit Review Committee (ARC)”,

CONSIDERING:

That Article 4.d of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee establishes that it is the responsibility of this governing body of IICA to “examine the financial status of the Institute, and upon the Board’s request or when a decision by the Board is required under the Convention, to send the corresponding report and recommendations to the Board”;

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;

That, pursuant to Article 3.k of its Rules of Procedure, the Executive Committee is responsible for receiving and approving the ARC’s reports and making a determination on their recommendations; and

That, in its Twenty-sixth Report, the ARC states that it examined the report of the external auditors on IICA’s financial statements for the 2019 fiscal year and found the work performed to be satisfactory and in accordance with the rules of the Institute and international auditing standards,

RESOLVES:

1. To accept the 2019 financial statements of the Institute and the report of the external auditors, and to instruct the Director General of IICA to submit them to the Twenty-first Regular Meeting of the IABA for its information.
2. To approve the Twenty-sixth Report of the ARC and instruct the Director General to implement the recommendations contained therein.
3. To thank the members of the ARC for the work accomplished.
4. To recognize the efforts made by IICA to maintain financial records with a clean opinion and to urge the Director General to continue his policy of transparency.

IICA/CE/Res. 663 (XL-O/20)

21 July 2020

Original: Spanish

**RESOLUTION No. 663****2019 REPORT OF THE TROPICAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND  
HIGHER EDUCATION CENTER (CATIE)**

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Fortieth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

The “2019 Report of the Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE)”,

CONSIDERING:

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

RESOLVES:

1. To accept CATIE’s report for 2019.
2. To urge IICA and CATIE to continue to strengthen their links and mechanisms for implementing joint activities in support of the efforts of the Member States to achieve competitive, sustainable and inclusive agricultural development.
3. To urge the Director General of CATIE to make all reports provided to CATIE’s Governing Council, including financial reports, also available to the Executive Committee and the IABA.

IICA/CE/Res. 664 (XL-O/20)

21 July 2020

Original: Spanish

**RESOLUTION No. 664****REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE TROPICAL AGRICULTURE  
RESEARCH AND HIGHER EDUCATION CENTER (CATIE)**

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Fortieth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

The report of the Special Committee created by the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) via Resolution No. 519, approved at its Twentieth Regular Meeting on 31 October 2019,

CONSIDERING:

That, via Resolution No. 507, the IABA requested that the directors general of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and CATIE establish, with support from the Government of Costa Rica, an *ad hoc* working group responsible for preparing a “strategic proposal” for the future of CATIE that details scenarios and alternatives for restructuring and strengthening CATIE’s organizational, scientific, academic and financial frameworks, as well as its legal basis;

That, in keeping with the abovementioned resolution, the strategic proposal was presented during the Thirty-ninth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee, and its recommendations were discussed, modified and approved via Resolution No. 652 of the Executive Committee, entitled “Strategy for the Future of the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE)”, through which the Director General of IICA was also tasked with informing the IABA, at its Twentieth Regular Meeting, of the resolutions adopted by the Executive Committee;

That, at its Twentieth Regular Meeting, the IABA discussed the recommendations included in Resolution No. 652 of the Executive Committee and, via Resolution No. 519, established a special committee made up of Costa Rica, Ecuador,

the United States of America, Honduras, Jamaica and Mexico, in order to study, analyze and make recommendations to the Fortieth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee on: a) measures to make the land belonging to IICA and CATIE more productive; and b) the feasibility of incorporating CATIE as a division of IICA in charge of technical and scientific research and post-graduate education in agricultural sciences, as well as other structural options that may lead to more efficient and economical integration and coordination that meet the needs of the Member States;

That the report by the Special Committee concludes that “not all of the favorable conditions exist to achieve the integration proposed by the IABA members to the directors general”; and

That, notwithstanding the foregoing, it is important to provide the IABA with alternatives for improving and strengthening the relationship between the Institute and CATIE, for the benefit of all Member States,

RESOLVES:

1. To thank the Special Committee for the work carried out, adopt its recommendations and instruct the Director General of IICA and the Director General of CATIE to make the necessary institutional modifications that would allow for converging the two organizations as requested by the IABA, as well as those that would continuously facilitate and foster their joint, coordinated work without the need to modify the current legal framework.
2. To request that the directors general of the Institute and the Center create a joint IICA/CATIE unit responsible for implementing the recommendations, particularly those relating to the exclusive use of the Institute’s annual contribution to the Center for activities that are agreed upon and supervised by the integrated unit.
3. To request that both directors general immediately prepare a “master plan” on the strategic use of the real estate and production assets of property belonging to IICA and CATIE, under the terms recommended by the Special Committee, and to submit the plan for consideration by the



Executive Committee at its next regular meeting and, if necessary, to the IABA for subsequent approval at its next regular meeting.

