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REPORT OF THE THIRTY-FIFTH REGULAR MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

San Jose, Costa Rica

15-16 July 2015





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Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), 2015



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MINUTES OF THE MEETING

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

The Thirty-fifth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) was held in accordance with the provisions of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee and of Resolution IICA/CE/Res. 591 (XXXIV-O/14) of said governing body of the Institute.

The 2015 Executive Committee was made up of the following countries: Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Grenada, Jamaica, Peru, Trinidad & Tobago, Uruguay and Venezuela.

PREPARATORY SESSION

0.1 *Opening of the Session*

0.1.1 The Preparatory Session of the Thirty-fifth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee was called to order at 08:40 am on 15 July 2015, in the Sala Magna (United States/Canada rooms) at IICA Headquarters. It was chaired by Mr. Alvin Da Breo, Minister of Agriculture, Lands, Forestry, Fisheries and Environment of Grenada, the country that currently chairs the Executive Committee.

0.1.2 In attendance were the representatives of the Member States comprising the 2015 Executive Committee, namely Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Grenada, Jamaica, Trinidad & Tobago and Uruguay. Peru and Venezuela did not participate due to unforeseen circumstances.

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 of the Executive Committee unanimously elected Mr. José Alpuche, Executive Director of Agriculture of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Agriculture of Belize, as Chair of the meeting. It was then proposed that Mrs. María de Lourdes Cruz, Director of International Relations of the Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food (SAGARPA) of Mexico, serve as Rapporteur. The motion was approved unanimously.

0.2.1.2 The Officers of the meeting were elected as follows:

Chair:	José Alpuche
Rapporteur:	María de Lourdes Cruz
<i>Ex officio</i> Secretary:	Víctor M. Villalobos

0.2.2 Agenda for the Meeting

0.2.2.1 Mr. José Alpuche assumed his role as Chair of the meeting and submitted the provisional work program for the Thirty-fifth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee, contained in document IICA/CE/Doc. 636 (15), to the consideration of the Representatives. The agenda was approved without changes. The Chair announced that the Director General of IICA had asked him to submit a matter to the consideration of the Committee and gave him the floor.

0.2.2.2 The Director General of IICA reported that on February 6 of this year, the Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Costa Rica, in his role as Chair of the Governing Council of the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE), had sent a letter to the Executive Committee of IICA and to the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA). He then asked the Technical Secretary of the meeting to read out the letter.

0.2.2.3 The Technical Secretary read the letter aloud, which referred to Resolution 11-14/16ROCS of 31 October 2014, concerning the status and extension of the law on CATIE No. 8028. The letter called on the Executive Committee to

inform the IABA about the terms of said resolution, in order to secure its support and endorsement for the automatic extension of the current contract, which expires in 2020.

- 0.2.2.4 The Director General mentioned that he had received a letter from the Executive Director of CATIE on 12 May, requesting that the matter be included on the agenda of this Executive Committee meeting. He added that these two requests justified the inclusion of the issue of Law No. 8028 on the agenda of the meeting.
- 0.2.2.5 The Legal Adviser informed the participants that CATIE's current contract was due to expire on 11 September 2020. He explained that this contract would automatically be extended for another twenty years, unless either of the parties (Government of Costa Rica and IICA), notified the other, two years before the expiry date, that it was unwilling to continue with the contract. He pointed out that any decision taken by the IABA at this year's meeting would not be final, because it could be changed at the next meeting in 2017.
- 0.2.2.6 The Director General of IICA pointed out that the IABA had the right and authority to suggest changes to CATIE's current contract and propose these to the Government of Costa Rica. However, given that more than three years remained before the deadline for deciding on the extension, he considered that it might not be appropriate to include the matter on the agenda of this year's IABA meeting.
- 0.2.2.7 He pointed out that automatic renewal of the contract would imply maintaining the current terms and conditions - including IICA's financial contributions and those of the member countries - for another 20 years. He considered that this point should be discussed before making any decision, and added that knowing more about the financial situation of both institutions up to 2017 would provide further evidence to make a more informed decision. He emphasized that any decision taken this year could be overturned by the IABA at its meeting in 2017, as noted by the Legal Adviser.
- 0.2.2.8 The Representative of Canada agreed that it would be advisable to obtain further information from CATIE before deciding.
- 0.2.2.9 The Representative of Brazil also considered it important to have more time to carefully analyze the implications of the decision.

- 0.2.2.10 The Observer Representative of Mexico supported the position expressed by the Director General, the Legal Adviser and the Representatives of Canada and Brazil. He felt that it would be more appropriate to decide on this matter at the IABA meeting in 2017.
- 0.2.2.11 The Technical Secretary announced that the issue of CATIE's contract (under Law No. 8028), which would be submitted by Costa Rica, would be addressed during the second plenary session. He added that the Committee needed to decide whether the matter should be included on the agenda of the IABA meeting this year, or whether it should be addressed at a future meeting of that governing body, with a view to obtaining more information.
- 0.2.2.12 The Director General then informed the representatives of the Member States of the Executive Committee that their folders contained the working and information documents for the meeting, digital versions of which had been made available online on 15 June, in Spanish and English.
- 0.2.3 Working Committees
- 0.2.3.1 It was agreed that all topics would be discussed in the plenary sessions and that no working committees would be established.
- 0.2.4 Duration of the Meeting
- 0.2.4.1 It was agreed that the Closing Session of the meeting would be held on Thursday, 16 July 2015 at 16:00 hours.
- 0.2.5 Deadline for Submitting Proposals
- 0.2.5.1 Wednesday, 15 July at 16:00 hours was set as the deadline for submitting new draft resolutions.
- 0.2.6 Countries' Right to Vote
- 0.2.6.1 The Director General asked the Legal Adviser of IICA for an opinion regarding 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 relevant provisions.

- 0.2.6.2 The Legal Adviser explained the provisions of Chapter IV of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee regarding the right to vote in meetings. He then confirmed that only one of the Member States sitting on the Executive Committee was in arrears beyond the time limit established to have the right to vote.
- 0.2.6.3 The Representative of the Dominican Republic explained that, despite the interest of his country's Minister of Agriculture, financial reasons that had been aggravated by the need to deal with the consequences of the outbreak of Mediterranean fruit fly, had prevented his country from paying the amount owed. He added that his country hoped to cover at least two of the three quotas pending payment in the course of this year.
- 0.2.6.4 It therefore was decided that the Dominican Republic should retain the right to vote.
- 0.2.7 Credentials
- 0.2.7.1 The Technical Secretary confirmed that credentials had been received from the Member States comprising the Executive Committee, issued by the competent authorities, authorizing the participation of all the delegations present. He added that he had also received the credentials of the following Observer Representatives: Costa Rica, Ecuador, Honduras, Mexico and United States of America.
- 0.3 Close of the Session
- 0.3.1 The Preparatory Session of the Thirty-fifth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee of IICA was adjourned at 09:40 hours on 15 July 2015.

FIRST PLENARY SESSION

1.1 *Opening of the Session*

1.1.1 The First Plenary Session of the Thirty-fifth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) was called to order at 10:40 hours on 15 July 2015. It was chaired by Mr. José Alpuche, Executive Director of Agriculture of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Agriculture of Belize.

1.2 *Welcome by the Director General of IICA*

1.2.1 The Director General began by citing Article 23 of the Convention on IICA, which states, “The Member States shall contribute to the maintenance of the Institute through annual quotas established by the Board, in accordance with the system for calculating quotas of the Organization of American States.” He emphasized that this article formed the basis for the Institute’s actions and reflected its solidarity. He considered that Resolution No. 491, adopted by the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) in Argentina in 2013, had renewed that commitment, by requiring reports to be prepared on the Institute’s current financial situation, together with proposals and recommendations for its financial strengthening. He recalled that the IABA had taken that decision considering that, since 1995, IICA’s capacity to provide cooperation had been continuously diminished, due to the freezing of quotas.

1.2.2 The Director General recalled that in 2014, the Executive Committee had resolved to “urge the Member States to make additional voluntary contributions as over-quotas, in order to strengthen the Regular Fund and the implementation of the 2014-2018 MTP.” It had also called on the Director General, in collaboration with the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues (SACMI), to draft options for the financial strengthening of the Institute and present them to the Executive Committee, which would then submit them to the next meeting of the IABA. The Director General announced that those options would be discussed later on in the meeting; however, he stressed that it was his responsibility to emphasize, once again, the urgent need to take steps to provide IICA with more resources to enable it to meet the needs and fulfill the mandates of the countries.

- 1.2.3 He affirmed that the progress made in implementing the 2014-2018 Medium Term Plan (MTP) would contribute to creating a more productive and environmentally sustainable agricultural system, promoting the development of rural areas, alleviating poverty and promoting food security. He then reported that the Institute had adopted the “results-based management” approach, in order to increase the effectiveness of its cooperation to the member countries. He explained that IICA sought to make a greater impact through the eleven contributions set forth in the 2014-2018 MTP. This would enable countries to implement the transformations needed to achieve the four strategic objectives established in the MTP and in the 2010-2020 Strategic Plan.
- 1.2.4 The Director General reminded the meeting that IICA implemented its actions through its flagship projects, rapid response actions, the Technical Cooperation Fund and externally funded projects, mechanisms that allowed the Institute to deliver verifiable results to its member countries. As an example of those results, the Director General mentioned the achievements in the following areas: a) agricultural health and food safety, b) agriculture and adaptation to climate change, c) resilient agriculture and risk management, d) agriculture and energy (Finland’s Andean Regional Energy and Environment Partnership Programme), e) integrated management of water resources, and f) development of technical capabilities through horizontal cooperation actions, including the offer of scholarships for postgraduate studies by the Government of Mexico and support by the Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food (SAGARPA) of Mexico for the technical strengthening program in agriculture for 21 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- 1.2.5 With regard to specific and urgent demands, he emphasized that IICA was able to provide a flexible response through its rapid response actions, 34 of which had already been implemented in the Americas. He noted that the Technical Cooperation Fund had benefited 27 countries during the last twelve months and, with respect to the execution of external resources, the Institute was currently managing a portfolio of 134 projects.
- 1.2.6 The Director General went on to explain that the Seventh Summit of the Americas (Panama), whose slogan was “*Prosperity with Equity: The Challenge of Cooperation in the Americas*,” had reaffirmed the need to create

real opportunities for all, particularly for populations in rural areas, so that they could lead a decent life in conditions of sustainability and food security. He added that, in line with that purpose, the Government of Mexico had chosen “sustainable and inclusive productivity” as the topic for the 2015 Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas to be held in that country.

- 1.2.7 He stated that the Member States had the right to make intensive use of the technical cooperation offered by organizations such as IICA; but they also had a responsibility to maintain those mechanisms so that these could continue to be useful. The Institute, for its part, was required to make the best possible use of the resources provided by its member countries and fulfill the tasks assigned to it in the most effective way possible. The Director General stated that he understood the constraints facing the countries, but asked them to consider that, in order to overcome the current difficulties in the long term, IICA needed to undertake a comprehensive reform process to keep abreast of globalization, advances in information and communication technologies (ICT), the current geopolitical conditions as well as the challenges and needs of agriculture.
- 1.2.8 The Director General acknowledged that, notwithstanding the financial constraints, the Institute must find a way to continue being useful and relevant to its Member States. He thanked those countries which, despite being entitled to a reduction in their quota payments, had instead maintained them, or had made contributions in cash or in kind, targeted at specific topics. He reiterated that, until the decision was made to substantially increase the regular budget, any measure would be temporary.
- 1.3 *Report of the 2015 Regular Meeting of the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues (SACMI)*
- 1.3.1 The Secretary of Corporate Services of IICA, Mr. Carlos O’Farrill, reported that the SACMI had held a meeting on 16 April 2015 in accordance with resolutions IICA/JIA/Res. 491 and IICA/CE/Res. 593, in order to discuss options for the financial strengthening of the Institute.
- 1.3.2 He reported that the members of the SACMI had conducted a comprehensive analysis of IICA’s financial situation, had agreed on the need to strengthen it and had made several proposals to be submitted to the governing bodies.

