



REPORT OF THE TWENTY-EIGHTH REGULAR MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

San Jose, Costa Rica

22-24 July 2008

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING

**MINUTES OF THE TWENTY-EIGHTH REGULAR
MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF
THE INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR
COOPERATION ON AGRICULTURE**

The Twenty-eighth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) was held in accordance with the provisions contained in the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee and in that Committee's Resolution IICA/CE/Res.477(XXVII-O/07) of said Executive Committee.¹

The 2008 Executive Committee was made up of the following countries: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Dominica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Saint Lucia, the United States of America and Venezuela.

PREPARATORY SESSION

0.1 *Opening of the Session*

0.1.1 The Preparatory Session of the Twenty-eighth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee was called to order at 08:40 on 22 July 2008, in the United States/Canada Room at IICA Headquarters. It was chaired by Mr. Daryl Nearing, Representative of Canada, the country that chaired the

¹ The resolution in question stated that the Twenty-eighth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee would be held at IICA Headquarters in San Jose, Costa Rica.

Twenty-seventh Regular Session of the Executive Committee held 15-17 May 2007 in San Jose, Costa Rica.

0.1.2 The Representatives of the member countries that formed part of the Executive Committee were in attendance, except for the Representatives of Colombia, Honduras, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Venezuela.

0.2 Agreements

0.2.1 Election of the Chair and Rapporteur of the Meeting

The heads of delegation of the Member States that formed part of the Executive Committee unanimously elected Mr. Ezequiel Joseph, Minister of Agriculture, Lands, Forestry and Fisheries of Saint Lucia to chair the meeting. It was then proposed that Ms. Johanne M. Massiah, Minister of Agriculture, Lands, Marine Resources and Agroindustry of Antigua and Barbuda, serve as Rapporteur. The motion was approved.

The officers of the meeting were elected as follows:

Chairperson:	Ezequiel Joseph
Rapporteur:	Johanne M. Massiah
<i>Ex officio</i> secretary:	Chelston W. D. Brathwaite

The Director General welcomed the Delegates to the Executive Committee and congratulated the Representative of Saint Lucia on being elected to chair the meeting and the Representative of Antigua and Barbuda on being designated to serve as the Rapporteur.

0.2.2 Agenda of the meeting

The delegates were informed that the working and background documents for the meeting were to be found in the folders they had been given. Furthermore, pursuant to Article 29 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee, electronic versions of the documents had been posted 45 days before the meeting on IICA's website, in the section corresponding to the Executive Committee.

The agenda contained in Document IICA/CE/Doc.517(08) was approved.

0.2.3 Working Committees

The Executive Committee decided to establish a working committee to study the proposed amendments to the regulations governing the Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector, submitted by the General Directorate in document IICA/CE/Doc.528(08) "Proposed amendments to the Regulations of the Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector." The working committee's brief was to study the analysis contained in the document and recommend to the plenary the changes that should be incorporated into the aforementioned regulations. The Representatives of Argentina, Dominica, Honduras and the United States of America were chosen to make up the committee.

0.2.4 Deadline for submitting proposals

Wednesday, 23 July at 12:00 midday was set as the deadline for submitting new proposed draft resolutions.

0.2.5 Duration of the meeting

The Plenary decided to hold the closing session of the meeting on Thursday, 24 July 2008 at 12:00, at the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE), in Turrialba, as the Secretariat had proposed in the schedule of the meeting.

0.2.6 Order of precedence of the Member States

Pursuant to articles 40 and 41 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee, the regular representatives of the Member States on the Committee would be *ex-officio* vice-chairpersons of the meeting and would replace the Chairperson in the event of his/her incapacity, in accordance with the order of precedence of the Member States. The order of precedence was established beginning with Saint Lucia, the

Member State whose Representative would be chairing the meeting. Thereafter, alphabetical order in English would be followed.

0.2.7 Countries' right to vote

The Director General asked the Legal Advisor of the OAS and IICA for an opinion regarding application of Article 24 of the Convention on the Institute, vis-à-vis the suspension of the right to vote at meetings of the Institute's governing bodies of Member States that were more than two years behind in the payment of their quotas.

The Legal Adviser explained that for the first time in many years all the Member States that formed part of the Executive Committee were up to date or in regular status concerning the payment of quotas to the Institute and that, as a result, it would not be necessary to apply Article 24 of the Convention on the Institute.

