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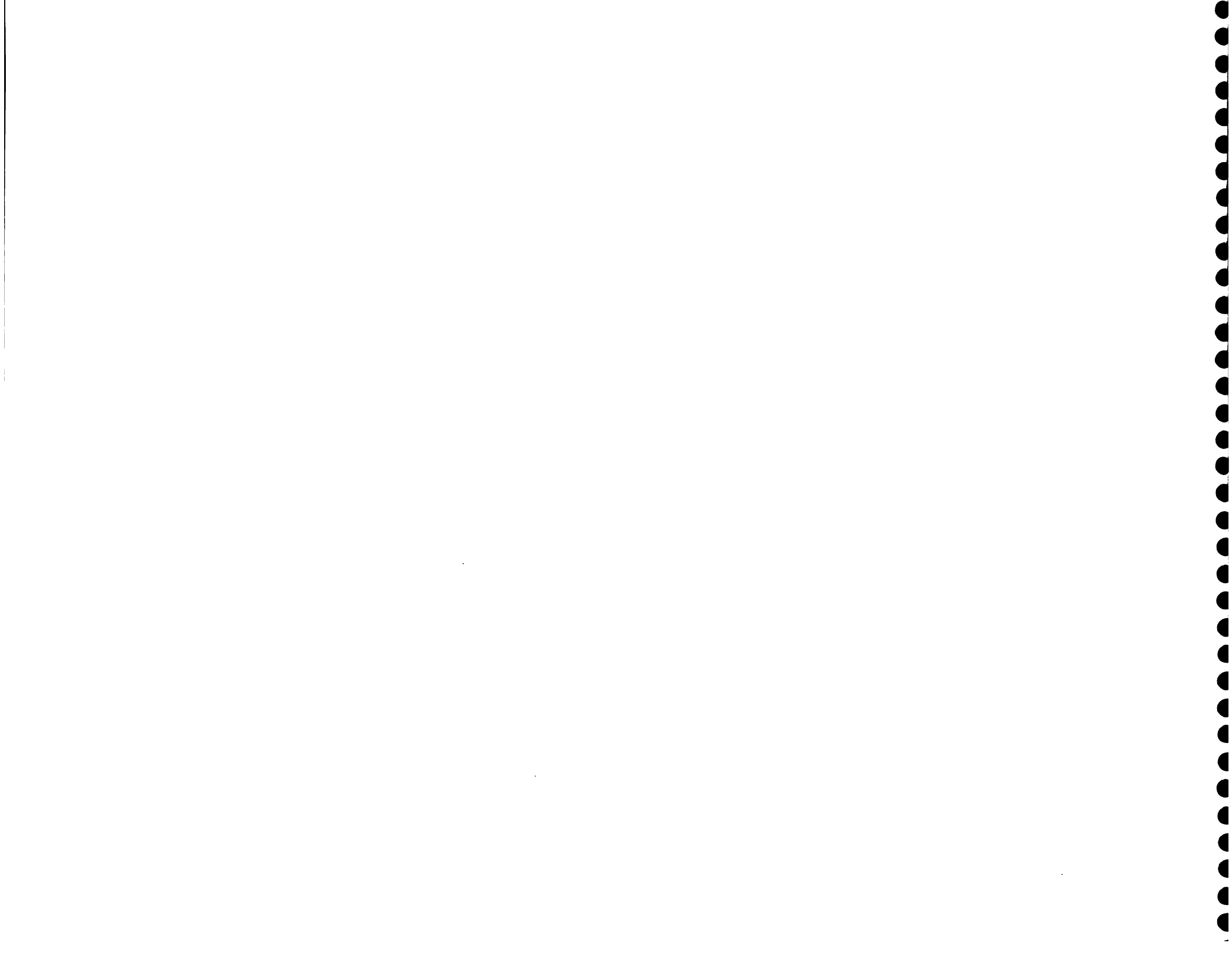


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Achievements of the Administration since January 2002

A Special Report





100 MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE ADMINISTRATION

SINCE JANUARY 2002

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

I am very pleased to present this sample of the 100 major achievements of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture since January 2002.

This institution was created 60 years ago and, over the years, has gradually evolved from a research-driven institution, to a technical cooperation organization, and finally to a development agency, whose mission is to promote the sustainable development of agriculture, food security and prosperity in the rural communities of the Americas.

One year ago, on January 15, 2002, IICA entered a new phase in its history, with a new administration committed to making a significant contribution in ensuring a hemisphere of peace, prosperity, and social justice for the people of the Americas. In the last 12 months, IICA has focused its actions based on the demand of its Member States and the Institute's technical areas of expertise in trade and agribusiness development; sustainable rural development; agricultural health and food safety; technology and innovation; education and training; and information and communication. The results-based managerial style adopted by IICA is at the basis of the National Technical Cooperation Agendas that were produced in consultation with the public and private sectors within each Member State.

IICA's vision recognizes that the development of the agricultural and rural sectors in any nation today, cannot be seen only as an effort to help marginal poor farmers, but must be seen as the development of a sector that is strategically important for its contribution to national social stability, access to food and the preservation of the environment for today and future generations.

To strengthen the pillars that uphold our mission toward the sustainable development of agriculture and rural prosperity, the Institute has been portraying itself as an international development organization that is recognized and respected as a reliable strategic partner that can contribute significantly to the development of agriculture and the rural milieu in the Americas. In this regard, IICA has been actively promoting the development and strengthening of strategic alliances with multilateral cooperation and funding organizations, in order to encourage the mobilization of resources for creating prosperity and reducing poverty in rural communities.



IICA is also participating actively as a partner institution in the Summit of the Americas process, promoting and supporting at the national, regional, hemispheric and global levels, in order to facilitate the exchange of best practices and the development of innovative capabilities for responding effectively to challenges and opportunities to develop agriculture and the rural milieu. To this end, IICA is being proactive in promoting the development of a common base of knowledge and information on the development of agriculture and the rural sector, involving multinational organizations and national organizations of excellence.

Committed to the principles of transparency and accountability, IICA has prepared this report to highlight 100 major achievements for 2002. What follows is a brief and consolidated sample of some of the actions and activities that occurred in this first year of the Institute's new administration, at the institutional and country levels.