- 1.3.3 He added that the SACMI had recommended that the proposed 2016-2017 Program Budget convey more clearly the relationship between IICA's strategic objectives and the budget allocation, as well as the implications of a scenario of zero growth in quotas for the results of technical cooperation.
- 1.4 *Financial and programming-budgetary situation*
- 1.4.1 The Secretary of Corporate Services began his presentation by describing some of the main results of corporate management achieved in 2014 and during the first half of 2015. He explained that IICA's strategy of continuous improvement had yielded very positive results in terms of increasing the efficiency of corporate management, cutting costs and achieving economies of scale, thereby strengthening its technical cooperation.
- 1.4.2 2016-2017 Program Budget
- 1.4.2.1 The Secretary of Corporate Services presented the main criteria underpinning the 2016-2017 Program Budget. He explained that it was based on a comprehensive and dynamic model consistent with the 2010-2020 Strategic Plan (SP) and the 2014-2018 Medium-term Plan (MTP). He pointed out that the budget for the aforementioned biennium focused on fundamental aspects of those plans, such as the implementation of the four instruments described in the MTP, namely: a) flagship projects (FP), b) rapid response actions (RRA), c) Technical Cooperation Fund (FonTC) projects and d) externally funded projects. He pointed out that the basis for IICA's budget was the quota scale approved by the Organization of American States (OAS) and that serious threats existed to the institutional finances, such as the depletion of the Miscellaneous Income Fund, which had declined due to changes in countries' financial and fiscal policies. Therefore, he added, the proposal to increase quotas would not result in a positive net increase in the Regular Fund budget; it would only maintain the institution's "flotation line" status quo.
- 1.4.2.2 He then went on to explain the strategic relationship between the Program Budget and the MTP and described how the flagship projects, the RRAs, the externally funded projects and those of the FonTC contributed to achieving the results established in the SP and the MTP. He reported that external resources for 2016 and 2017 had been estimated at USD 140 million and USD 150 million, respectively.

- 1.4.2.3 He mentioned that the income budget approved for 2014-2015 amounted to USD 67.2 million, with a projected USD 69.4 million for the following biennium as a net result of an expected increase in quotas of USD 5.8 million, and an expected reduction in miscellaneous income of USD 3.6 million. He added that with a 10.5% increase in quotas the Institute would be able to maintain its current level of operations until that year and fulfill the commitments established in the MTP.
- 1.4.2.4 He then presented the budget of expenditures of the Regular Fund for 2016-2017, stressing that personnel costs would increase in 2017. He explained that this was something beyond IICA's control, and resulted from the need to increase salaries to comply with the countries' provisions and maintain the Institute's competitiveness in the labor market. He added that this increase would be offset by a reduction in operating costs in 2017.
- 1.4.3 Financial strengthening of the Institute
- 1.4.3.1 The Secretary of Corporate Services enumerated the factors that had weakened the Institute's finances: a) the stagnation, in nominal and real terms, of countries' quota contributions; b) the continuous decline in miscellaneous income in recent years; c) the loss in value of resources due to inflation and changes in fiscal and financial policies, which had made it difficult to recover taxes during the management of externally funded projects; and d) the prohibition against using resources generated by the interest rates obtained from those project funds.
- 1.4.3.2 He added that although the strict measures of rationality and austerity applied to IICA's expenditures had contributed favorably to mitigate the effects of the loss of real value accumulated in the last 20 years, these measures could not be applied indefinitely without the risk of losing more human talent and generating possible operational atrophy.
- 1.4.3.3 He pointed out that the Institute's technical cooperation services and institutional operations required financial certainty, in order to ensure organizational stability, continue to execute the management strategy, continue to improve quality, give continuity to projects implemented in the countries, the regions and the hemisphere, promote greater generation of value and ensure a highly positive return on the investments of IICA's member countries.

- 1.4.3.4 The Secretary of Corporate Services explained that, following the SACMI's recommendation, the budget proposal included a scenario of zero growth in quotas, whose effects on the Regular Fund would be equivalent to a reduction of more than 13% in real terms. He warned that this situation could have the following effects: a) cutbacks in the activities and contributions of Member States, implying an incalculable setback in the Institute's work and the technical investment made throughout its history; b) loss of the competitive advantage derived from its capacity to mobilize experts from across the hemisphere and, therefore, a decline in IICA's intellectual contribution to technical cooperation projects; c) loss of flexibility to respond appropriately to the needs of Member States; and d) diminished capacity to respond to the demands of the member countries as a result of personnel cuts, which would likely include eight international personnel positions, nine local professional personnel and ten general services staff.
- 1.4.3.5 The Secretary of Corporate Services then referred to the negative impact on projects of a potential reduction in the institutional budget, including: a) a reduction in the number of countries and public and private actors benefiting from efforts to strengthen the agribusiness and associative capabilities of small and medium-scale producers; b) in its role as an Observer Member of the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (2002) and the Agriculture Committee (2010) of the WTO, IICA would be constrained in its efforts to support countries in monitoring and complying with their commitments to said organization and to related international standards; c) reduction in the scope and quality of IICA's information networks and knowledge management services, e.g. Infoagro/Infotec (23,000 users); and d) placing at risk the progress achieved to date, in nine countries, in implementing processes for the design and application of public policies and institutional frameworks aimed at achieving the inclusive and equitable development of agriculture and rural areas, boosting local economies and promoting the inclusion of indigenous peoples, women and rural youth, etc.
- 1.4.4 Institutional Net Rate (INR)- Recovery of Proportional Indirect Costs (RePIC)
- 1.4.4.1 The Secretary of Corporate Services announced that the term "Institutional Net Rate (INR)" would be replaced with "Recovery of Proportional Indirect Costs (RePIC)," since the term INR did not adequately convey the true meaning of the concept and tended to be confused with profits or overhead costs. He explained that IICA needed to recoup the indirect costs incurred in

administering externally funded projects. He pointed out that in 2008-2014, the RePIC had increased by two percentage points, approaching the target level.

1.4.5 Criteria for the approval of externally funded projects

1.4.5.1 The Secretary of Corporate Services explained that a rigorous process was followed for the approval of externally funded projects. First, the Process Support Group (GAP), a multidisciplinary team made up of specialists in technical, financial, legal and strategic aspects, needed to assess the viability of the project and its legal instrument. Once the GAP had validated the project, it was submitted to the Programming Committee, comprising the Directors of Regional Management and Integration and Technical Cooperation and the Secretary of Corporate Services, who conducted a thorough and comprehensive analysis of the proposal. Once it had been approved by the Programming Committee, the project was then sent to the Director General of IICA for his authorization.

1.4.6 Agreements signed by IICA in 2014

1.4.6.1 The Secretary of Corporate Services presented a report on the agreements signed by the Institute in 2014, corresponding to externally funded projects in the sum of nearly USD 130 million, distributed as follows: a) Central Region: USD 3.3 million, b) Andean Region: USD 1.6 million, c) Caribbean Region: USD 1.0 million, d) Northern Region: USD 88.3 million and e) Southern Region: USD 34.1 million. The average rate agreed for these projects was 7.4%.

1.4.7 Report on the collection of quotas

1.4.7.1 The Secretary of Corporate Services reported on the status of the quota payments from the member countries. He noted that three countries were in arrears, with no country in “special status”, 10 countries in an “up-to-date status” and 21 countries in “regular status.”

1.4.8 2014 Financial Statements of IICA and Report of the External Auditors

1.4.8.1 The Secretary of Corporate Services presented the results of the 2014 external audit, carried out by the firm Deloitte, which had concluded, after a review,

that the financial statements of IICA had represented “reasonably, in all important aspects, the Institute’s financial position as of 31 December 2014.”

- 1.4.8.2 He explained that, according to the auditors’ report, the audit evidence obtained was considered sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for its qualified audit opinion. He stated that the basis of this opinion was that the provisions for employee termination benefits required actuarial studies, using generally accepted accounting principles in the United States of America. He added that the external auditors had recommended that the Institute conduct actuarial studies for each of its offices. However, given the high costs involved, to date these had only been carried out in selected offices and had covered nearly 70% of IICA staff.
- 1.4.9 Twenty-first Report of the Audit Review Committee (ARC)
- 1.4.9.1 The Secretary of Corporate Services reported that the ARC, composed of Pamela D.M. Monroe Ellis, Diana C. Barés Varela and Steve Rickrode, had held a meeting at IICA Headquarters on 3-4 June 2015 to review the financial statements for the fiscal year ending in December 2014 and the external audit. He pointed out that the ARC had made the following recommendations to IICA: a) to consider conducting additional actuarial studies on the benefits paid for termination of services, b) depending on the availability of resources, to consider conducting a vulnerability analysis of the information systems, and c) to continue monitoring actions related to the AIS project in Colombia.
- 1.4.10 Election of a Member of the Audit Review Committee (ARC)
- 1.4.10.1 The Secretary of Corporate Services reminded the Executive Committee that it was necessary to elect a member of the ARC, given that Mrs. Monroe Ellis’ term would conclude on 31 December 2015.
- 1.4.10.2 The Legal Adviser of IICA then explained the procedures established for that purpose in the ARC’s Rules of Procedure and pointed out that the member selected would need a minimum of seven votes. For the purposes of conducting the voting process, the Observer Representatives of Mexico and the United States of America were designated as tellers.
- 1.4.10.3 The Secretary of Corporate Services announced that the two candidates would be Mr. Sergio Noguera, of Paraguay, and Mrs. Antoinette R. Hodge, of Saint Kitts and Nevis. Two rounds of voting were then held.

1.4.10.4 At the end of the second round, the Chair announced that Mrs. Hodge had been elected by eight votes.

1.5 *Analysis and comments by representatives of the Member States*

1.5.1 The Chair suggested that the representatives begin their analysis by addressing those issues most likely to result in consensus and then discuss the issue of quotas, which usually entailed greater dialogue. He emphasized the following points mentioned in the presentations: a) that IICA had been restructured to improve its efficiency and respond to challenges; b) that the last increase in quota contributions had been 20 years ago, and therefore it would be important to consider the increases in income received since then; and c) that agriculture had undergone profound changes and had gained importance in recent years. In his capacity as Representative of Belize, he said his government was in agreement with the proposed quota increase of 10.5% and had even considered increasing it by more than that figure.

1.5.2 The Representative of Jamaica noted that IICA obtained a considerable sum from external resources (around USD 130 million) and asked how much of that amount was used to strengthen the Institute's budget through a management commission which, as mentioned, was an average of 7.9%. He said many organizations applied similar rates to strengthen their budgets.

1.5.3 The Secretary of Corporate Services explained that the external resources obtained by IICA for the implementation of projects were resources given in administration, which were applied as direct costs and amounted to USD 129.7 million. He explained that the indirect costs were those incurred by the Institute to cover personnel, electricity, consumables, telephone services and other administrative costs of the projects; therefore, IICA, needed to recover those indirect costs to avoid decapitalizing its Regular Fund. He added that the current difference of two tenths between the basic rate of 8.1% and the effective rate of 7.9% was a cost that IICA was assuming. He stressed that the aim was to achieve a balance, because in order to be consistent with the net neutral approach established in its policy, the Institute could not obtain profits.

1.5.4 The Representative of Uruguay stated that her government considered reasonable the 10.5% increase proposed by the Institute. She indicated that her country was in the process of defining its contributions to international organizations in the national budget for 2016. She also reported that, given the

decline in international cooperation received by Uruguay, which was regarded as a middle-income country, her government was trying to identify projects and countries with which to implement alternative initiatives, such as South-South cooperation. She felt that countries would benefit from their association with IICA, using its support as a mechanism for accessing these new alternatives.