4. To request that the Director General of CATIE consult with the Center's Governing Council at its October 2020 meeting, prior to implementing the provisions contained in the present resolution.
5. To request that the Director General of the Institute report to the Executive Committee on the fulfilment of this resolution at its next regular meeting.

IICA/CE/Res. 665 (XL-O/20)

21 July 2020

Original: Spanish

**RESOLUTION No. 665****REPORT ON THE WORK PROGRAM OF THE CARIBBEAN AGRICULTURAL  
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE (CARDI) FOR  
THE 2019-2020 BIENNIUM**

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Fortieth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

The report on the work program of the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) for the 2019-2020 biennium,

CONSIDERING:

That, under the terms of the agreement currently in force between the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and CARDI, the latter organization must submit an annual report on its activities; and

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

RESOLVES:

1. To accept and express appreciation to CARDI for the report on the implementation of its work program for the 2019-2020 biennium.
2. To urge IICA and CARDI to continue to strengthen their technical links and mechanisms for executing joint activities in support of efforts to achieve agricultural development and rural well-being in the Caribbean countries.

IICA/CE/Res. 666 (XL-O/20)

21 July 2020

Original: Spanish

**RESOLUTION No. 666**

**REPORT OF THE 2020 REGULAR MEETING OF THE SPECIAL ADVISORY  
COMMISSION ON MANAGEMENT ISSUES (SACMI)**

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Fortieth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/Doc. 713 (20), “Report of the 2020 Regular Meeting of the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues (SACMI)”,

CONSIDERING:

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

That, by means of Resolution IICA/CE/Res. 580 (XXXIII-O/13), the Executive Committee established that the meetings of the SACMI should preferably be held online, so that sessions may be held as frequently as necessary, and to generate savings for IICA; and

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

RESOLVES:

To accept the Report of the 2020 Regular Meeting of the SACMI.

IICA/CE/Res. 667 (XL-O/20)

21 July 2020

Original: Spanish

**RESOLUTION No. 667****STATUS OF THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE THIRTY-NINTH REGULAR MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND THE TWENTIETH REGULAR MEETING OF THE INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (IABA)**

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Fortieth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/Doc. 714 (20) “Status of the Resolutions of the Thirty-ninth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee”, and Document IICA/CE/Doc. 715 (20) “Status of the Resolutions of the Twentieth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA)”,

CONSIDERING:

That the abovementioned status reports demonstrate that the General Directorate of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) has complied with the resolutions adopted at the Thirty-ninth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee and at the Twentieth Regular Meeting of the IABA,

RESOLVES:

To accept the reports: a) “Status of the Resolutions of the Thirty-ninth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee” and b) “Status of the Resolutions of the Twentieth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA)”.

IICA/CE/Res. 668 (XL-O/20)

21 July 2020

Original: Spanish

**RESOLUTION No. 668**

**2019-2020 REPORT OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION  
ON ORGANIC AGRICULTURE**

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Fortieth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Information document DI-01, “2019-2020 Report of the Inter-American Commission on Organic Agriculture (ICOA)”;

CONSIDERING:

That, via Resolution IICA/CE/Res. 484 (XXVIII-O/08), the Executive Committee resolved to establish the Network of Competent Authorities in Organic Agriculture in the Americas as the Inter-American Commission for Organic Agriculture (ICOA), with responsibility for coordinating the standards and procedures for promoting and regulating the production of organic food in the hemisphere, as well as trade in those products, and to serve as a technical body for knowledge management in the area of organic agriculture and as a mechanism for consultation, liaison and reciprocal cooperation with the competent governmental bodies that promote and establish standards for the development of organic agriculture in each country;

That, at its Twenty-ninth Regular Meeting, the Executive Committee issued Resolution IICA/CE/Res. 506 (XXIX-O/09), in which it adopted, subject to approval by the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), the Bylaws of the ICOA;

That, via Resolution IICA/JIA/Res. 455 (XV-O/09), approved at its Fifteenth Regular Meeting, the IABA approved the Bylaws of the ICOA;

That, in its Report, the ICOA indicated the need to update its Bylaws in order to improve the regulatory framework that governs it, and thus strengthen organic agriculture; and

That, pursuant to Article 28 of the Bylaws of the ICOA, the Executive Committee is authorized to modify that instrument,

RESOLVES:

1. To approve the 2019-2020 Report of the ICOA.
2. To entrust the Director General of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), in consultation with the member countries of the ICOA, with the task of preparing proposed modifications to the Bylaws of the commission, for consideration and possible approval by the Executive Committee at its next regular meeting.