Chelston W.D.Brathwaite
Director General



Institutional Achievements

1. Production of National Technical Cooperation Agendas for each country, following an extensive process of dialogue and consultation with the public and private sectors of each Member State. The preparation of these agendas represents a new approach to technical cooperation in which the concepts of partnership, cooperation and demand-driven efforts are emphasized.
2. Establishment of new guidelines for IICA Country Representatives to carry out their responsibilities according to the new strategic priorities established by the institution, and based on the new administration's vision and mission. Since then, representatives were appointed in the following IICA offices: Barbados, Brazil, Canada, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guyana, Jamaica, Panama, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, United States and Uruguay
3. Preparation and approval by Member Countries of a Medium Term Plan to set out the new direction and course of action of the Institute for the period 2002-2006. This plan reflects the current vision and mission of the Institute, the mandates from the Third Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the Americas as contained in its Declaration and Action Plan, and the Bavaro Declaration of the Ministers of Agriculture in the first Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Rural life held in November 2001.
4. Formulation of new guidelines to prepare the program budget that improves the effectiveness of the Institute and simplifies procedures. This allowed for more resources to be directed to the technical cooperation actions at the country level.
5. Elimination of the Regional Centres, which reduced significantly the bureaucratic procedures associated with the relationship between Headquarters and the offices in the countries. This decision resulted in a net saving of approximately US\$1.2 million to be allocated for additional technical cooperation actions.
6. Creation of the Secretariat for Technical Cooperation and the Unit for Performance Management and Evaluation. This restructuring is one of the significant organizational changes that occurred with the new administration, and highlights IICA as a results-based institution striving to improve the internal mechanisms of accountability and transparency.
7. Establishment of the Directorate of Strategic Partnerships based in Washington D.C. to promote global strategic partnerships and to represent the Institute in the U.S.A..



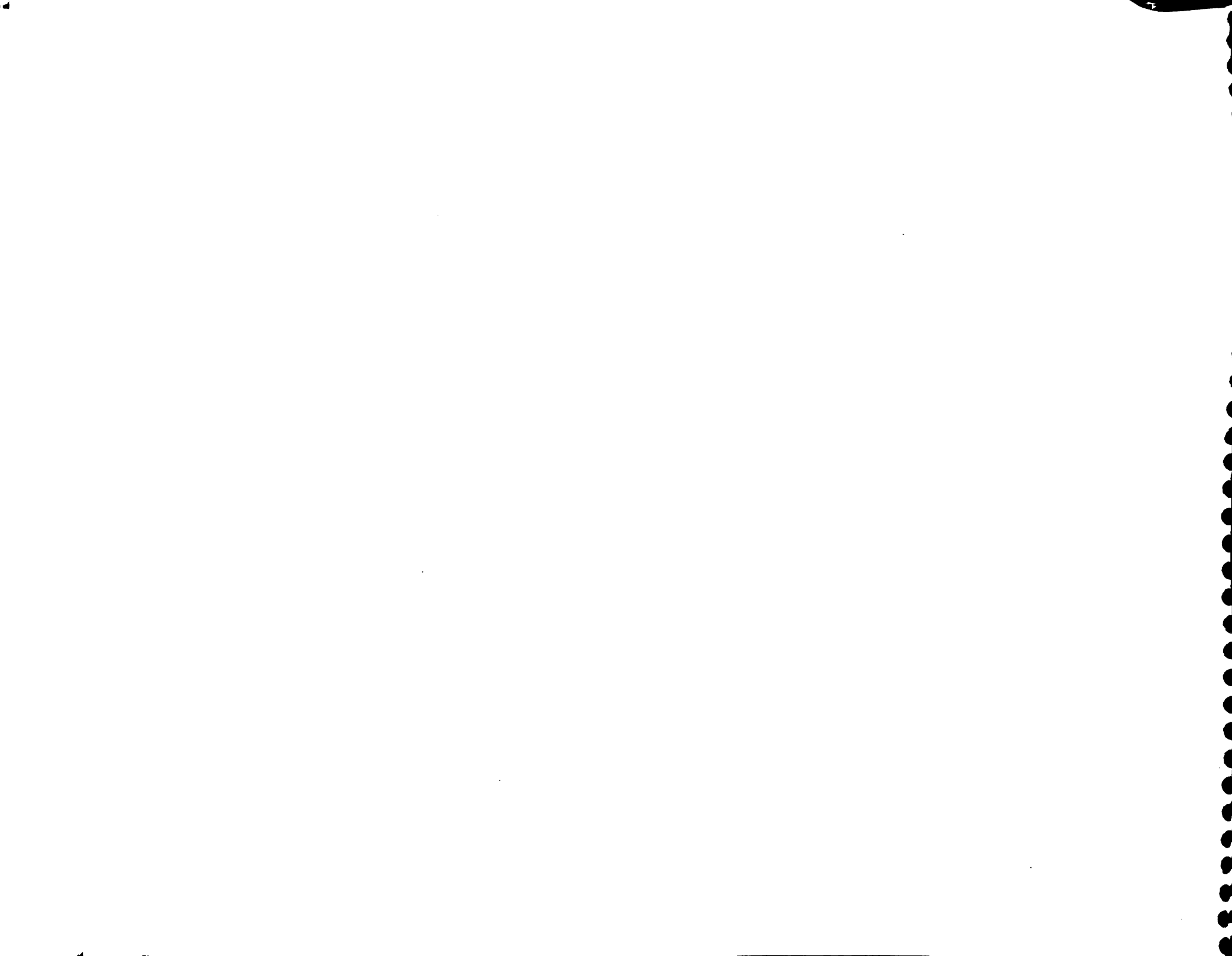
8. Design of a Website for the Commission on Management Issues where Members can be in permanent contact with the Administration, and receive all the documentation electronically. This decision was taken in the spirit of promoting a paperless institution.
9. Development of the program "Export Platforms" to diversify and increase the number of exporters and the value of agri-food exports to a specific market. This three-stage program includes training in international business, validation of products in the target market, and participation in a trade event.
10. Chains and Dialogue for Action as an approach to ensure proper coordination between the participants in agri-food chains, with a view to overcoming the principal constraints on their competitiveness. Using this approach, it was possible to organize the participants of 20 agri-food chains in three countries of Central America around chain committees, which enables them to coordinate actions aimed at making them more competitive.
11. The Inter-American Program for the Promotion of Agricultural Trade, Agribusiness and Food Safety to help IICA's member countries succeed in global markets, offering high-quality information and services related to the agricultural and agro-industrial sectors, and to integrate, promote and develop export capabilities so as to facilitate access to international markets.
12. Progress in the development of a new methodology for measuring the real contribution of expanded agriculture to economic development, which includes most of the dimensions of agricultural and rural development in the countries. The preliminary results indicate that, when the value added in the pre-harvest and post-harvest components of the production chain is taken into account, agriculture becomes a major contributor to GDP and employment, and is the source of important linkages with other sectors of the economy.
13. Production of a methodology for identifying opportunities to buy and sell agricultural products seeking the highest possible rate of return on the investments required to produce and market agricultural products, and keeping risks to a minimum. This methodology was very well received at the ninth meeting of the Pan American Association of Agricultural Commodity Exchanges.
14. Preparation of the first phase of the model for the modernization of agricultural health and food safety systems (AHFS). This model has been tested in several countries of Central America, and its methodology will make it possible to analyze and measure institutional performance vis-à-vis market access, interaction with the private sector, technical capabilities and human and financial resources, all of which are fundamental in making the AHFS systems more sustainable.