- 1.5.5 The Observer Representative of Costa Rica also considered that the proposed 10.5% increase in the quota was reasonable, but said this would only be feasible for her country as of 2017, since Costa Rica had already prepared its 2016 budget.
- 1.5.6 The Director General of IICA thanked the Representatives of Belize, Uruguay, Costa Rica and Jamaica for their support. He expressed his satisfaction at their positive response to IICA's financial strengthening proposal and reiterated that the Institute did not obtain profits, but merely recovered the expenses incurred in the operation of the projects.
- 1.5.7 The Representative of Canada expressed satisfaction at the way in which the financial information and the budget proposal had been presented and linked with IICA's strategic objectives. He then requested additional information on three specific topics: a) the decrease in miscellaneous income; b) with respect to the RePIC-INR, he asked whether there were plans to exceed the 7.9% projected for 2016 and 2017, which would be used to subsidize part of the indirect costs, and whether the 8.1% rate might be obsolete, given that it had been calculated several years ago; and c) the possible consequences for IICA, and the impacts on other countries, if the Government of Colombia were to press charges against the Institute over the situation involving the *Agro Ingreso Seguro* (AIS) program.
- 1.5.8 The Secretary of Corporate Services noted that miscellaneous income was one of two elements that comprised the Regular Fund. He explained that the main source of funding for the Miscellaneous Income Fund was the recovery of taxes paid during the management of externally funded projects and the second source was the interest generated by external project funds; the other sources were very limited.
- 1.5.9 He explained that changes in Member States' fiscal and financial policies required that yields from these two sources be repaid to government treasuries or be reinvested in the projects themselves. With respect to the INR, he

remarked that efforts had been made to bring this closer to the 8.1% target rate. He felt that this percentage was probably no longer appropriate and agreed on the need for a study to update it, along with further efforts to reduce costs. He considered it advisable to wait until the following year to update the study on indirect costs, in order to assess the effects of the new institutional strategy. Finally, regarding the case of Colombia, he explained that it was a latent situation, under control, without any worrying signs at present and that it was being carefully monitored.

- 1.5.10 The Director General elaborated on the explanation concerning the projected percentage of RePIC-INR for 2016 and 2017. He pointed out that some projects under implementation had been negotiated prior to establishing the 8.1% rate, reflected in an average below that figure. As to the situation with Colombia, he affirmed that there was good communication with that country's government, which had shown a very positive attitude, and that he did not anticipate any situations that might affect the relationship.
- 1.5.11 The Representative of Brazil stated that he valued the cooperation provided by IICA to his country and to other Member States, together with its efforts to help countries meet the new challenges facing the agricultural sector. He recalled that the Minister of Agriculture of Brazil had recently had an opportunity to express her appreciation personally to the Director General of IICA for the support provided to her country. He also thanked the Secretary of Corporate Services and the Director of Regional Management and Integration of IICA for their recent visit to Brazil, during which they had discussed the Institute's cooperation efforts with authorities of the Ministries of Agriculture and Planning.
- 1.5.12 The Representative of Brazil acknowledged that the current challenges were very different to the last 20 years and stressed that IICA had adapted to deal with this new situation efficiently and effectively. He stated that, unfortunately, Brazil's financial difficulties prevented it from supporting the proposal to increase the Institute's regular budget. He considered that it would be difficult to adopt the new quota scale proposed by the OAS, since it entailed a significant change in some countries' contributions and, in the case of Brazil, would imply a 25% increase. However, he stressed that his government was making efforts to remain up to date with its quota payments.
- 1.5.13 The Observer Representative of Mexico stated that he supported the Director General's proposal to raise the quota budget by 10.5%. He also pledged that

his country would continue paying the regular quotas punctually, would pay a voluntary over-quota contribution and would pay the corresponding additional amount derived from that increase. He then urged the other Member States to reach a consensus on the Institute's financial strengthening.

- 1.5.14 The Observer Representative of Ecuador expressed his appreciation for the excellent presentation of IICA's financial-administrative issues. He voiced concern at the abrupt fall in miscellaneous income and asked whether those resources should continue to be considered as part of the Regular Fund. He requested further information on the decline in the Miscellaneous Income Fund. As to the 10.5% rate of increase, he noted that it barely reached the "flotation line" status quo, suggesting the need for longer term measures, including the identification of new sources of income, instead of finding a solution that might become obsolete in a couple of years. He concluded by emphasizing that his country's Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Ponce, supported the proposed 10.5% increase and remained committed to joint work with IICA.
- 1.5.15 The Secretary of Corporate Services explained that the Miscellaneous Income Fund had existed for more than a decade and had been designed to complement the quota budget resources. The idea was to capitalize this fund with resources from the recovery of taxes and interest rates, which had made it possible to build it up until it reached USD 10 million. He recalled that around seven or eight years ago, the countries had begun applying restrictive fiscal and financial measures. This involved repaying the resources obtained from taxes to the national treasuries or, in some cases, using them to finance complementary activities for the projects from which they had originally come, such as publications, workshops and training events. He added that IICA no longer had the option of capitalizing on income obtained from interest. The amount of resources that IICA was expected to capture, between USD 3 million and USD 3.5 million, was not envisaged as part of a reserve fund, but rather as resources complementary to the quota budget, as set forth in the proposed budget.
- 1.5.16 The Secretary of Corporate Services stated he shared the representatives' concerns over the difficult financial situation that the Institute would face after 2017. To address this, he added, it would be necessary to consider an institutional restructuring that incorporated alternative methods of financing, as indicated by the Director General of IICA. He agreed that the proposed increase would not resolve the situation in the long term and explained that the

strategy was to continue to seek improvements in efficiency, without sacrificing the technical cooperation programs or staff.

- 1.5.17 The Observer Representative of the United States of America acknowledged that in recent years the Institute had been asked to do a lot with few resources, and that it had gradually adapted to the changes and challenges of the agricultural sector. He noted that although the flagship projects were small with respect to externally funded projects, the Institute had achieved important results in the technical cooperation provided directly to countries through the flagship projects. Finally, he proposed that, in light of the current situation, a working group be convened in order to comprehensively discuss options for strengthening the institutional finances, including options for an intermediate increase.
- 1.5.18 The Representative of Grenada explained that his country was undergoing a process of structural adjustment with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and therefore it would be difficult to support a 25% increase in its quota. However, he made a commitment to continue paying the current quota.
- 1.5.19 The Representative of Canada agreed with the views expressed by the Observer Representative of the United States of America regarding the need to find medium-term solutions and acknowledged IICA's efforts to implement its actions, despite the financial constraints. However, he pointed out that, unfortunately, Canada maintained a zero growth policy for quotas paid to international organizations, and therefore he could not support the proposed 10.5% budget increase. He proposed that IICA present a budget increase of 6.5% to compensate for the loss of the miscellaneous income fund.
- 1.5.20 The Representative of El Salvador commended the Institute for its efforts to continue providing support to its Member States efficiently and with few resources. He explained that his country's economic situation made it impossible to meet the request for a 10.5% increase. However, he promised to pay the current quota in a timely manner and called on the representatives to explore other options to improve the Institute's financial situation.
- 1.5.21 The Director General of IICA thanked the representatives for their comments on the financial situation facing their countries, and for acknowledging IICA's efforts to assist its member countries. He argued that the Institute was an institution worth preserving, because despite its financial difficulties, it had managed to maintain high quality standards in the provision of technical

cooperation services. He said that he understood the position of those countries whose specific economic conditions prevented them from supporting an increase in their financial contributions to IICA. He added that it would not be possible to submit a proposal to the IABA unless an agreement were reached on the need to restore the Institute's finances. He thanked the Observer Representative of the United States of America for his suggestion to convene a small working group to consider solutions, in order to prepare a proposal for the IABA.

- 1.5.22 The Chair invited the representatives of the Executive Committee to consider the proposal of the Observer Representative of the United States of America to establish a working group.
- 1.5.23 The Representative of Brazil supported the proposal, expressed his willingness to participate in that working group and stressed the importance of the work carried out by the Institute in the countries.
- 1.5.24 The Observer Representative of the United States of America called for the working group's objectives to be clearly defined. He said it should find answers to questions such as: What is IICA? What should be its goal? How should it evolve? It should not only discuss whether or not to go ahead with the proposed budget increase.
- 1.5.25 The Chair called on the Technical Secretary to present a recommendation for the creation of the proposed group, in order to define the proposal to be submitted to the IABA.
- 1.6 *Close of the Session*
- 1.6.1 The First Plenary Session of the Thirty-fifth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee of IICA was adjourned at 12:52 hours on 15 July 2015.

SECOND PLENARY SESSION

2.1 Opening of the Session

2.1.1 The Second Plenary Session of the Thirty-fifth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) was called to order at 14:35 hours on 15 July 2015. It was chaired by Mr. José Alpuche, Executive Director of Agriculture of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Agriculture of Belize.

2.1.2 The Chair announced that the Observer Representative of Costa Rica had requested the floor after the presentation of the report of the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE), in order to discuss the issue of Law No. 8028 on CATIE, included on the agenda of the meeting. None of the representatives raised objections to her request, which was approved.

2.2 Relations between IICA and the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE)

2.2.1 2013-2014 CATIE Report

2.2.1.1 The Director General of CATIE explained that his report was an advance of the document that he would be submitting to the next meeting of the IABA, in accordance with the Law on CATIE. He explained that the institution was the outcome of a collaborative effort between IICA, the Government of Costa Rica, the member countries, hundreds of partners and the staff of CATIE. He added that CATIE's 2013-2020 Strategic Plan consisted of four strategic pillars.

2.2.1.2 The first pillar, he said, was based on the model of a land-grant university, which combined the components of education, research and extension services; the second pillar was the "regional scientific platform," established in partnership with scientific partners and reinforced with the graduate school; the third pillar was the "outreach platform in the countries" comprising offices, projects and partners that contributed to education and research; and the fourth pillar was the "institutional sustainability model," aimed at ensuring CATIE's financial sustainability.

- 2.2.1.3 The Director General of CATIE went on to emphasize the strengthening, flexibility and diversification of the institution's academic programs, which had enabled CATIE to increase its academic offerings from nine programs in 2013 to 27 in 2014 and 35 in 2015. He considered that these programs were relevant to agriculture and to the management of natural resources. He reported that CATIE's academic programs were undergoing an accreditation process and that the institution had established agreements with more than 40 international universities. He added that in 2014 the number of students had increased to more than 1000, and that in 2015 the teaching staff had grown to 72.
- 2.2.1.4 In relation to the second pillar, he reported that CATIE had signed agreements with international research centers, particularly with the CGIAR centers, which considered CATIE a suitable partner for implementing actions in areas of interest to the Latin American and Caribbean countries, because of its systemic and interdisciplinary approach to work. He highlighted CATIE's contributions to knowledge generation through its research projects and scientific publications, and through the results achieved in its research on coffee and cocoa as well as those achieved by the Environmental Modelling Laboratory, the Ibero-American Model Forest Network, the Mesoamerican Environmental Program and the Regional Climate Change Program.
- 2.2.1.5 With regard to the third pillar, he mentioned CATIE's efforts to disseminate its work in different countries and to support national policymaking efforts based on scientific inputs, transfer of knowledge, the development of organizational capabilities for production, the formation of human capital and the strengthening of research capacities.
- 2.2.1.6 As to the fourth pillar, he affirmed that CATIE generated 95% of its income from the sale of services, participation in bidding processes and commercial activities. He emphasized that the Center was managing 130 projects, twenty of which produced 80% of its income. CATIE had also secured funds for research and development projects and to finance scholarships, professors, infrastructure and educational equipment. He concluded by emphasizing that CATIE's sustainability must be based on increasing its income and diversifying its sources.

