

**RESOLUTION No. 386**

**AGRICULTURAL BIOTECHNOLOGY AND BIOSAFETY**

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, at its Twelfth Regular Meeting,

CONSIDERING:

That at the Second Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Rural life, held in Panama on November 11-12, 2003, the Ministers recognized the importance of agricultural biotechnology and its impact on the trade in goods, especially with regard to the transboundary movement of Living Modified Organisms (LMOs);

That the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (CPB) recognizes that Parties and non-Parties may reach arrangements for the purpose of complying with the regulations governing trade and development;

That, in this regard, efforts have been made in the Region to establish strategic partnerships, such as the initiative undertaken by the Central American countries with support from IICA, as well as the high-level discussions among the countries of the Southern Cone;

That Canada and the United States of America (non-Parties to the CPB) and Mexico (Party to the CPB), signed a trilateral arrangement which constitutes one of the first global initiatives to emerge from this Protocol; and

That the ministers of agriculture have expressed interest in learning of the contents of this document,

RESOLVES:

1. To entrust IICA with convening meetings, in consultation with its Member States, to discuss the importance of agricultural biotechnology, and its impact on trade and development.

2. To ask IICA to disseminate among its Member States the arrangement signed by the three countries of North America to facilitate trade and the transboundary movement of LMOs, with a view to considering the possibility of implementing such measures.
3. To establish a task force comprised of IICA staff and interested Member States to develop a plan for agricultural biotechnology and biosafety in the hemisphere.
4. To urge the Member States to contribute to IICA the additional resources necessary to support the activities considered under this resolution.