15. Organization of several activities to help understand and implement the Agreement on the Agricultural Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPSM) of the World Trade Organization (WTO), and to enhance its standing in the international community. Also, IICA facilitated the participation of 57 experts from the member countries in the latest meeting of the SPSM Committee, as part of an effort to encourage their active involvement in different international organizations. This is the first of a series of actions that will continue in 2003.
16. Implementation of the four modules of the first Executive Leadership Series on Food Safety. The 30 participants from 22 countries are now ready to break with the existing paradigms in the field of food safety. Also, they are currently engaged in 16 food safety projects spread throughout the Hemisphere.
17. A study, in Central America, to evaluate the level of infestation of screwworm in the region, to quantify the economic damage it does to the livestock sector, to predict the damage it could do to other socioeconomic sectors and to identify options for taking action in each situation.
18. Support to the institutional and operational strengthening of the Plant Protection Committee of the Southern Cone – COSAVE, as the regional forum most qualified to analyze phytosanitary problems and execute joint actions aimed at boosting agricultural production and trade. The harmonization of regulations related to pests and food safety is one of the key activities carried out by COSAVE, which has the political support of the ministers of agriculture of the countries of the Southern Cone.
19. Definition of indicators of desertification, in collaboration with the IDB. The objective of this project is to develop these indicators for six countries in the Southern Region, for the purpose of implementing national plans for combating desertification and drought. Emphasis is placed on the participation of local communities, NGOs, the private sector, civil society and governmental agencies, with sustainable development being the ultimate goal.
20. Progress in the development of a Knowledge Management System (KMS) as a virtual mechanism for collaborative efforts, intended to enhance the intellectual capital of the Institute and its partners through the interaction of those involved in development at the local, regional, national and hemispheric levels. The KMS will facilitate the generation, dissemination and application of knowledge derived from the best institutional practices, policies and mechanisms, etc. The ultimate objective will be to update the skills of human resources and speed up the process of transforming rural territories.



21. Publication by the Sustainable Rural Development Division of 10 books and 3 technical booklets and production of 14 CDs, the most recent of which being: 1) Competitiveness, agri-food chains and rural territories: Conceptual elements, Vol. I; 2) Sustainable micro-regional development: methods for local planning; 3) New rurality: a vision of territory in Latin America and the Caribbean; 4) Gender and rural women: progress report 2000-2002; 5) Brazil: Decentralization and sustainable regional development. The Seridó experience; and, 6) Sustainable local development in Brazil: IICA's experience.
22. Production of several position papers on the subject of Sustainable Rural Development from a territorial perspective, including: 1) Sustainable rural development: a territorial vision; 2) Natural resource management for sustainable development in the rural territories of Latin America and the Caribbean; 3) Globalization, poverty and food security; 4) Social actors and territorial approach; and, 5) Young people in rural territories: citizens of sustainable development.
23. Consolidation of the Scientific and Technological Information System of the Agricultural Sector of the Americas (INFOTEC) which is now an operational and proven platform for sharing information with a wide range of users, from producers, extension agents and providers of inputs, to researchers and scholars; in other words, all those interested in R&D and topics related to technological innovation. The number of subscribers grew by more than 80% in 2002, and bulletins were issued weekly beginning on January 28, 2002.
24. Consolidation of FORAGRO as a platform for hemispheric dialogue on agriculture and the rural milieu from the perspective of technology. As a mechanism to facilitate and foster dialogue and cooperation among the countries of the Region, and to promote integration in this field, FORAGRO, whose Technical Secretariat is exercised by IICA, was approved as the appropriate hemispheric mechanism for facilitating dialogue among the public and private sectors, universities, NGOs, producers and the international research sector regarding strategic issues of agriculture from a technological perspective.
25. Agreement from the countries of the Hemisphere on 11 priority topics for research and completion of a semi-annual plan for joint actions aimed at modernizing agriculture via technological change, with a view to making efficient use of resources and avoiding the duplication of efforts. These joint actions will focus on topics such as water resources, genetic resources, development of technological agri-businesses, the participation of small-scale agriculture in agri-food chains, clean production, development and use of new agro-biotechnologies and information systems, among others.



26. Support for the execution of 22 multinational projects in 10 mega-domains with a view to consolidating the regional agricultural research system and increasing funding for research through the IDB/FONTAGRO/IICA partnership. Also, within the framework of a new IICA policy, cooperation began with the member countries of FONTAGRO to disseminate its research results.
27. Establishment of a new framework for cooperation with PROCIANDINO, PROCISUR and PROCITROPICOS to make better use of technological spillovers, disseminate the results of multinational actions, evaluate their impact and support the reform of these research mechanisms in order to meet the technological needs of the countries in strategic areas. In this context, new agreements were signed for the international operation of the mechanisms during the next four years.
28. Design of four courses for the program "Development of Educational Quality in Institutions of Agricultural Education" to improve the academic quality of institutions of agricultural education (vocational and university). The contents and multimedia teaching materials have been prepared for the first course "Model Strategy for Improving the Quality and Relevance of Agricultural Education," which consists of four modules to be taught in the first four months of 2003.
29. Inclusion in the World Bank's Global Development Learning Network (GDLN) of two of IICA's courses: a) International Course on Distance Education using Videoconferencing Techniques: Basics, Curricular Design, Technology and Conversion of Materials, and b) International Course on Development and Implementation of Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) Plans. Both courses were converted into a digital format for use in videoconferences by a multidisciplinary team who developed and implemented the instructional packages for each course, including the multimedia materials for the instructor and the students.
30. Training in the following strategic topics: environmental management with emphasis on water resources; formulation of profiles for projects on water resources, and considerations in their administration; management of solid waste; assessment of environmental impact; international diploma program in tools of environmental economics; sustainable development in Central America; and development and implementation of Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) plans. All told, 16 courses were taught, both on site and via videoconference and teleconference. Participants included 400 people from public and private institutions in Latin America.
31. Adaptation of three courses on farm management for technicians, producers and farm managers jointly with McGill University (Canada). The process has involved translating the materials from English to Spanish and adapting them to agricultural and business conditions in Mexico. The objective of the course is to teach participants how to prepare a business plan for a farm or rural enterprise using a computer. After testing the course in several countries, it will be available throughout the Americas.