2.2.2 Law No. 8028 on CATIE

- 2.2.2.1 The Observer Representative of Costa Rica referred to the resolutions issued by CATIE's board of directors in September and October of 2014 and, based on the procedures established in Article 33 of Law No. 8028 on CATIE, respectfully asked the members of the Executive Committee to automatically extend the Law. She justified her request - and its early timing - by arguing that CATIE needed to have legal certainty in order to assure the donor countries that resources donated to CATIE would be used as agreed by the parties. She also argued that automatic extension of the law would remove any uncertainty as the expiry date approached.
- 2.2.2.2 The Representative of Uruguay considered it premature to include this matter on the agenda of the next Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), inasmuch as any decision taken at that meeting could be subject to change before 11 September 2018, considering that the authorities of IICA and CATIE would change before that date. She emphasized that Uruguay was not expressing an opinion concerning the extension of the contract for another 20 years, but rather on the possibility of including the matter in the agenda of the next Regular Meeting of the IABA.
- 2.2.2.3 The Representative of Canada thanked the Observer Representative of Costa Rica for her explanation. He asked whether it would be necessary to ask the Executive Committee and the IABA to approve an extension of 20 years, once the current Law expired in 2020, in order to guarantee the contribution of USD 1 million that IICA provides to CATIE.
- 2.2.2.4 The Legal Adviser explained that the amount of IICA's contribution to CATIE established in the contract was "up to a maximum" of 5% of its quota budget. In other words, it could be less than USD 1 million.
- 2.2.2.5 The Director General of CATIE explained that Article 33 of Law No. 8028 on CATIE established that the contract could be automatically extended if two conditions were met two years prior to its expiry: a) that the Government of Costa Rica had not communicated its decision to terminate the contract, b) that the General Directorate of IICA, in compliance with the IABA agreement, had not notified the Governing Council of CATIE of its decision to terminate said contract and dissolve the association.

- 2.2.2.6 He considered that CATIE had managed to secure agreements and contracts with donors, thanks to this law that supports it. He felt that an early decision by the IABA would give the donors legal certainty.
- 2.2.2.7 He reiterated the comments made by the Observer Representative of Costa Rica, emphasizing that it was in the interest of that country's Government to have an automatic renewal of the contract law, and that CATIE's Governing Council had asked IABA for a similar resolution to provide the Center with the required legal stability.
- 2.2.2.8 The Representative of Canada commented that the Executive Committee had taken note of the matter and warned that there would be direct financial implications for IICA.
- 2.2.2.9 The Observer Representative of the United States of America requested a copy of Law No. 8028 on CATIE.
- 2.2.2.10 The Legal Adviser agreed to provide the document requested by the Representative of the United States of America.
- 2.2.2.11 The Director General of IICA advised that it would be best for CATIE to leave things as they were, given that legal certainty was a very relative notion, since an agreement reached today could be revoked within three years. He felt that further information was required in order to develop a position that could be submitted to the IABA for analysis at its Regular Meeting in 2017.
- 2.2.2.12 The Chair noted that more and more questions were being raised about this matter, and that it was unlikely that a consensus would be reached in time to present it at this year's IABA meeting. He therefore suggested postponing its discussion.
- 2.2.2.13 The Representative of Jamaica felt that the issue of the legal certainty that would result from the renewal of CATIE's contract should be addressed at the next IABA meeting. He considered that if legal certainty was so essential for CATIE to be able to sign agreements with donor institutions, it would not be advisable to wait until the IABA meeting in 2017 to deal with this issue. He considered that the IABA could even redefine the relationship between IICA and CATIE or reconfigure it.

- 2.2.2.14 The Representative of Canada stated that a decision must be taken, but not necessarily at the next IABA meeting, since the agreement could be revoked at its meeting in 2017. He expressed interest in exploring the reasons for the urgency of making a decision in 2015, knowing that the law expired in 2020.
- 2.2.2.15 The Chair remarked that if CATIE was so close to achieving financial self-sufficiency, it would be useful to know the reasons why it continued to be associated with IICA. He suggested taking advantage of the situation to reflect on CATIE's future.
- 2.2.2.16 The Director General of CATIE explained that the legal certainty to which he had referred was necessary to sign agreements with donors next year. He said the funding provided by IICA to CATIE had been very clearly explained by the Legal Adviser, in response to an administrative decision by IICA. He considered that if the requested extension of the law were not approved, this would have consequences for CATIE, since it would limit its possibilities of accessing resources.
- 2.2.2.17 The Observer Representative of Mexico considered that this issue should be addressed more comprehensively in 2017 for the following reasons: a) in accordance with the Law on CATIE, the deadline for deciding was 11 September 2018, and b) it was essential to consider other implications of this matter and, at the moment, there was insufficient information; therefore it would not be advisable to include it on the IABA agenda for 2015.
- 2.2.2.18 The Chair pointed out that the points raised required careful consideration by CATIE before the matter reached the IABA, something that required more information and time. He considered that there was very little time left to analyze the matter and submit it for discussion at the next meeting of the IABA.
- 2.2.2.19 The Observer Representative of Costa Rica explained that her insistence on the matter was prompted by the fact that, although the contract expired in five years' time, Article 33 of the law required that a decision be made two years before expiry. This reduced the term to three years, and she wished to offer the donors assurances that the initiatives targeted by their funds could be implemented without problems. She reiterated that the issue of extending the term of the law was separate from the issue of IICA's financial support to CATIE.

- 2.2.2.20 The Technical Secretary referred to the letter of the Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Costa Rica in which he expressed his interest in submitting the matter to the IABA. He noted that the IICA Convention and its Rules of Procedure authorized the Executive Committee to include the topic on the agenda, but that neither those rules nor the law granted the Executive Committee the authority to decide on an extension. He added that, according to his understanding of the matter, Costa Rica's Deputy Minister of Agriculture was requesting that the renewal of the term of the law be endorsed for another 20 years, which exceeded the powers of the Executive Committee.
- 2.2.2.21 The Observer Representative of Costa Rica clarified that her request was that the issue be included on the agenda of the IABA meeting in 2015. She suggested that, in the event of the proposal not being approved, a working group should be set up with representatives of IICA, Costa Rica and other countries to discuss the matter and present it in the plenary at the next IABA meeting.
- 2.2.2.22 The Chair warned that the creation of such a group might usurp the authority of the Executive Committee. He then asked the representatives of the Executive Committee if they wished to vote on whether to include the topic on the agenda of the upcoming IABA meeting.
- 2.2.2.23 The Representative of Jamaica felt that a vote was unnecessary, noting that the signing of long-term contracts was key to CATIE's survival; he therefore had no problem in presenting it at the upcoming meeting of the IABA.
- 2.2.2.24 The Representative of the Dominican Republic argued that including that topic in the current meeting could create doubt or insecurity among donors interested in supporting CATIE, especially if the Executive Committee decided not to include it on the agenda of the next IABA meeting.
- 2.2.2.25 The Observer Representative of Costa Rica invited the Representatives of Jamaica and the Dominican Republic to formalize their support for her request, which concerned a matter of legal security.
- 2.2.2.26 The Representative of Canada considered that it was not feasible to vote on this matter during the present Executive Committee meeting, since he did not think that the countries intended to object to its inclusion on the agenda of the next IABA meeting. He thanked the Chair for pointing out that, by creating a smaller group to analyze the matter, the Executive Committee might be

delegating its authority. He added that the Government of Costa Rica could submit the matter to the IABA at any time. Finally, he reiterated that this matter, whether it is presented to the IABA in 2015 or in 2017, had financial implications for IICA, and therefore total clarity was needed before making a decision.

2.2.2.27 The Chair explained that the last point mentioned by the Representative of Canada was raising doubts in some delegations, since the implications of the decision had not been analyzed and it was still not clear how IICA's finances would be strengthened.

2.2.2.28 The Deputy Director General of IICA expressed his agreement with the Representative of Canada and suggested working with the Legal Advisers of CATIE, IICA and the Government of Costa Rica to ensure that CATIE had legal certainty.

2.2.2.29 In response to an invitation by the Chair, the Observer Representative of Costa Rica asked that a vote be taken at her request.

2.2.2.30 The Chair asked whether any members of the Executive Committee seconded Costa Rica's motion. In view of the fact that it was not seconded, he stated that Costa Rica had the right to submit the request directly to the IABA. The Chair stressed that the Executive Committee was not questioning IICA's support to CATIE, given that there was an existing contractual commitment and an interest in maintaining relations between both institutions.

2.2.3 Report on IICA-CATIE joint technical and administrative cooperation activities

2.2.3.1 The Deputy Director General of IICA began his presentation by referring to the bilateral agreement signed between CATIE and IICA as a framework for mutual cooperation in the technical and administrative areas. He stated that those technical actions had been identified based on the thematic areas considered as priorities by both institutions. In the case of IICA, these had been defined in its 2014-2018 Medium-term Plan and, in the case of CATIE, in its Strategic Plan for 2013-2020.

2.2.3.2 He pointed out that both institutions had a longstanding relationship of technical cooperation and were currently working together on various topics, such as the following: a) research and technological innovation, including

actions to promote sustainable agriculture and adaptation to climate change; b) land management, through synergies in the implementation of the Central American Strategy of Rural Area-based Development (ECADERT) and the Mesoamerican Environmental Program (MAP); c) development of technical capacities through the institutionalization of the Henry A. Wallace Scholarship Program; and d) improving coffee production through the actions of the Regional Cooperative Program for the Technological Development and Modernization of Coffee Production (PROMECAFE).

2.3 *Relations between IICA and the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI)*

2.3.1 2013-2014 CARDI Report

2.3.1.1 The Executive Director of the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI), Mr. Barton Clarke, presented a report on the main actions carried out in 2014. He recalled that the relationship between IICA and CARDI dated back to 1989. Since then, he said, both institutions had signed five cooperation agreements to promote agricultural research for the development of the Caribbean region. He added that IICA's financial support focused on seven thematic areas: a) herbs, condiments and beverages; b) protected agriculture; c) tubers; d) livestock (small ruminants); e) exchange of knowledge, coordination and management; f) grain legumes and cereals; and g) invasive species.

2.3.1.2 He then highlighted some of the results achieved through joint cooperation in various Caribbean countries: a) collection and characterization of 42 accessions of sweet potato; b) capacity-building in best practices for cassava production; c) adaptation of two sweet potato varieties to local conditions, producing better yields; d) training for 25 goat breeders, 20 extension workers and 20 ministry of agriculture officials in the breeding of dairy goats; e) training for 48 producers in yam production; f) improved yields of plant and animal species; and g) training of 20 individuals in biological approaches to the management of the coconut mite, using the materials and results of work carried out by experts in India.

2.3.1.3 Finally he enumerated some of the future actions that CARDI was planning to implement in some countries of the region with IICA's support: a) propagation of two sweet potato varieties and their distribution to farmers; b) technical assistance for hot pepper producers and facilitation of negotiations between

them and agro-processors; c) validation tests, using biological and chemical methods, for the management of the sweet potato weevil; and d) monitoring of lethal yellowing disease of coconut palms.

2.3.2 Report on IICA-CARDI joint cooperation activities

2.3.2.1 The Director of Technical Cooperation of IICA began his presentation by reporting that a new agreement between IICA and CARDI was currently being negotiated.

2.3.2.2 He recalled that both institutions had a long history of supporting agricultural research and that, in the context of IICA's new structure, CARDI was associated with two of its flagship projects: a) Resilience and Comprehensive Risk Management in Agriculture, a project that supports the Forum on Climate-Smart Agriculture for the Caribbean Region; and b) Productivity and Sustainability of Family Agriculture, which supports Caribbean producers by providing tools and extension services, and by promoting natural resource management practices to reduce risks and improve the food supply.

2.3.2.3 He added that the latest IABA mandate received by IICA required it to work with CARDI on externally funded projects that focused on the transfer and adoption of technologies for agricultural production and the processing of agricultural products. The Institute had also promoted capacity-building efforts with CARDI, through a training program implemented with funding from Mexico, through the Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food (SAGARPA). He mentioned that in 2014-2015, 14 CARDI researchers and technicians had received training in topics such as protected agriculture, small ruminants, soil and water conservation, plant protection, rural tourism, family agriculture and in-vitro cloning of tropical plants.

2.3.2.4 Finally, he referred to the opportunities for future cooperation between IICA and CARDI, in the context of the new agreement that would be signed this year, after a joint analysis of regional priorities and challenges. These could be addressed through institutional synergies that would achieve more effective results.