IICA/CE/Res. 669 (XL-O/20)

21 July 2020

Original: Spanish

**RESOLUTION No. 669**

**DATE AND VENUE OF THE FORTY-FIRST REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Fortieth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/Doc. 716 (20), “Date and Venue of the Forty-first Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee”,

CONSIDERING:

That, pursuant to Article 22 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee, that governing body of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) is required to hold one regular meeting each year. Therefore, a date and venue for the Forty-first Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee in 2021 must be set;

That, in accordance with Article 25 of said Rules of Procedure, in the event that no Member State of IICA offers to host the regular meeting of the Executive Committee in that country, the meeting will be held at the Institute’s Headquarters in San Jose, Costa Rica; and

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

RESOLVES:

1. To hold the Forty-first Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee at IICA Headquarters in San Jose, Costa Rica, during the second half of 2021.

2. To instruct the Director General to issue the convocation, in due course, to the Member States to participate in said meeting, in accordance with the procedures outlined in the rules currently in effect.



## **SIGNING OF THE REPORT**



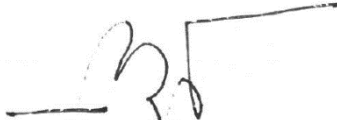
## **SIGNING OF THE REPORT OF THE FORTIETH REGULAR MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Pursuant to the provisions of Article 97 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee, the Report of the Fortieth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee is hereby signed at 13:30 hours on the twenty-first day of July of the year two thousand and twenty, in San José, Costa Rica.

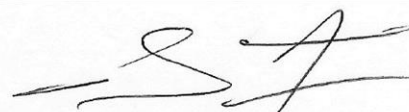
This report will be edited by the Secretariat and the changes approved during the Closing Session will be included before it is published in the four official languages of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), in the Official Documents Series, all versions being equally authentic and valid.

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

San José, Costa Rica.



Manuel Otero  
Director General of IICA  
*Ex officio* Secretary of the  
2020 Executive Committee



Carlos María Uriarte  
Minister of Livestock, Agriculture and  
Fisheries of Uruguay  
Chair of the 2020 Executive Committee



## **ANNEXES**



**ANNEX 1: PROVISIONAL AGENDA**  
IICA/CE/Doc. 706 (20)

- |   |                       |
|---|-----------------------|
| <b>1. Provisional Schedule</b>  | IICA/CE/Doc. 705 (20) |
| <b>2. Message from the Director General of IICA</b>   | No document           |
| <b>3. IICA technical cooperation</b>  |                       |
| 3.1. IICA strategy in light of the COVID-19 emergency   | IICA/CE/Doc. 707 (20) |
| <b>4. Financial and programmatic-budgetary situation</b>  |                       |
| 4.1. Program Budget   | IICA/CE/Doc. 708 (20) |
| 4.2. Status of the collection of quota contributions  | IICA/CE/Doc. 709 (20) |
| 4.3. 2019 Financial Statements of IICA and Report of the External Auditors  | IICA/CE/Doc. 710 (20) |
| 4.4. Twenty-sixth Report of the Audit Review Committee (ARC)  | IICA/CE/Doc. 711 (20) |
| <b>5. Strengthening of strategic partnerships</b>   |                       |
| 5.1. Report on the strategic proposal on the operational framework for the Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE) – [Special Committee of the IABA regarding CATIE IICA/JIA/Res. 519 (XX-O/19)] | Unnumbered            |
| 5.2. 2018-2019 Report of CATIE  | Unnumbered            |
| 5.3. Report on joint collaboration activities between IICA and CATIE  | Unnumbered            |

5.4. 2019-2020 Report of the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) Unnumbered

5.5. Report on joint collaboration activities between IICA and CARDI Unnumbered

**6. Activities of the General Directorate and the Governing Bodies**

6.1. Report of the Representative of the IABA to the Governing Council of CATIE Unnumbered

6.2. 2019 IICA Annual Report IICA/CE/Doc. 712 (20)

6.3. Report of the 2020 Regular Meeting of the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues (SACMI) IICA/CE/Doc. 713 (20)

6.4. Status of the resolutions of the Thirty-ninth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee IICA/CE/Doc. 714 (20)

6.5. Status of the resolutions of the Twentieth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) IICA/CE/Doc. 715 (20)

6.6. Date and Venue of the Forty-first Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee IICA/CE/Doc. 716 (20)

**7. Other matters**



## ANNEX 2: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

### MEMBER STATES ON THE 2020 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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