32. Implementation of the Agricultural Information System, www.infoagro.net, which provides information online on: trade, technological innovation, agricultural health, food safety, sustainable rural development, and agricultural commodity exchanges (technical documents, news, directory of institutions, links to other specialized sources, relevant events, weekly informational bulletin, data base of experts, offer of agricultural products, technology exchange in the virtual community). More than 4,000 full-text publications are available to System users.
33. Consolidation of the Agricultural Information and Documentation System of the Americas (SIDALC), www.sidalc.net, with Agri2000 as a mega-base of bibliographic information of the Americas. It brings together 150 databases from Latin American and Caribbean countries, facilitating access to 1,400,000 bibliographic records for consultation which can be requested online from participating libraries. This product is also available on compact disc. The system has made possible online and on-site technical assistance and training to librarians, information specialists and final users for improving agricultural information. IICA also provided on-site training of specialists in 10 countries.
34. New content and graphic interface for IICA's web site, www.iica.int. Its search engine links users to national and regional sites on agriculture; has sections on specialized topics; monitors the Summits of the Americas process. It also has discussion forums; database of experts; technical documents; institutional directories, and sells publications online.



Institutional Achievements at Country-Level

Antigua and Barbuda

35. Organization of the training workshop on 'Pests and Diseases of Citrus -- Their Management and Control', attended by agricultural officers and citrus growers. This workshop served to build capacity to control major pests of citrus as well as to sensitize persons about pests of quarantine significance, their management and control.
36. Organization a national consultation on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures and Food Safety and formulation of the Agricultural Health and Food Safety Council in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries, the Ministry of Health and Social Improvement and the National Food Safety Committee. A National Agriculture Health and Food Safety Agency is the expected outcome of this consultation.

Argentina:

37. Promotion of new mechanisms for private funding for the agri-food sector to counteract the profound economic and financial crisis, and the difficulties that producers and exporters experienced to obtain financing. This initiative was based on IICA's successful experiences in other countries from Central America, Colombia and Venezuela.
38. In collaboration with CEPAL, contribution to studies that compile macro- and micro-economic information to assist in the elaboration of a National Development Strategy, whose economic policy guidelines will assist the next government in Argentina.

Bahamas

39. Development of a Logical Framework for the establishment of a National Food Safety System, in collaboration with PAHO. This work involved close consultation with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Local Government (MAFLG) and the Ministry of Health which will ensure more effective development and implementation.



40. Creation of the Bahamas Agricultural Producers' Association (BAPA) as an important step to unite entrepreneurs in the agricultural sector for more effective dialogue with public officials especially in the area of policy formulation. As a result, the BAPA is well on its way to becoming the main link in The Bahamas with the regional Caribbean Agri-Business association (CABA).

Barbados:

41. Support for the project on Strengthening the Capabilities of Caribbean Professionals and Micro-Entrepreneurs through the use of modern Information and Communications Technology to improve the access to technology and innovation through distance learning courses and strengthen the institutional framework in local and regional educational institutions.
42. Establishment of an Agro-Tourism Linkages Committee to promote the adoption of a multi-sectoral approach to agriculture, including environment, tourism and community development. This Committee includes representatives from the Ministries of Tourism, Agriculture and Rural Development, Physical Development and Environment, Social Transformation, Culture and IICA.

Belize:

43. Construction of a quarantine facility to restore and strengthen the agricultural health surveillance capability, especially on the Peninsula in Placentia, a location with a past history of Med Fly infestations. By restoring the surveillance system, especially for Med Fly infestations, Belize's capability of assuring a Med Fly Free Status was fully in place, eliminating any risk for restrictions on external trade of agricultural products.
44. Support and technical cooperation to promote research on the production of alternative tropical fruit and root crops. Belize, with a very large population of small farmers (less than 20 acres in size), is looking at the development of tropical fruit and root crops as a way for diversifying its crops, conserving the environment and increasing income in a sustainable way using the wealth of plant resources available in the country.

Bolivia:

45. Promotion of a dynamic market for fresh and dehydrated llama meat, llama fiber for the textile industry, and the processing of llama leather. The development of the Latin American Camelidae livestock of high quality and its derived products is a potentially expanding market in Bolivia that could improve considerably the income of local producers.



46. Design of the National System for Genetic Resources Management, Conservation, Use and Evaluation (SINARGEAA as its Spanish acronym) at the request of the Ministry of Agriculture, as a tool for the sustainable diversification of agriculture, agro-industrial development and food security. This system looks at the classification of genetic resources in six sub-systems, and is based on principles of bio-diversity, integration and sustainability for the protection and conservation of genetic resources.

Brazil

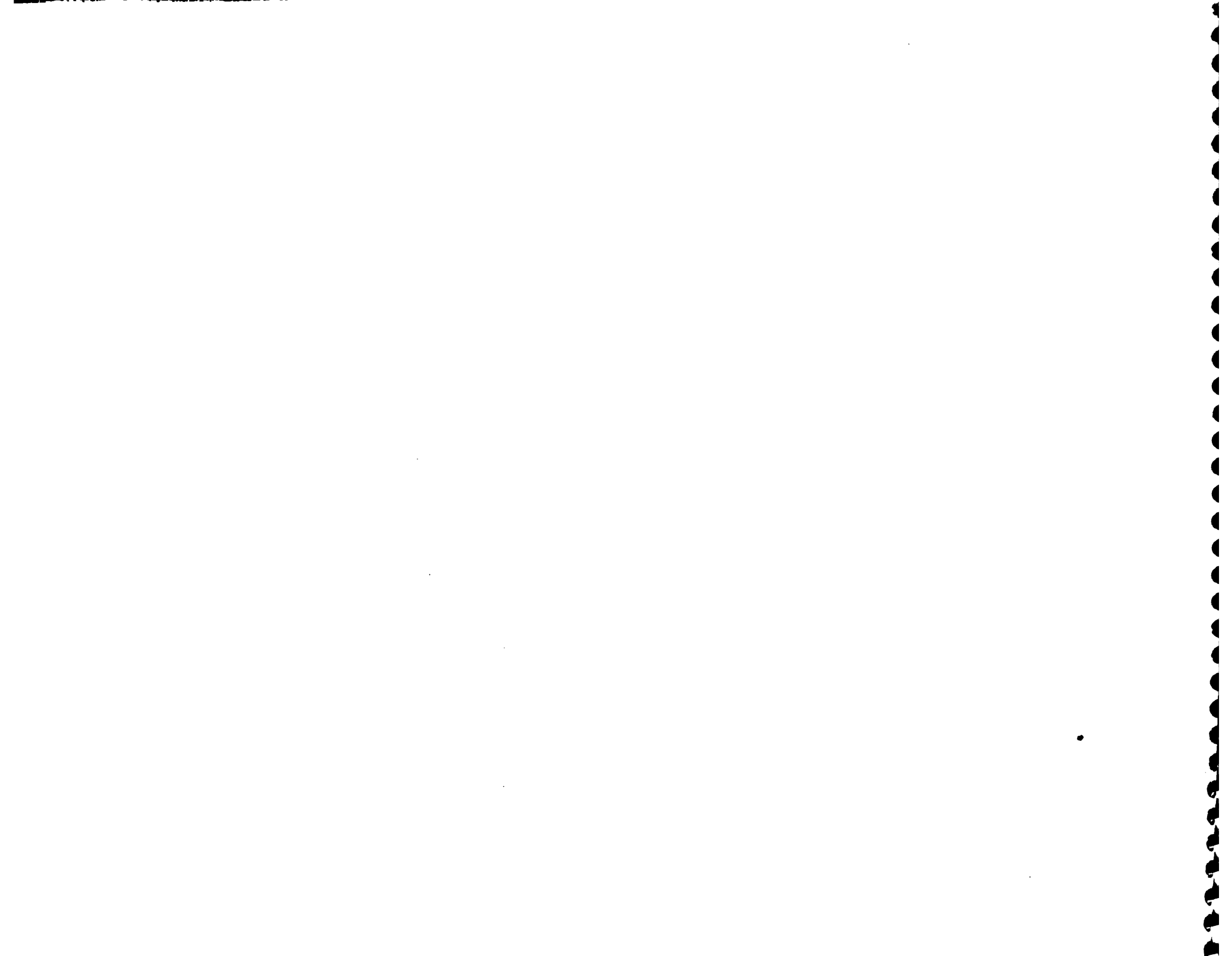
47. Support and technical cooperation to the Brazilian Government for the consolidation of the program for the eradication of the foot-and-mouth disease and other animal diseases. This initiative included the training of 130 professionals from Brazil and neighbouring countries, on courses on exotic and other emerging animal diseases.
48. Support and technical cooperation to the Brazilian State Governments on Sustainable Rural Development projects in the States of Maranhão, Paraíba, Ceará, Rio Grande do Norte and Piauí, jointly with Universities, Ministries and the States Governments institutions.