- 2.4 *Activities of the General Directorate and Governing Bodies of IICA*
- 2.4.1 2014 Annual Report of IICA
- 2.4.1.1 The Technical Secretary stated that the Institute's 2014 Annual Report had been shared with the members of the Executive Committee via the online information system. He then gave the representatives an opportunity to make comments or ask questions about the contents of the report.
- 2.4.2 Report on the Status of the Resolutions of the Seventeenth Regular Meeting of the IABA
- 2.4.2.1 The Technical Secretary invited the representatives to ask questions or to comment on the Report on the Status of the Resolutions of the Seventeenth Regular Meeting of the IABA, which had been made available in a timely manner via the Executive Committee's online information system.
- 2.4.3 Report on the Status of the Resolutions of the Thirty-fourth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee
- 2.4.3.1 The Technical Secretary recalled that document No. 646, which had been made available online well in advance of the meeting, provided information about the implementation of the resolutions of the Thirty-fourth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee. He offered to clarify any points or give explanations as required.
- 2.4.4 Other reports
- 2.4.4.1 The Technical Secretary explained that three other reports had been shared with the representatives via the online information system, and would be submitted to the IABA. These included: a) the report on the Ministerial Meetings and the 2003-2015 Agro Plan, duly approved by the IABA. He said that the Board would need to analyze the final report on the Plan's achievements and on the positioning of agriculture and rural life in the Summits of the Americas; b) the report on joint actions by IICA and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) for 2013-2015; and c) the 2014 Report on Activities of the Inter-American Commission on Organic Agriculture (ICOA).

- 2.4.4.2 He gave the representatives an opportunity to make comments on the reports, adding that they could also submit these during the period remaining before the Eighteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA.
- 2.5 *Report on the organization of the 2015 Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas and of the Eighteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA*
- 2.5.1 The Observer Representative of Mexico reported on the progress made in organizing the 2015 Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas and the Eighteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA. He recalled that during the Seventeenth Regular Meeting of the IABA, the Government of Mexico had formally offered to host the Eighteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA, an offer that was accepted through Resolution IICA/JIA/Res. 489.
- 2.5.2 He also reported that the organization of these meetings was being led by a team headed by Mr. Enrique Martínez y Martínez, Secretary of Agriculture of Mexico, who had in turn delegated the task to Mr. Ricardo Aguilar Castillo, Undersecretary of Food and Competitiveness of SAGARPA, and by Mr. Víctor Manuel Villalobos Arámbula, Director General of IICA.
- 2.5.3 The Observer Representative of Mexico then gave an account of the activities implemented during 2014 and 2015, including the definition of the technical theme, *“Competitive, inclusive and sustainable productivity: an opportunity for the Americas;”* the venue selected to host the event, the Hotel Fairmont Mayakoba, located on the Mayan Riviera, Playa del Carmen, Quintana Roo; and the date of the meeting: 19-23 October 2015.
- 2.5.4 Next, he presented a summary of the provisional program of the Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas 2015 and of the Eighteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA and reported on the social activities programmed for the event.
- 2.5.5 The Director General of IICA thanked the Observer Representative of Mexico for his excellent presentation and praised the work carried out by the entire team of SAGARPA, in close coordination with the team of the Institute.
- 2.6 *Distribution of Draft Resolutions*
- 2.6.1 The Technical Secretary announced that draft resolutions on the topics covered during the first and second plenary sessions had been circulated so that the

delegations could review them. He also announced that a change had been made to the agenda for the following day, in order to allow time to hold the meeting of the group of “Friends of the Chair of the Executive Committee,” which would discuss the issue of financial strengthening.

- 2.6.2 The Director General gave further details about this group convened by the Chair, in which the Representatives of Canada and Brazil, as well as the Observer Representatives of the United States of America and Mexico, had already agreed to participate. He added that any other representatives wishing to participate would be welcome to do so.
- 2.6.3 The Representative of Brazil pointed out that the draft resolution on the financial strengthening of the Institute was not among the drafts circulated and asked when it would be distributed.
- 2.6.4 The Technical Secretary explained that once an agreement had been reached by the group that would discuss this matter in the morning, the relevant draft resolution would be prepared and circulated to the delegations as soon as possible.
- 2.6.5 The Observer Representative of Costa Rica asked whether her country’s request to raise the issue of Law No. 8028 on CATIE at the IABA should be reflected in a resolution of the Executive Committee.
- 2.6.6 The Technical Secretary recalled that submitting an issue to the consideration of the IABA was a right of all Member States; therefore it would not be necessary to draft a resolution.
- 2.6.7 The Legal Adviser confirmed that the Rules of Procedure of the IABA established the right of Member States to submit issues to the IABA.

2.7 *Close of the Session*

- 2.7.1 The Second Plenary Session of the Thirty-fifth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee of IICA was adjourned at 17:25 hours on 15 July 2015.

THIRD PLENARY SESSION

3.1 *Opening of the Session*

3.1.1 The Third Plenary Session of the Thirty-fifth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) was called to order at 10:30 hours on 16 July 2015, and was chaired by Mr. José Alpuche, Executive Director of Agriculture of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Agriculture of Belize.

3.1.2 The Chair thanked the representatives for allowing time to hold the meetings of the group of “Friends of the Chair of the Executive Committee,” which had analyzed options for the financial strengthening of IICA. He announced that the group would meet again to discuss the proposal to be submitted to the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA).

3.2 *Presentation of the proposed technical document “Competitive, inclusive and sustainable productivity: an opportunity for the Americas”*

3.2.1 The Technical Secretary explained the framework for the technical document to be presented at the Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas 2015, to be held in Mexico in October, together with the IABA. He recalled that the meeting formed part of the Summits of the Americas Process, at which the conclusions and declarations of the ministers of agriculture were submitted to the heads of state and of government. He noted that during the two previous meetings, the host countries had requested the discussion of specific topics and that, on this occasion, Mexico had proposed the topic of productivity from several angles. He explained that work was in progress on a technical document that reflected a high degree of consensus on the topic in question. He reported that high-level officials of the Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food (SAGARPA) and of IICA, together with external experts, had been involved in preparing the proposal.

3.2.2 The Technical Secretary went on to explain that those drafting the technical document would be receiving feedback from the countries until the deadline of 15 August 2015, in order to have it ready in time to present it to the consideration of the ministers of agriculture in the four official languages of the Institute. He announced that a technical forum would take place during the

meeting of ministers, in which the document would be analyzed by a panel of specialists and discussed by the participants. He added that all this effort would be reflected in the 2015 Declaration of the Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas, which would contain the commitments of the countries and recommendations for IICA. He added that the meeting of ministerial delegates would take place a few days before the Meeting of Ministers, in order to review the declaration and attempt to reach as much consensus as possible on its content before presenting it to the ministers of agriculture.

- 3.2.3 In response to the concerns voiced by the Representatives of Ecuador and Canada, the Director General of IICA stressed that the technical panel would limit itself to analyzing the content of the document, which would focus on competitiveness, inclusion and sustainability. He again invited the representatives to examine the proposals and submit their contributions, so that these could be considered during the preparation of the document and provide guidelines for the panel of experts. He added that all the ministers or their representatives could participate and make contributions during the technical meeting, in order to enrich the discussion and the Declaration of the Meeting of Ministers.
- 3.2.4 In his role as coordinator of the team drafting the technical document, IICA's Representative in the United States explained the reasons that had led to its preparation. He said it focused on the current and future demand for food and agricultural commodities, the exclusion of large numbers of rural dwellers from the benefits of progress and the instability of land management systems that affected agriculture. He stated that the purpose of his presentation was to report on the process and progress made in drafting the proposal, disseminate the main findings and agree on the steps required to complete the document, with a view to presenting it at the ministerial meeting in October of 2015. He then gave a brief outline of the content of the proposal and the process of analysis, preparation and feedback.
- 3.2.5 He went on to explain that the document focused on productivity and was divided into four sections: an outline of basic concepts; a synthesis of the findings on the region's agricultural productivity; an analysis of the factors that condition productivity, inclusion and sustainability; and a series of recommendations aimed at moving toward a hemispheric agenda on this issue.
- 3.2.6 The IICA Representative in the United States then presented a brief analysis of productivity, based on the evolution of agricultural value added, which

revealed that productivity was growing at a slower pace in Latin America and the Caribbean than in other regions of the world. He explained that this translated into a loss of trading positions, lower sustainability and limited resources for reducing poverty. He added that agricultural output was growing at a slower rate than the average for other economic sectors of the Americas.

3.2.7 He mentioned that the current version of the document contained six recommendations: a) strengthen the State's capacity to oversee the generation of the public goods necessary to boost agriculture; b) promote the comprehensive modernization of the agricultural education system; c) promote investment to create a culture and environment that stimulates innovation; d) consolidate the leadership of the Americas in agricultural trade; e) foster a business culture; and f) strengthen the mechanisms of international cooperation.

3.2.8 He concluded by describing the steps required to complete the document: a) obtain feedback from countries before August 15 of this year, b) incorporate their suggestions, and c) prepare the final version of the document that will serve as input for the ministerial dialogue and the forum on productivity, which will take place in the context of the Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas 2015.

3.3 *Analysis and comments*

3.3.1 The Chair of the meeting gave the floor to the representatives.

3.3.2 The Representative of Canada thanked IICA for the presentation of the technical document and congratulated the experts of the Institute and of the Government of Mexico for their work. He indicated that Canada would submit comments as feedback for the document and asked how these should be submitted before 15 August.

3.3.3 The Director General of IICA thanked him for the timely nature of his question and explained that any amendments, suggestions or comments should be incorporated directly into the document using the "track changes" feature, and should then be sent to the Director General's email address for his prompt attention. He added that the document was available online.

3.3.4 The Representative of Brazil congratulated the group of specialists of Mexico and of IICA. He stated that he had had the opportunity to review the

document, which he considered an excellent assessment of productivity in the countries of the region, with a solid analysis of the main points. He added that the recommendations would be important for the countries. He called on the Executive Committee to consider the possibility of linking the proposals contained in the document with specific and concrete actions, such as the implementation of a pilot project in selected countries with the participation of IICA and member countries with extensive experience in generating technologies that could be shared with other countries.

- 3.3.5 The Representative of Brazil also mentioned that mechanisms such as the Southern Agricultural Council (CAS), the Cooperative Program for the Technological Development of the Agri-food and Agro-industrial Sector of the Southern Cone (PROCISUR), the Cooperative Program for Agricultural Research, Development and Innovation for the South American Tropics (PROCITROPICOS), and IICA's flagship projects, included experiences that could provide the basis for designing and implementing specific activities in certain countries. Finally, he suggested that the document include specific activities concentrated in a few countries, in order to secure the resources necessary for their implementation.
- 3.3.6 The Director General stated he had taken note of the Representative of Brazil's comments and his recommendation to identify countries whose conventional and advanced technologies could be shared with others.
- 3.4 *Proposed provisional agenda for the Eighteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA*
- 3.4.1 The Technical Secretary recalled that one of the Executive Committee's fundamental tasks was to serve as a preparatory meeting for the IABA. For this reason, he said, document IICA/CE/Doc. 647 (15), entitled "Provisional agenda for the Eighteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) and the Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas 2015," had been submitted to the consideration of the representatives. He then gave a brief summary of its content.
- 3.4.2 The Observer Representative of the United States of America proposed that, following the Director General's message, the agenda include a presentation by the group of "Friends of the Chair of the Executive Committee" established at the present meeting.

- 3.4.3 The Director General of IICA seconded the proposal by the Observer Representative of the United States of America. He recalled that the order of the agenda had not yet been defined.
- 3.4.4 The Representative of Canada thanked the Technical Secretary for his presentation and made three recommendations: a) that the agenda place emphasis on the strategic discussions of the ministers, since these constituted the value added of the forum; b) that the agenda be sent to the participants as soon as possible, together with the rest of the meeting documents and presentations, to enable them to prepare adequately to discuss the issues; and c) that point 5, related to financial and budgetary matters - be discussed during the preparatory sessions, in order to move forward with its discussion, so that it could be addressed more efficiently at the IABA meeting.
- 3.4.5 With respect to the point on the agenda concerning the results of the hemispheric meeting on agricultural health, the Representative of Brazil reported that this meeting, organized jointly by his country and IICA, would take place on 2-3 September 2015 in Brasilia. He mentioned that the topics to be discussed included the challenges facing agricultural health, outlook and threats related to pests and diseases and risk assessment. He added that Brazil hoped that the World Bank (WB), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Plant Health Committee (COSAVE) of the Southern Cone and the International Regional Organization for Plant and Animal Health (OIRSA), among other organizations, would attend the event.
- 3.4.6 The Director General of IICA praised the efforts of the Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Supply of Brazil, Mrs. Kátia Abreu, in organizing the meeting. He stated that she had a modern outlook on this issue and considered that this topic could not be seen in isolation by a single country, but should be addressed by all the countries of the Americas.
- 3.4.7 The Chair proposed a recess, which was accepted and began at 11:35 hours.
- 3.4.8 The Third Plenary Session continued at 12:50 hours with the reading and the approval of draft resolutions.

3.5 Reading and approval of draft resolutions

- 3.5.1 At the request of the Chair, the Rapporteur proceeded to read aloud the following draft resolutions: “2014 Annual Report of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)”; “Report on the collection of quotas”; “Financial Statements of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) for 2014”, “Report of the External Auditors and Twenty-first Report of the Audit Review Committee (ARC)”; “Election of a Member of the Audit Review Committee (ARC)”; “Recognition of the contribution made by Mrs. Pamela D.M. Monroe Ellis as a member of the Audit Review Committee (ARC)”; “Biennial Report of the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE) for 2013-2014”; “Biennial Report of the Caribbean Institute for Agricultural Research and Development (CARDI) for 2013-2014”; “Report of the 2015 Regular Meeting of the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues (SACMI)”; “Status of the Resolutions of the Seventeenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) and the Thirty-fourth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee”; and “Provisional Agenda for the Eighteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) and the Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas 2015”.
- 3.5.2 The Chair submitted each of the aforementioned draft resolutions for approval. They were approved as read.
- 3.5.3 The Rapporteur read out the draft resolution “Date and Venue of the Thirty-sixth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee.” The Technical Secretary explained that it was customary to hold meetings of the Executive Committee at IICA Headquarters, in San Jose, Costa Rica, unless a Member State offered to host them. He explained that in this case no offer had been received.
- 3.5.4 He then mentioned that the Observer Representative of the United States of America had pointed out that in previous years, when there was no Regular Meeting of the IABA, it was usual to hold the Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee in the second half of the year. Consequently, he proposed changing the first operative paragraph to “during the second half of 2016.” The resolution was approved with this amendment.
- 3.5.5 The Chair proposed a recess, which was accepted and began at 13:10 hours.

- 3.5.6 The Third Plenary Session resumed at 13:56 hours with the continuation of the reading and approval of draft resolutions.
- 3.5.7 The Rapporteur read out the draft resolution “2016-2017 Program Budget,” in accordance with the agreements reached by the group of “Friends of the Chair of the Executive Committee.”
- 3.5.8 The Representative of Brazil thanked the Chair for his efforts and the members of the Executive Committee for their work. He stated that at present his country was not in a position to approve a 6.57% increase in its quota.
- 3.5.9 The Observer Representative of the United States of America referred to the third operative paragraph and pointed out that the intention was to strengthen the Institute’s strategic structure, not only the institutional finances. The Chair agreed that this had been the tenor of the discussion in the group of “Friends of the Chair of the Executive Committee.”
- 3.5.10 The Representative of Bolivia stated that the approval of the quota increase depended on the authorities of his country.
- 3.5.11 The Representative of El Salvador suggested that the wording of point ii of the final preambular paragraph be changed to allow for the renegotiation of over-quota contributions agreed with the Member States in 2014 and 2015. He added that he had received information from his country, and wished to indicate that El Salvador supported the proposed 10.5% increase in its quota.
- 3.5.12 The Observer Representative of Costa Rica suggested that the phrase “over-quota contributions agreed with” be amended to read “over-quotas agreed by.”
- 3.5.13 In response to the observation of the Representative of El Salvador and a suggestion made by the Observer Representative of Costa Rica, the Technical Secretary read out the proposed amendment to the wording of point ii of the final preambular paragraph: “over-quota contributions agreed by the Member States.”
- 3.5.14 The Director General referred to operative paragraph 3. He remarked that there was very little time to prepare a proposal for the IABA; however, he said he considered it feasible for the group of “Friends of the Chair of the Executive Committee” to agree on a draft resolution to be submitted to the IABA, with a view to future work.

- 3.5.15 The Observer Representative of the United States of America agreed that the matter in question was not simple and suggested drafting a proposal for the strategic strengthening of IICA, including its financing, to be submitted at the Thirty-sixth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee in 2016.
- 3.5.16 The Chair declared the draft resolution approved with the requested changes.
- 3.6 *Close of the Session*
- 3.6.1 The Third Plenary Session of the Thirty-fifth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee of IICA was adjourned at 14:24 hours on 16 July 2015.

CLOSING SESSION

4.1 *Opening of the Session*

4.1.1 The Closing Session of the Thirty-fifth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) was called to order at 14:25 hours on 16 July 2015, with Mr. José Alpuche, Executive Director of Agriculture of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Agriculture of Belize, serving as Chair.

4.2 *Remarks by the Director General of IICA*

4.2.1 The Director General expressed his satisfaction and thanks to the representatives of the Member States. He emphasized the historic nature of the meeting, which had marked the end of a 20-year period of inaction on financial matters. He pledged that IICA would translate this support into cooperation actions in each of the Member States. He added that the agreement reached did not represent a budget increase in real terms, but rather a recovery of the loss of value experienced over a period of two decades.

4.2.2 He then went on to thank Mr. José Alpuche, the Chairman of the meeting; the Legal Adviser; the Technical Secretary; the Deputy Director General of IICA; the Secretary of Corporate Services; the translators; and the entire staff of the Institute who had worked at the meeting.

4.2.3 He also thanked the Delegation of Mexico for its presentation on the preparations for the Eighteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA and the Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas 2015, to be held in October in that country, and said he was certain that these events would be a great success. He added that he was very grateful for the support received from the staff of the Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food (SAGARPA) of Mexico. He highlighted the efforts of Mrs. Lourdes Cruz, Director of International Relations of SAGARPA, as Rapporteur of the meeting.

4.2.4 He concluded by affirming that the Institute would continue to work in a professional and diligent manner for the benefit of all its member countries.

4.3 Remarks by the Representatives of the Member States

4.3.1 The Observer Representative of Costa Rica, on behalf of her country's government and the Minister of Agriculture and Livestock, Mr. Luis Felipe Arauz, thanked IICA for hosting the meeting and commended the Chairman of the Executive Committee for his excellent work.

4.3.2 The Representatives of El Salvador, Brazil and Canada, along with the Observer Representatives of Mexico and the United States of America, thanked the Chairman of the meeting, the Director General and the staff of the Institute. They also noted the intensity of the discussions held during the meeting and the important results achieved.

4.3.3 The Observer Representative of Mexico reiterated his invitation to all delegates to attend the Eighteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA, to be held in October in his country.

4.3.4 Finally, the Chairman said he was grateful for having had the honor of chairing the meeting of the Executive Committee.

4.4 Close of the session

4.4.1 The Closing Session of the Thirty-fifth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee of IICA was adjourned at 14:38 hours on 16 July 2015.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTIONS

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IICA/CE/Res. 594 (XXXV-O/15)

16 July 2015

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 594

**2014 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE
FOR COOPERATION ON AGRICULTURE (IICA)**

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Thirty-fifth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/Doc. 642 (15), “2014 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 and take appropriate action;

That the General Directorate prepared and published the 2014 Annual Report of the Institute, which the Director General of the Institute presented to the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States (OAS) on May 19, 2015;

That the report describes the cooperation activities carried out by IICA in 2014 for the purpose of implementing the cooperation agendas of the Institute at the national, regional and hemispheric levels, within the framework of IICA’s 2014-2018 Medium-term Plan;

That the Representative of the Institute in each of its 34 Member States presented to the national authorities the respective report on the cooperation that IICA provided to the country in 2014; and,

That the Annual Report for 2014 is available for consultation in digital format on the Institute’s website (www.iica.int),

RESOLVES:

To approve the 2014 Annual Report of IICA.

IICA/CE/Res. 595 (XXXV-O/15)

16 July 2015

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 595**REPORT ON THE COLLECTION OF QUOTAS**

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Thirty-fifth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/Doc. 637 (15), “Report on the collection of quotas,”

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, thanks to the effectiveness of the measures adopted, the goodwill and support of the ministers of agriculture and other authorities in the Member States, as well as the efforts of the General Directorate, it has been possible to reduce considerably the total amount of quotas owed to the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA); and,

That the above has facilitated the implementation of the programs and projects included in the cooperation strategies established in the 2014-2018 Medium-term Plan of the Institute at the national, regional and hemispheric levels,

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 importance of maintaining in effect the measures established by the Executive Committee and the IABA to encourage IICA’s Member States to make their annual quota payments to the Institute in a timely fashion and to pay arrears for previous years.

3. To instruct the Director General to: (a) continue efforts to collect the quotas for 2015 and those owed for previous years; and, (b) keep IICA's Member States 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 to meet their financial obligations to IICA.

IICA/CE/Res. 596 (XXXV-O/15)

16 July 2015

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 596**2014 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR COOPERATION ON AGRICULTURE (IICA), REPORT OF THE EXTERNAL AUDITORS AND TWENTY-FIRST REPORT OF THE AUDIT REVIEW COMMITTEE (ARC)**

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Thirty-fifth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/Doc. 638 (15), “2014 Financial Statements of IICA and Report of the External Auditors,” and Document IICA/CE/Doc. 639 (15), “Twenty-first Report of the Audit Review Committee (ARC),”

CONSIDERING:

That Article 4.d of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee establishes that the mandate of this governing body of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) is to study the Institute’s financial statements and, when a decision is required, forward the corresponding report and recommendations to the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA);

That, at its Seventh Regular Meeting, the IABA, by Resolution IICA/JIA/Res. 231 (VII-O/93), created the Audit Review Committee (ARC) and approved its Statute;

That, pursuant to Article 3.k of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee, the mandate of this governing body of IICA is to receive and approve the ARC’s reports and make a determination on its recommendations; and,

That, in its Twenty-first Report, the ARC states that it studied the report of the external auditors on IICA’s 2014 financial statements and found the work performed to be thorough and in accordance with the rules of the Institute and international auditing standards,

RESOLVES:

1. To accept the 2014 financial statements of the Institute and the report of the external auditors, and to instruct the Director General to submit them to the consideration of the Eighteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA.
2. To approve the Twenty-first 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.

IICA/CE/Res. 597 (XXXV-O/15)

16 July 2015

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 597**2016-2017 PROGRAM BUDGET**

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Thirty-fifth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/DT-641 (15), “2016-2017 Program Budget Rev.1,”

CONSIDERING:

That the Convention on the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) establishes:

- i. In Article 8.b, that a function of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) is “to approve the biennial Program Budget and to determine the annual quotas of the Member States”;
- ii. In Article 23, that “the Member States shall contribute to the maintenance of the Institute through annual quotas established by the Board, in accordance with the system for calculating quotas of the Organization of American States”;
- iii. In Article 14.b, that a function of the Executive Committee is “to examine the proposed biennial Program Budget that the Director General submits to the Board and to make such observations and recommendations as it deems appropriate”;

That the new model used for the Program Budget for the biennium 2016-2017 is fully consistent with the strategic framework established in the 2014-2018 MTP approved by the IABA, in order to achieve greater efficiency in the use of resources;

That the Director General submitted the proposed 2016-2017 Program Budget to the Regular Meeting of the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues (SACMI), held in April 2015, in order to obtain proposals that would enable IICA to comply with the IABA’s mandate concerning the financial strengthening of IICA;

That the Director General submitted the proposed 2016-2017 Program Budget to the consideration of the Executive Committee at its Thirty-fifth Regular Meeting, in a format consistent with the structure and content established in the rules currently in effect, and incorporating the recommendations made by the SACMI;

That the Institute's Legal Advisor has explained that Article 23 of the Convention on IICA requires the IABA to apply the up-to-date quota scale used by the OAS in order to determine the mandatory quotas of the Member States for the financial sustainability of the Institute;

That pursuant to Article 60 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee, the "Friends of the Chair of the Executive Committee" was established to present proposals for the financing of the Institute; and,

That, in order to compensate for the irreversible depletion of the Miscellaneous Income Fund and maintain an operating level at least similar to that of 2015, the proposal considers the following:

- i. An increase of 6.57% in the quota budget, based on the new quota scale of the OAS;
- ii. Over-quota contributions agreed with the Member States.