Canada

49. Organization of a workshop on the theme of "Strengthening Food Safety Partnerships" in the framework of the Canada-CARICOM Alliance on Codex and Food Control Systems, for food specialists from all the countries of the Caribbean. This workshop aimed to give participants a better understanding of the food inspection and safety structure requirements at the national level; improve communications and build partnerships at national and regional levels; be cognizant of existing regional food safety strategic plans; and inform on emerging science-based issues.
50. Development of effective linkages between Canadian and Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) research and education organizations, through its Internship Program in Agricultural Sciences and Research. Besides fostering long term relationships between Canadian and LAC centres of excellence, this program aims at contributing to the elaboration of joint projects which encourage the sustainable development of the region's agriculture and economy.

Chile

51. Support for various initiatives that involved dissemination, training and technical assistance to modernize the markets for agricultural products, promote transparency and improve the mechanisms for establishing prices and stimulate new forms of



funding. Moreover the IICA Office in Chile, under an agreement with the Sub-Secretariat for Agriculture, established an Agricultural Products Commodity Exchange. As a result, the law on the establishment of the Agricultural Products Commodity Exchange was disseminated, and is now in its implementation phase.

52. Leadership role in modernizing the curriculum of the Faculties of agriculture, veterinary sciences and forestry of various Chilean universities, including the Universidad de Chile, the Universidad de Concepción and the Universidad Católica de Temuco, among others. Other universities have requested that the IICA Office in Chile collaborate with them to update and modernize their curricula.

Colombia

53. Support for the establishment of the Observatory of Competitiveness of Agricultural Production Chains in Colombia. This project promotes the policy of agreements on competitiveness as a strategy for analyzing competitiveness and for taking action to strengthen and project the activities of the agricultural production, fisheries, forestry and livestock chains, given the increased trade between Colombia and the rest of the world. The observatory was created in order to provide producers and users in the agricultural sector with guidance on matters related to competitiveness and international negotiations.
54. Support and technical assistance for operating the “Instrument of Support to Associative and Community Groups (IAGAC),” of the Colombia Plan, which develops agri-production projects targeting small-scale rural producers who live in areas of influence of illicit crops. These are rural producers who – due to their social and economic circumstances – have no access to bank financing or business investments. Over the last three years (2000-2002), 22 projects were executed for a total investment of about US\$4 million. The projects included the following five components: production development, marketing support, technical assistance, establishment of revolving credit funds managed by farmers’ organizations, and development of associations and agribusiness capabilities.

Costa Rica

55. In the context of the project “Creating Food Exporters to Canada”, support for the participation of several agri-food companies from Costa Rica in the International Grocery Innovations Fair in Toronto, Canada to market their products. As a result of Costa Rica’s efforts to expand its international markets, and the ensuing Free Trade Agreement with Canada, this participation was the



last step of a project that started out with training in trade and export strategies, validation of the products, and identification of potential clients in Canada.

56. Support for the Inter-Sectoral Commission for Food Safety (CIIA by its Spanish acronym), a group of 17 public and private institutions created to promote food safety all along the food chain, and the markets. The elaboration of policies and norms to promote food safety are highlighted among the activities implemented with the Commission. Within this initiative, the IICA Office in Costa Rica signed a Cooperation Agreement with the local PAHO Office to support the implementation of different elements in the program of work of the CIIA.

Dominican Republic

57. Support for the participation of a team of qualified negotiators from the public and private agricultural sector, in training sessions and dissemination of important information to enable them to conduct the negotiations on the agricultural agenda of the trade negotiations more effectively. These new skills are being applied simultaneously in the FTAA and WTO negotiations and in the Central American and CARICOM processes. In the bi-national context, the country is conducting negotiations with Canada, the United States, Venezuela, Panama, Ecuador and Chile.
58. Coordination of joint efforts with the private and public sectors and the communities in the provinces of Elías Piña and Pedernales, to promote the participation of families in the Milk Bank project, "The Milk that Reforests". The objective of this project is to ensure the efficient and timely implementation of activities such as the distribution of 28,512 liters of milk, medical care and training sessions to develop new capacities and reforestation initiatives. All these efforts have made it possible to improve nutrition and health levels among rural families and to create a new and positive awareness about the benefits of reforestation in the degraded border area with Haiti.

Eastern Caribbean States

59. Support for the Project "Sustainable Livelihoods in the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States". The Project was designed to strengthen capacities in targeted NGOs to identify, formulate and implement community projects for sustainable livelihoods. It focused on unemployed rural women and promoted the creation of individual or community based projects that could provide employment or incomes for a total of 90 rural women in Grenada, St Vincent and the Grenadines and Dominica. The income generating activities included root crops and vegetable production, rabbit production, vegetable seedling production and craft.



60. Assistance to the project to institutionalize Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) in the Eastern Caribbean States. With this initiative, the main players along the agri-food chain – farmers, technicians, transport and exporters – are given training in good agricultural practices. Training manuals have been prepared and disseminated and extensive training has been carried out by the extension service in all the six member countries. Materials for a public education and public awareness campaign include brochures, posters, training videos, and CDs on GAPs. The project will provide further assistance to establish a harmonized system of procedures that meet requirements of international market customers with regard to quality, safety and handling of food.