RESOLVES:

1. To acknowledge that the new model of the Program Budget is clearly consistent with the institutional strategic framework established in the 2014-2018 MTP approved by the Executive Committee and the IABA.
2. Recommend that the IABA:
 - i. Consider a 6.57% increase in the quota budget that would make it possible to recover the USD3,600,000 in resources from the Miscellaneous Income Fund that will be lost over the biennium, as shown in Annex A.
 - ii. Express appreciation for the voluntary over-quota contributions pledged by the Member States to complete the amount required to maintain an operating level at least similar to that of 2015.
 - iii. Approve the 2016-2017 Expenditure Budget in accordance with the income estimated and the allocations established in Document

IICA/CE/DT-641 (15) “2016-2017 Program Budget Rev.1” with adjustments as agreed, for each of the chapters indicated in Annex B.

- iv. Authorize the Director General to effect transfers among chapters of the Program Budget, provided that the total transfers do not increase or reduce the chapters by more than 15% and do not significantly affect the priorities approved.
 - v. Authorize the Director General to make the necessary adjustments in the allocation of resources approved in this resolution, should the combined income for each of the fiscal years 2016 and 2017 fall below estimated levels for the biennium in question and inform the Executive Committee and the IABA of the situation.
3. Request that the Director General convene a meeting of the “Friends of the Chair of the Executive Committee” before the next meeting of the IABA, in order to discuss, comprehensively and with a view to the long term, options for strengthening the strategic structure of IICA, including its finances, and to submit a report to the next regular meeting of the Executive Committee.

ANNEX A

Scale of Member State Quotas, Increase of 6.57%, Contributions of Over-quotas and Miscellaneous Income 2016-2017 (USD)

Based on the Quotas Scale of the OAS for 2015-2017 ¹⁾

MEMBER STATES	2015		2016				2017				VARIATIONS			
	IICA		IICA				IICA				2015-2016		2016-2017	
	OEA	QUOTA	OEA ²	QUOTA	INCREASE 6.57%	TOTAL QUOTAS	OEA ²	QUOTA	INCREASE 6.57%	TOTAL QUOTAS	USD	%	USD	%
%	USD ³	%	USD ³	USD ³	USD ³	%	USD ³	USD ³	USD ³					
Antigua and Barbuda	0,022	6.100	0,022	6.100	400	6.500	0,022	6.100	400	6.500	400	6,6%	0	0,0%
Argentina	2,408	662.400	2,400	660.200	43.400	703.600	2,400	660.200	43.400	703.600	41.200	6,2%	0	0,0%
Bahamas	0,062	17.100	0,049	13.500	900	14.400	0,049	13.500	900	14.400	-2.700	-15,8%	0	0,0%
Barbados	0,045	12.400	0,034	9.400	600	10.000	0,034	9.400	600	10.000	-2.400	-19,4%	0	0,0%
Belize	0,022	6.100	0,022	6.100	400	6.500	0,022	6.100	400	6.500	400	6,6%	0	0,0%
Bolivia	0,045	13.500	0,056	15.400	1.000	16.400	0,056	15.400	1.000	16.400	2.900	21,5%	0	0,0%
Brazil	9,941	2.734.600	12,427	3.418.600	224.600	3.643.200	12,427	3.418.600	224.600	3.643.200	908.600	33,2%	0	0,0%
Canada	14,972	3.293.300	10,583	2.911.300	191.300	3.102.600	10,583	2.911.300	191.300	3.102.600	-190.700	-5,8%	0	0,0%
Chile	1,189	327.100	1,347	370.600	24.300	394.900	1,347	370.600	24.300	394.900	67.800	20,7%	0	0,0%
Colombia	1,049	288.600	1,311	360.600	23.800	384.400	1,311	360.600	23.800	384.400	95.800	33,2%	0	0,0%
Costa Rica	0,221	60.800	0,230	63.300	4.100	67.400	0,230	63.300	4.100	67.400	6.600	10,9%	0	0,0%
Dominica	0,022	6.100	0,022	6.100	400	6.500	0,022	6.100	400	6.500	400	6,6%	0	0,0%
Dominican Republic	0,257	70.700	0,317	87.200	5.700	92.900	0,317	87.200	5.700	92.900	22.200	31,4%	0	0,0%
Ecuador	0,258	71.000	0,322	88.600	5.800	94.400	0,322	88.600	5.800	94.400	23.400	33,0%	0	0,0%
El Salvador	0,114	31.400	0,086	23.700	1.500	25.200	0,086	23.700	1.500	25.200	-6.200	-19,7%	0	0,0%
Grenada	0,022	6.100	0,022	6.100	400	6.500	0,022	6.100	400	6.500	400	6,6%	0	0,0%
Guatemala	0,168	46.200	0,145	39.900	2.600	42.500	0,145	39.900	2.600	42.500	-3.700	-8,0%	0	0,0%
Guyana	0,022	6.100	0,022	6.100	400	6.500	0,022	6.100	400	6.500	400	6,6%	0	0,0%
Haiti	0,034	9.400	0,026	7.200	400	7.600	0,026	7.200	400	7.600	-1.800	-19,1%	0	0,0%
Honduras	0,051	14.000	0,042	11.600	700	12.300	0,042	11.600	700	12.300	-1.700	-12,1%	0	0,0%
Jamaica	0,093	25.600	0,070	19.300	1.200	20.500	0,070	19.300	1.200	20.500	-5.100	-19,9%	0	0,0%
Mexico	8,181	2.278.000	6,788	1.867.300	122.700	1.990.000	6,788	1.867.300	122.700	1.990.000	-288.000	-13,6%	0	0,0%
Nicaragua	0,034	9.400	0,026	7.200	400	7.600	0,026	7.200	400	7.600	-1.800	-19,1%	0	0,0%
Panama	0,158	43.500	0,176	48.400	3.200	51.600	0,176	48.400	3.200	51.600	8.100	18,6%	0	0,0%
Paraguay	0,093	25.600	0,075	20.600	1.400	22.000	0,075	20.600	1.400	22.000	-3.600	-14,1%	0	0,0%
Peru	0,688	189.300	0,860	236.600	15.500	252.100	0,860	236.600	15.500	252.100	62.800	33,2%	0	0,0%
Saint Kitts and Nevis	0,022	6.100	0,022	6.100	400	6.500	0,022	6.100	400	6.500	400	6,6%	0	0,0%
Saint Lucia	0,022	6.100	0,022	6.100	400	6.500	0,022	6.100	400	6.500	400	6,6%	0	0,0%
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	0,022	6.100	0,022	6.100	400	6.500	0,022	6.100	400	6.500	400	6,6%	0	0,0%
Suriname	0,034	9.400	0,026	7.200	400	7.600	0,026	7.200	400	7.600	-1.800	-19,1%	0	0,0%
Trinidad and Tobago	0,180	49.500	0,135	37.100	2.500	39.600	0,135	37.100	2.500	39.600	-9.900	-20,0%	0	0,0%
United States of America	59,470	16.359.400	59,470	16.359.800	1.075.500	17.435.300	59,470	16.359.800	1.075.500	17.435.300	1.075.900	6,6%	0	0,0%
Uruguay	0,214	58.900	0,247	67.900	4.500	72.400	0,247	67.900	4.500	72.400	13.500	22,9%	0	0,0%
Venezuela	2,186	601.300	2,144	589.800	38.800	628.600	2,144	589.800	38.800	628.600	27.300	4,5%	0	0,0%
SUB TOTAL	99,425	27.351.200	99,568	27.391.100	1.800.000	29.191.100	99,568	27.391.100	1.800.000	29.191.100	1.839.900	6,7%	0	0,0%
Cuba	0,675	168.200	0,431	118.600	7.800	126.400	0,431	118.600	7.800	126.400	-31.800	-20,1%	0	0,0%
TOTAL QUOTAS	100,000	27.509.400	99,999	27.509.700		29.317.500	99,999	27.509.700		29.317.500	1.808.100	6,57%	0	0,0%
MISCELLANEOUS INCOME²		6.100.000		4.300.000		4.300.000		4.300.000		4.300.000	-1.800.000	-29,5%	0	0,0%
TOTAL REGULAR FUND³		33.451.200		31.691.100		33.491.100		31.691.100		33.491.100	39.900	0,1%	0	0,0%

Note: 1) The Kingdom of Spain contributes an annual quota of USD60,000 as an Associate Member, pursuant to the agreement adopted in the First Plenary Session of the Eleventh Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture, held on November 26, 2001, in Bávaro, Dominican Republic.

1/ As per Resolution AG/RES. 2860 (XLIV-O/14) of the General Assembly of the OAS of June 5, 2014.

2/ Miscellaneous income in 2016 and 2017 is comprised of USD3,500,000 in estimated income and USD800,000 from the Miscellaneous Income Fund.

3/ In USD rounded out to the nearest hundred.

4/ The total of the Regular Fund does not include Cuba, nor over-quotas

ANNEX B
Allocation of the Regular Fund by Chapter 2016-2017
(USD)

CHAPTER	2016		2017	
	REGULAR FUND		REGULAR FUND	
	USD	%	USD	%
I: Direct Technical Cooperation Services	30.061.436	89,8%	30.121.762	89,9%
II: Management Costs	1.740.307	5,2%	1.778.981	5,3%
III: General Cost and Provisions	1.290.000	3,9%	1.290.000	3,9%
IV: Renewal of Infrastructure and Equipment	399.357	1,2%	300.357	0,9%
TOTAL	33.491.100	100,0%	33.491.100	100,0%

IICA/CE/Res. 598 (XXXV-O/15)

16 July 2015

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 598

ELECTION OF A MEMBER OF THE AUDIT REVIEW COMMITTEE (ARC)

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Thirty-fifth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/Doc. 640 (15), “Election of a Member of the Audit Review Committee (ARC),”

CONSIDERING:

That it is a function of the Executive Committee to elect the members of the ARC, pursuant to Article 3.k of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee and Article III of the Statute of the ARC;

That the ARC Statute stipulates that at least one of the three members of the ARC shall be elected from among the candidates proposed by the Member States that are the six largest contributors to the Regular Fund of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA); another member shall be elected from among the candidates nominated by all the other Member States; and the third shall be elected from among the candidates nominated by all the Member States;

That the term of the member of the ARC elected by the other Member States that are not the largest contributors to the Regular Fund expires on 31 December 2015;

That, pursuant to the provisions of the ARC Statute, the Director General of IICA asked the aforementioned Member States to nominate candidates to fill the post occupied by the member of the ARC whose term expires this year;

That, in light of this request, the governments of Paraguay and Saint Kitts and Nevis nominated candidates, with the latter nomination being received after the period established for receiving nominations; and

That the proposed candidates meet the requirements for becoming a member of the ARC,

RESOLVES:

To elect Ms. Antoinette R. Hodge of Saint Kitts and Nevis to occupy the position of the member of the ARC reserved for a candidate nominated by all the Member States, with the exception of the six largest contributors to IICA's Regular Fund, for a six-year term commencing on 1 January 2016 and concluding on 31 December 2021.

IICA/CE/Res. 599 (XXXV-O/15)

16 July 2015

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 599

RECOGNITION OF THE CONTRIBUTION MADE BY MS. PAMELA D.M. MONROE ELLIS AS A MEMBER OF THE AUDIT REVIEW COMMITTEE (ARC)

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Thirty-fifth Regular Meeting,

CONSIDERING:

That the Audit Review Committee (ARC) is an important mechanism of the Executive Committee, both for providing advice directly to the Director General of the Inter-American Institute of Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) on the administrative and financial conduct of the Institute, as well as for assisting the Executive Committee with its review of the accounts of the General Directorate;

That the members of the ARC, appointed by the Member States, perform an important function; and,

That the term of Ms. Pamela D.M. Monroe, Ellis of Jamaica, who became a member of the ARC on January 1, 2010, and since then, has discharged that responsibility with great dedication and competence on behalf of the Institute, will end on December 31, 2015,

RESOLVES:

1. To thank the Government of Jamaica for the support provided by Ms. Monroe Ellis, in her capacity as a member of the ARC.
2. To recognize the excellent, dedicated and professional work of Ms. Monroe Ellis and express its deep gratitude to her for her contributions to the ARC and to the administrative and financial management of the Institute.