Ecuador

61. Support to the Saraguro indigenous community for the promotion of a renewed vision of business organization and systems to provide support services. The community now has the physical capacity to overcome limitations of infrastructure, and is adding value to their traditional primary production based on the preservation and appreciation of their culture and their traditions. The community's insertion into the market was achieved without affecting their respect for natural resources and the environment, but rather by incorporating appropriate technology into the traditional production system, which gives priority to food security and the improvement of quality of life of the community.
62. Assistance for the establishment of the Strategic Network for the Potato Chain in Ecuador, REDCAPAPA. The concerted action of the different actors in the potato chain has enabled the improvement of the technical, commercial and industrial processes to market and improve potato production. The alliance between the cooperation agencies COSUDE, CIP and IICA contributed to getting stakeholders to work together to directly sell, in sufficient volumes and high quality, the products of small-scale producers to the chips and fast food industry.

El Salvador

63. Definition and implementation of an integrated approach to agricultural diversification. Through the implementation of the National Fruits Program, entrepreneurs received specialized technical services for all links of the fruit chain, including: production of planting materials and fruits; agro-industrial technology; credit and investment; business organization; facilitation of information and access to markets. This achievement was realized through the alliance with MAG and FANTEL.



64. Implementation and testing of a mechanism to facilitate the internationalization of the operations of small- and medium-scale agricultural enterprises. Some 25 agricultural products were validated on the Canadian market, which led to the identification of potential buyers and business engagements. The entrepreneurs received training and were advised on how to improve their access to new markets. This experience presently serves as a methodological and practical reference for national institutions operating in the field of agricultural exports and agribusiness. To achieve this, IICA worked with MAG, CAMAGRO, COEXPORT, GTZ, INSAFORP, PROESA and FRUTALES.

Guatemala

65. Generation, validation and transfer of technology by PROMECAFE to the benefit of the National Coffee Association (ANACAFE), intended to increase the coffee yields generated by its members. Of particular importance were the production, promotion and dissemination of seeds of the nematode-resistant Nemaya variety; the production and release of parasitoids; and the preparation of a database for use in genetic breeding.
66. Support and technical assistance for the execution of agro-industrial development projects for brown sugar (11 communities) and small-scale cheese making (6 communities), and to the possibility of earning a seal of quality for their products. Several rural communities are transforming their traditional production practices thanks to this initiative.

Guyana

67. Support for the local Rural Women's Network (RWN) and promotion of institutional ties with the Caribbean Network of Rural Women Producers, resulting in economic and cultural exchanges between Guyanese women and similar groups in Barbados, Grenada, St. Lucia and Dominica. The IICA Office in Guyana supported the RWN's participation in the 3rd congress of Rural Women in Spain. These interactions provided the opportunity for gaining information regarding market access in those countries for Guyanese handicraft and other products.
68. Technical and Financial assistance for increased yields of cocoa and promotion of continued access to the European market, in close collaboration with the UK Department for International Development (DFID), the National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI) and the Mabaruma/Hosororo Organic Cocoa Growers Association (MHOCGA). The cocoa, which is marketed in Holland, is presently classified as "organic in transition", and substantial progress has been made and is continuing towards its eventual certification as "fully organic".



Haiti

69. Support under the bilateral cooperation agreement between Haiti and the Dominican Republic to introduce, in Haiti, improved seeds for different crops, and animals (chickens, goats, quails, etc.). This has led to an increase in better quality agricultural production. In the context of this cooperation, Haitian entrepreneurs had the opportunity to exchange information and experiences with the Dominican counterparts. Training sessions were also organized for technicians and producers.
70. Assistance to KrediFanm, a loan bank for rural women, which has seen its capital increase as a result of its rate of repayment of 100%. Because of this success, new groups have been created and several local organizations participated in seminars to learn how to transfer this methodology to other regions.

Honduras

71. Preparation of a plan aimed at strengthening the national Agricultural Health and Food Safety system, with a view to enabling Honduras to apply the sanitary and phytosanitary measures of the WTO. Also, the IICA Office in Honduras worked with the United States Department of Agriculture to enable Honduras to participate in the meetings of the WTO Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, with a view to enhancing its ability to participate in international trade negotiations.
72. Establishment of the Honduran Agricultural Forum, an initiative that will enable the public and private sectors and the leaders of the community of agriculture and rural life to reach agreement on agricultural policies for the medium and long terms. Within that Forum, the Platform for Honduran Exports was established, to promote non-traditional exports to Canada and the United States primarily. Also IICA-Honduras and the Secretariat of Agriculture and Livestock collaborated closely in the preparation of the Agri-Food Plan 2002-2006, in consultation with the private sector and other agriculture public institutions.

Jamaica

73. Contribution to the definition of a holistic approach to sustainable rural development for Jamaica, in collaboration with the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ) and the Rural Agricultural Development Authority (RADA). In this context, the National Forum on Holistic Rural Development which drew wide participation from a number of key sectors was held in October 2002. The forum produced recommendations that will be the pivotal element to initiate the design of the strategy.
74. Implementation of a project to produce spices on recovered mined out bauxite lands. The major objective of the project is to



efficiently utilize reclaimed/restored bauxite lands to produce raw materials for economic production, specifically for the agro-processing industry in Walkerswood. Approximately 40 hectares of orchard and cash crops will be grown and marketed to Walkerswood Caribbean Foods, a local agro-processor. Benefits include an increased supply of raw material to the agro-processing industry; improved quality of life for farmers and improved marketing of agricultural produce to the hotel/tourism industry in Jamaica.

Mexico

75. Certification of the IICA Office in Mexico with the ISO 9001:2000 official recognition from the Executive Certification Board of Quality Systems, S.C. As a result, the technical and general services staff in the office is now committed more than ever to working as a team to provide the technical cooperation and administrative support requested by IICA's clients, and to constantly improve the operation of the Office. This successful effort on the part of the Office has led the General Directorate of IICA to adopt a policy calling for the certification of operating units at Headquarters and in other Offices in the countries.
76. Facilitation of exchanges of experiences with other countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, to reassess the development and role of priority groups (women, young people, indigenous peoples and the elderly) and the territorial approach to rural development. Two international seminars were organized, and more than 800 staff members participated from the Under-Secretariat, producer organizations, Secretaries of Agricultural Development, state delegates from the SAGARPA, professional service providers, researchers and scholars specializing in the topic from the public and private sectors.

Nicaragua

77. Support and technical assistance to Nicaragua's agricultural and forestry leaders to prepare a proposal for a development strategy which includes important policy measures and reforms that focus on five key areas of this sector: trade, technology, credit and financing, land ownership and forestry. These proposals have been widely circulated to the government and its main policymaking bodies, as well as to international financial institutions, which have given their full backing and support. The design of the strategy generated a broad range of technical studies in the different areas, which have served as a basis for discussion and the exchange of ideas and policy proposals among members of the country's private and public agricultural and forestry sectors.

78. Assistance to the Government of Nicaragua to implement an important seed program called “pound for pound” whose objective is to increase production and yields of corn, rice, beans and other products. The decisive impact of this program, which also coincided with a good agricultural year, has produced record harvests and surpluses of these commodities, which are being negotiated for export. In a joint initiative involving the Nicaraguan Government, through the Department of Agriculture (MAGFOR), the World Bank’s Agricultural Technology Program, DANIDA and IICA, a technical team was assembled, which formulated the program in record time and facilitated its instrumentation and implementation.

Panama

79. Support to the implementation of the Rural Plan Panama, which is the country’s policy for the development of rural areas under the approach known as the “new rurality”. This plan will be consolidated with the execution of the IDB-funded project Pro-Rural, and with the harmonization of the projects being executed at present in rural Panama, which fall under this policy.
80. Regular meetings and briefings with the Ministry of Agriculture of Panama to reach consensus on a national technical cooperation agenda for IICA in Panama, and establish a critical path in preparation of the next meeting of Ministers of Agriculture, to be held in Panama in November 2003.

Paraguay

81. Preparation and presentation to the Executive Branch of the State of two draft laws calling for the creation of a National Plant and Seed Quality and Health Service (SENAVE) on the one hand, and on the other, the strengthening of the National Animal Health Service. The proposals are currently under study by the Congress. These laws are intended to bring animal and plant quality and health services into line with the current needs of the sector.
82. The introduction of a new curriculum for the bachelor’s degree program in agriculture, as part of the reforms being implemented by the Ministry of Education and Culture. The office provided the technical assistance required to train professionals in the Directorate of Agricultural Education of the Department of Agriculture, and distribute materials to public and private agricultural schools.

Peru

83. Important progress to reduce the native populations of fruit flies on both sides of the border Peru-Chile, to enhance the capabilities



of both countries to make effective use of the sterile insect technique, and to gradually implement a quarantine system in the Departments of Tacna and Moquegua, all within the framework of the project in support of the Chile-Peru/IICA Binational Program to Combat Fruit Flies.

84. Participation in the Public Invitation to Tender on Innovation and Competitiveness for Agriculture in Peru (INCAGRO), and presentation of the project "Promotion of Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) at the National Level". One of the benefits of the project is the formation of local management committees in the different valley and river basins of the country to implement the GAPs.

St. Kitts and Nevis

85. Support for the establishment of the St. Kitts Youth Forum IICA in recognition of the importance of youth involvement in sustainable agricultural development. After months of intense preparatory discussions and negotiations, the St. Kitts Youth Forum was launched by the Governor General of St. Kitts and Nevis and the Minister of Agriculture.
86. Implementation of a bio-control programme that involved the training of technicians in the procedures for the handling and release of parasitoids to combat the fruit fly, *Anastrepha obliqua*, and the survey protocols to determine the presence and levels of indigenous natural enemies and monitoring of parasitoid levels. This initiative also included training on the preparation, introduction and release of parasitoids and associate activities. The fruit fly attacks a wide range of fruits on St. Kitts and is one of the major constraints to the development of the fruit sector.

St. Lucia

87. Support for initiatives to address the threat of the Giant African Snail in the Caribbean. Public awareness materials have been distributed to the countries and a regional workshop was held in Saint Lucia. The workshop's objective was to sensitize the countries about the pest and to develop an Action Plan for the Giant African Snail in the Caribbean. An important outcome of the workshop was the revelation that the Snail is a health hazard both to plants and human.
88. Review and evaluation of the St. Lucia Agriculturist Association and subsequent recommendations for its restructuring. A 5-Year Business Plan to improve the financial viability and to build on the competitive resources of the Association was also prepared. A new CEO is already in place and the 5-year business Plan has been put in operation.