IICA/CE/Res. 600 (XXXV-O/15)

16 July 2015

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 600**BIENNIAL REPORT OF THE TROPICAL AGRICULTURE RESEARCH AND
HIGHER EDUCATION CENTER (CATIE) FOR 2013-2014**

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Thirty-fifth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

The presentation on the “Biennial Report of the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE) for 2013-2014”,

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 the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE) and requested that, in future, the Director General of this Center forward directly to the General Directorate of IICA the version of the biennial report and plans of CATIE for acceptance by the Executive Committee,

RESOLVES:

1. To accept CATIE’s biennial report for 2013-2014 and thank the Director General of the Center for his presentation.
2. To urge IICA and CATIE to continue to strengthen their links and mechanisms for implementing the activities of the Program for Joint Action, with a view to enhancing the contribution of the two institutions in support of the efforts of the Member States to achieve competitive, sustainable and inclusive agricultural development.

IICA/CE/Res. 601 (XXXV-O/15)

16 July 2015

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 601

**BIENNIAL REPORT OF THE CARIBBEAN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND
DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE (CARDI) FOR 2013-2014**

The Executive Committee, at its Thirty-fifth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

The presentation made by the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) on the report of its activities during the 2013-2014 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 version of CARDI's biennial report and plans for acceptance by the Executive Committee,

RESOLVES:

1. To accept the report on the activities implemented by CARDI during the 2013-2014 biennium and to thank CARDI for its presentation.
2. To urge IICA and CARDI to continue to strengthen their technical links and mechanisms for implementing joint activities, with a view to enhancing the contribution of the two institutions in support of agricultural and rural development efforts in the Caribbean.

IICA/CE/Res. 602 (XXXV-O/15)

16 July 2015

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 602**REPORT OF THE 2015 REGULAR MEETING OF THE SPECIAL ADVISORY
COMMISSION ON MANAGEMENT ISSUES (SACMI)**

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Thirty-fifth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/Doc. 643 (15), “Report of the 2015 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 to promote more regular discussion with the Member States on administrative, financial and strategic issues, in order to facilitate 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 on line, so that sessions may be held as frequently as necessary and to realize savings for the Institute; and,

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

RESOLVES:

To accept the Report of the 2015 Regular Meeting of the SACMI.

IICA/CE/Res. 603 (XXXV-O/15)

16 July 2015

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 603

**STATUS OF THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE SEVENTEENTH REGULAR MEETING
OF THE INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (IABA) AND THE
THIRTY-FOURTH REGULAR MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Thirty-fifth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/Doc. 645 (15) “Status of the Resolutions of the Seventeenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA)” and Document IICA/CE/Doc. 644 (15), “Status of the Resolutions of the Thirty-fourth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee,”

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 Seventeenth Regular Meeting of the IABA, and has carried out satisfactorily the tasks required to comply with the resolutions adopted at the Thirty-fourth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee,

RESOLVES:

To accept the reports: (i) “Status of the Resolutions of the Seventeenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA)”;

and (ii) “Status of the Resolutions of the Thirty-fourth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee.”

IICA/CE/Res. 604 (XXXV-O/15)

16 July 2015

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 604**PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE EIGHTEENTH REGULAR MEETING
OF THE INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (IABA) AND THE
MEETING OF MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE OF THE AMERICAS 2015**

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Thirty-fifth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/Doc. 647 (15), “Provisional Agenda for the Eighteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) and the Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas 2015,”

CONSIDERING:

That Article 4.p of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee establishes that said Committee shall analyze the provisional agenda for the meetings of the IABA; and,

That, the Executive Committee, at its Thirty-fifth Regular Meeting, analyzed the provisional agenda for the Eighteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA and the Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas 2015,

RESOLVES:

1. To accept the provisional agenda for the Eighteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA and the Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas 2015, and to thank Mexico for the progress made to date with the organization of the meeting.
2. To urge the members of the Executive Committee to share with the ministers of agriculture of their respective countries the importance of their presence at these events.

IICA/CE/Res. 605 (XXXV-O/15)

16 July 2015

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 605

**DATE AND VENUE OF THE THIRTY-SIXTH REGULAR MEETING
OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Thirty-fifth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/Doc. 646 (15), “Date and Venue of the Thirty-sixth 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, the date and venue of the Thirty-sixth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee in 2016 must be set;

That, in accordance with Article 25 of said Rules of Procedure, if no venue is offered by one of the Member States of the Institute to hold the regular meeting of the Executive Committee in another country, the meeting will be held at IICA Headquarters in San Jose, Costa Rica; and,

That the Director General 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 Thirty-sixth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee at IICA Headquarters in San Jose, Costa Rica, during the second half of 2016.
2. To instruct the Director General to issue the convocation, in due course, to the Member States to participate in said meeting of the Executive Committee, in accordance with the procedures outlined in the rules currently in effect.

SIGNING OF THE REPORT

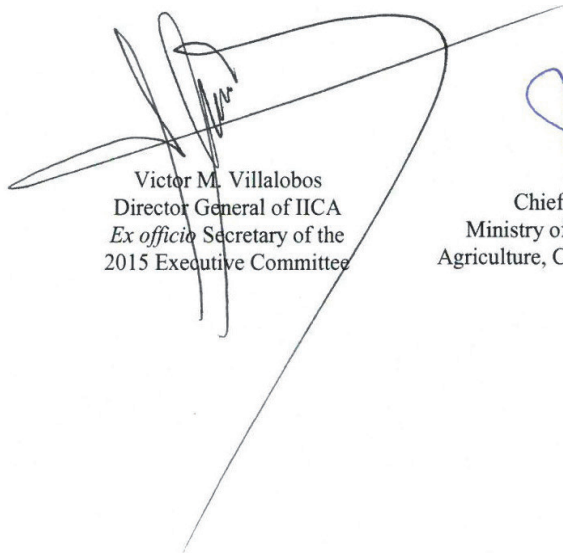
SIGNING OF THE REPORT OF THE THIRTY-FIFTH REGULAR MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Pursuant to the provisions of Article 97 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee, the Report of the Thirty-fifth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee is hereby signed at 16:00 hours on the sixteenth day of July of the year two thousand and fifteen, in San Jose, 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 Jose, Costa Rica.



Victor M. Villalobos
Director General of IICA
Ex officio Secretary of the
2015 Executive Committee



José Alpuche
Chief Executive Officer
Ministry of Natural Resources and
Agriculture, Chair of the 2015 Executive
Committee

ANNEXES

ANNEX 1: AGENDA
IICA/CE/Doc. 636 (15)

- 1. Provisional Schedule** IICA/CE/Doc. 635 (15)

- 2. Message from the Director General**

- 3. Financial strengthening of the Institute**
 - 3.1 Report on the collection of quotas IICA/CE/Doc. 637 (15)

 - 3.2 2014 Financial Statements of the Institute and Report of the External Auditors IICA/CE/Doc. 638 (15)

 - 3.3 Twenty-first Report of the Audit Review Committee (ARC) IICA/CE/Doc. 639 (15)

 - 3.4 Election of a Member of the Audit Review Committee (ARC) IICA/CE/Doc. 640 (15)

 - 3.5 2016-2017 Program Budget: Agreements signed by IICA in 2014; Institutional Net Rate (INR)-Recovery of Proportional Indirect Costs (RePIC); IICA criteria and mechanisms for the approval of externally funded projects; and Financial Strengthening IICA/CE/Doc. 641 (15)

- 4. Strengthening of Partnerships with other Institutions**
 - 4.1 2013-2014 Report of the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE) (unnumbered)

 - 4.2 Report on IICA-CATIE relations (Law no.8028 on CATIE) IICA/CE/Doc. 649 (15)

 - 4.3 2013-2014 Report of the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) (unnumbered)

5. Activities of the General Directorate and the Governing Bodies

- | | | |
|-----|--|----------------------------------|
| 5.1 | 2014 IICA Annual Report | IICA/CE/Doc. 642 (15) |
| 5.2 | Report on the Meetings of Ministers and the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan | Information Document no. 01 (15) |
| 5.3 | Report on joint actions carried out by IICA and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) during the period 2013-2015 | Information Document no. 02 (15) |
| 5.4 | Report of the 2015 Regular Meeting of the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues (SACMI) | IICA/CE/Doc. 643 (15) |
| 5.5 | Status of the resolutions of the Thirty-fourth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee | IICA/CE/Doc. 644 (15) |
| 5.6 | Status of the resolutions of the Seventeenth Regular Meeting of the IABA | IICA/CE/Doc. 645 (15) |
| 5.7 | Date and Venue of the Thirty-sixth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee | IICA/CE/Doc. 646 (15) |

6. Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas 2015 and Eighteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA)

- | | | |
|-----|---|-----------------------|
| 6.1 | Proposed Agenda for the Eighteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA | IICA/CE/Doc. 647 (15) |
| 6.2 | Proposed technical document: “Competitive, inclusive and sustainable productivity: an opportunity for the Americas” | IICA/CE/Doc. 648 (15) |

7. Other Business

ANNEX 2: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

MEMBER STATES ON THE 2015 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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**NON MEMBER STATES ON THE
 2015 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

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SENIOR IICA PERSONNEL

Víctor M. Villalobos	Director General
Lloyd Day	Deputy Director General
Robert Ahern	Principal Officer in Agricultural Health and Food Safety
Ronald Aragón	Division of Programming, Budgeting and Control
Miguel A. Arvelo	IICA Representative in Costa Rica
Evangelina Beltrán	Coordinator of the Office of the Director General
Rocío Bohórquez	Internal Auditor
Michel Chartier	Coordinator of Diplomatic Relations and Protocol
Salvador Fernández	Director of Technical Cooperation
James French	Principal Officer in Competitiveness and Sustainability of Agricultural Chains
David Hatch	Director of the Management of Human Talent Division
Muhammad Ibrahim	Associate Director of Technical Cooperation
Héctor Iturbe	Advisor
Karen Kleinheinz	Director of the Financial Management Division
Byron Miranda	Principal Officer in Inclusion in Agriculture and Rural Territories
Diego Montenegro	Director of Management and Regional Integration
Carlos O'Farrill	Secretary of Corporate Services
Doreen Preston	Coordinator of the Language Unit
Patricia Ross	Coordinator of the Official Events Unit
Federico Sancho	Secretary of Planning and Evaluation
Breno Tiburcio	Principal Officer in Productivity and Sustainability of Family Farming for food security and the rural economy

ANNEX 3: MEETING STAFF

Secretariat of the meeting

Ex officio Secretary and Director General
of IICA Víctor M. Villalobos

Technical Secretariat Evangelina Beltrán
Héctor Iturbe
Katia Núñez

Logistics Patricia Ross

Legal advisor William Berenson

Communications

Mónica Montero
Adriana Araya
Rafael Cartín
Randall Cordero
Karla Cruz
Andrea Morales
Carlos Umaña

Diplomatic protocol services

Michel Chartier
Sonia González

Services for delegates

Registration and secretariat Wendy Esquivel

Assistance at hotel Leticia Giménez

Assistance at the airport Ronald Hidalgo
Randy Alexander
Marlon Rodríguez

Conference room Eduardo Lovell
Lidy Astorga
Leticia Giménez
Lorena Mata
Marlen Montoya

Word processing

Spanish / English / Portuguese Viviana Chacón

Audio and video recording

David Álvarez
Minor Carvajal

IT Services

Esteban Carvajal
Marianela Lemaitre
Sergio Navarro
Olman Vargas

Support services

Coordination

Laura Mora
Rebeca Martínez

Cleaning

Elizabeth Campos
Lidieth Quesada

Local transportation

Javier Barboza
Carlos Umaña
Harold Zumbado

Maintenance and meeting room set up

Ronald Meneses
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