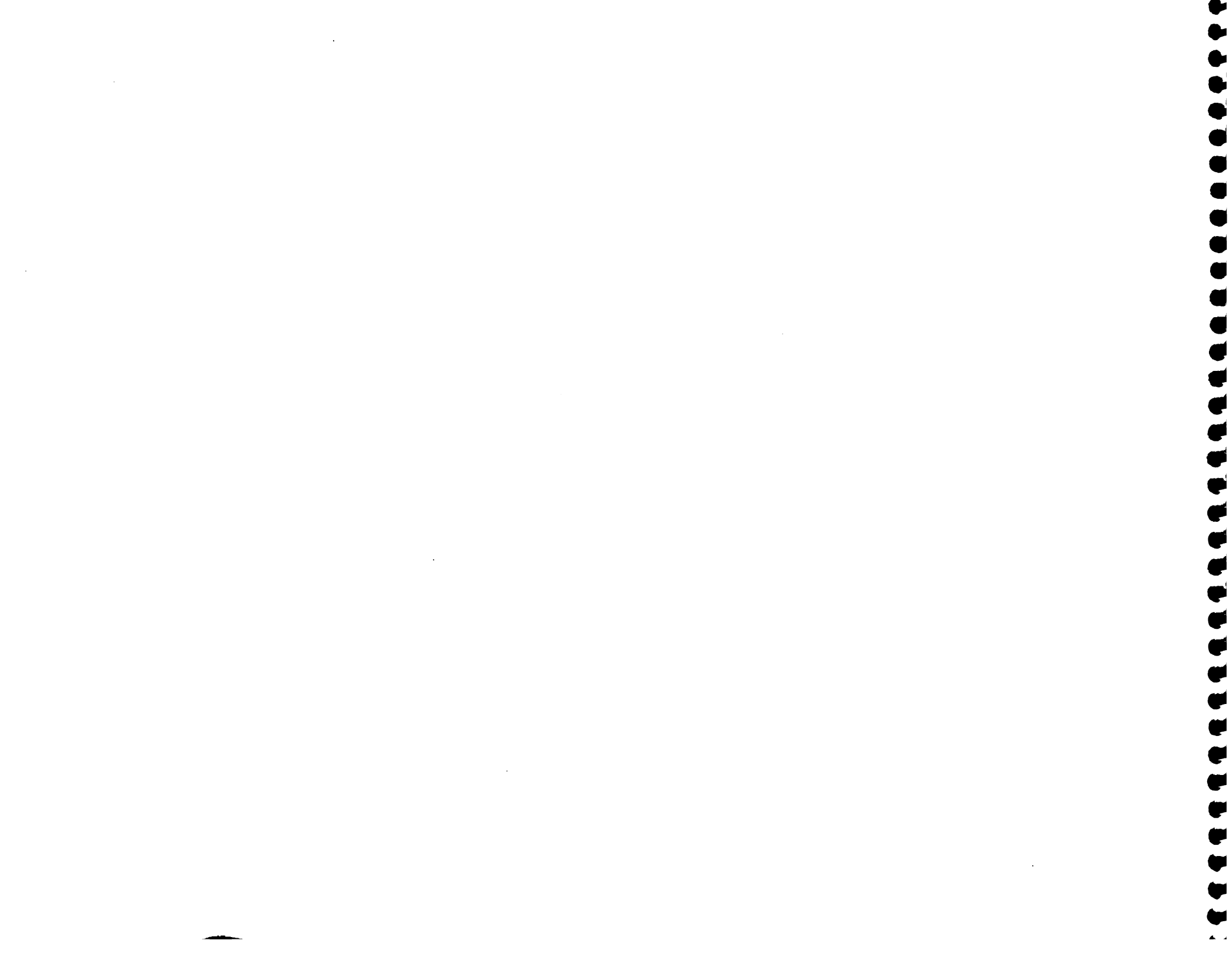


St. Vincent and the Grenadines

89. Organization of several meetings of a group of micro agro-processors to establish a Micro Manufacturers Cooperative Society with the active participation of the Cooperative Division and the National Development Foundation. The group completed the amendments of the Draft By-Laws provided by the Cooperative Division to meet the specific requirements of the proposed cooperative. A Business Plan was prepared, which will enable the Micro Manufacturers Cooperative Society to strengthen the capacity of individual members, reduce costs and increase the volume and quality of "value added" products in the domestic and export markets.
90. Participated in the Pepper Production and Marketing Task Force and facilitated the acquisition of hot pepper germplasm from CARDI in Antigua and Barbuda. The task force attended meetings with farmers in three different rural communities to lend support to the St. Vincent Marketing Corporation (SVMC) and the Ministry of Agriculture in the execution of individual contractual agreements between the SVMC and the farmers for the production and marketing of hot pepper. The production and sale of hot peppers by small rural producers make a significant contribution to farm incomes and increasing prosperity in these areas.

Suriname

91. Building of a Centre for Information and Distance Education fully equipped with computers as an annex the existing IICA office. This Centre went into immediate use when completed in mid 2002 with the establishment and entry into the System of the Suriname Chapter of SIDALC (Agricultural Information and Documentation System for the Americas). Professionals from the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries (LVV), Anton de Kom University of Suriname, Anne van Dijk Rice Research Institute (ADRON), the Centre for Agricultural Research in Suriname (CELOS) and IICA were trained in library management and network development. Two project proposals were also adopted through the Memorandum of Understanding between IICA and the Foundation for Education and Communication Network Suriname (EDUCONS).
92. Support for the revision of the Agricultural Health and Food Safety Legislation in Suriname. This assistance is being made within a framework of the program for improved product quality and food safety carried out by the PAHO Regional Office, various ministries, NGOs and private stakeholders in Suriname. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between IICA Suriname and PAHO Suriname reinforcing this partnership with the Ministry of Health, and a coordinator for this program was also established in IICA-Suriname.



Trinidad and Tobago

93. Assistance to the South West Development Agency (SWDA), an umbrella community group in the La Brea Area, to develop its agricultural business plan. This plan aims to engage the communities in an integrated mix of agro-tourism and agribusiness enterprises, targeted for implementation on 300 acres of state-lands for which the Agency is now seeking a long term lease. Among the enterprises proposed in the plan are production and processing of short-term vegetables and food crops, fruits crops production, and small livestock. The development of enhanced natural forests for outdoor recreation as well as waterspouts in abandoned dams in the area is also identified as a means of further exploiting the touristic potential of the La Brea Region.
94. Organization of a regional workshop on "Qualitative Risk Analysis for Plant Health", in which 13 Caribbean countries sent specialists to be trained on the practical applications to the Pest Risk Analysis process and commodities important in Caribbean intra-regional and extra-regional trade.

United States of America

95. New agreement for joint actions with PAHO, and new political visibility through the OAS Ambassadors, in the spirit of working together with other institutions in the Inter-American system, and particularly with the Organization of American States (OAS) and the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO).
96. Leadership role in the Monterrey Bridge, bringing IICA into a new partnership with Future Harvest and other international public organizations to advance the goal for increased public funding for agriculture and rural development.

Uruguay

97. Support to all the actions that are promoting regional integration and Uruguay's participation in the international context, in particular those linked to the creation of the Agricultural Council of the South, the Network for Cooperation on Policies, the Informal Group of Agricultural Negotiators, the master's degree program in policy and trade, PROCISUR and COSAVE.
98. Agreement with the national government and the departmental governments regarding the execution of actions intended to promote sustainable rural development with a territorial approach, in order to identify a portfolio of regional projects which will lead to a more harmonious development of the country.



Venezuela

99. Support for the organization of the regional forum "International Trade Negotiations and the Dairy Sector in the Andean Region" carried out by FEPALE, CAVILAC, FEDENAGA. As well, the forum "International Trade Agreements: their opportunities and threats," was organized by FEPORCINA, PYMICARNE and IICA, with support from BOLPRIAVEN. This support is provided to promote the dissemination of knowledge of Venezuelan professionals regarding the scope and implications of international agreements, as well as the trade opportunities these agreements create.
100. Support for a number of initiatives intended to strengthen and modernize the Autonomous Agricultural Health Service in the area of regulations, especially through the following activities: Procedures Manual for Brucellosis; Regulations on Transportation; Operating Manual for the Transportation of Plant Material (products and sub-products); and, Regulations and Procedures Manual for Tuberculosis. Aware of the importance of adopting plant protection and animal health measures throughout the production chain of products for domestic consumption and for export, Venezuela has pledged to redouble its efforts to adjust and modernize its health regulations, with support from international cooperation agencies.



Conclusion

This report is an illustration of the type of achievements that IICA has realized in 2002. While the list is only partial, it is an indication of the commitment and dedication of all staff working in the institution according to the following objectives:

- **To support the efforts of the countries of the hemisphere to promote integration, cooperation and participation in the global economy**
- **To support the efforts of the Member States to guarantee food safety and the elimination of sanitary and phytosanitary barriers to trade**
- **To support agroindustrial and agribusiness development through the adoption of new technologies and modern business practices, to make firms more competitive and foster the development of a global environment that favors agribusinesses**
- **To promote sustainable rural development and the sustainable use of natural resources for present and future generations**
- **To support the efforts of the Ministries of Agriculture to transform their role, structure and functions, so as to be able to meet the new challenges posed by globalization and the modernization of the state apparatus**
- **To support the transformation of agricultural education, in order to train scientists, technicians and entrepreneurs who will be able to effectively develop and reposition agriculture.**

It is in this spirit that IICA will forge ahead with supporting coherent and cohesive initiatives that are in line with its overall medium term plan, with the hope and the drive required to contribute effectively to the sustainable development of agriculture and rural prosperity across the Americas.