0.3 Remarks by the Director General

0.3.1 The Director General welcomed the members of the Executive Committee and the representatives of other Member States that did not form part of the 2008 Executive Committee. He congratulated the Representative of Saint Lucia on being elected to chair the meeting and the Representative of Antigua and Barbuda on being designated to serve as the Rapporteur.

0.3.2 He said that, given the importance of the global food crisis and the member countries' concern over food security, the General Directorate had organized a forum on the issue that would be taking place immediately after the Inaugural Session of the meeting. He urged the delegates to voice their opinions about the crisis and propose solutions that could be applied in the Member States.

0.3.3 He mentioned that, according to the provisional schedule, on Thursday, 24 July the Committee would be meeting at CATIE. He concluded his remarks by stating that the visit was designed to strengthen the strategic partnership with that sister organization.

0.4 Close of the session

0.4.1 The session was adjourned at 09:18.

***INAUGURAL SESSION AND FORUM ON
FOOD SECURITY IN THE AMERICAS***

0.5 Opening of the session

0.5.1 The Inaugural Session of the Twenty-eighth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee was called to order at 09:25 on 22 July 2008, under the chairmanship of Mr. Ezequiel Joseph, the Representative of Saint Lucia.

0.6 Address by the Director General

0.6.1 Dr. Chelston W. D. Brathwaite, Director General of IICA, welcomed the Representatives and Observer Representatives of the Member States to the Twenty-eighth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee and thanked them for the continuous support they had provided to his Administration.

0.6.2 He then referred to rising food prices and the challenges that the situation posed for the Member States. He said that for the previous six years IICA had been being preparing itself to assist its Member States in addressing situations such as the current crisis and other challenges of the 21st century. To that end, the Institute had supported the development of a strategic framework for agriculture in the hemisphere (AGRO 2003-2015 Plan), implemented the 2006-2010 Medium Term Plan and helped to promote a reassessment of agriculture's contribution to the economy and to the promotion of an expanded vision of the sector.

0.6.3 Dr. Brathwaite then pointed out that in 2007 the Institute had continued the process of institutional reform initiated in 2002, aimed at improving operational efficiency, ensuring prudent financial management,

promoting human resources, strengthening strategic partnerships and promoting a new relationship with the Member States based on participation, transparency and accountability. The process had made it possible to reposition the Institute as an important component of the institutional framework of the Americas, with a mandate to support the efforts of the Member States to promote sustainable agricultural development, food security and rural prosperity in the hemisphere.

- 0.6.4 The Director General also referred to the sound financial situation that IICA now enjoyed, thanks to the timely payment of quotas by the Member States. It had enabled the Institute to allocate resources for new initiatives in the areas of agrotourism, agroindustry and organic agriculture; implement new programs related to biotechnology, agricultural insurance and agroenergy; and, finance the operation of an Office in Miami, through which IICA was providing support to trade, agribusiness and food safety in the hemisphere. Furthermore, the Institute had been able to acquire a new financial management system, establish funds for training, emergencies and horizontal cooperation, and renew the infrastructure at Headquarters.
- 0.6.5 Dr. Brathwaite concluded his remarks by saying that IICA should view the current food crisis as an opportunity to contribute to the repositioning and modernization of agriculture and the rural milieu in the Americas.
- 0.7 *Forum on Food Security in the Americas*
- 0.7.1 *Trends in the international prices of agricultural products: the possible impact on LAC agriculture* (presentation by Julio Paz, IICA Director of Trade and Policy)
- 0.7.1.1 The Director of Trade and Policy analyzed the spike in agricultural prices between 2005 and 2008, the transmission of prices and the distribution of profits and adverse effects in domestic markets. He explained the reasons for the rise in the prices of grains, vegetable oils and dairy products, and compared them with the growth that specific tropical products had experienced over the same period. He then presented the factors that determined the speed and size of the pass-

through of international prices to domestic markets, observing that the distribution of benefits and adverse effects depended on the country's position (exporter or net importer), the actors (producer or net consumer) and the relationship between the increase in prices and the rise in production costs.

- 0.7.1.2 The speaker explained that the South American countries did not have problems, because they were net exporters of food or exporters of oil or minerals, and enjoyed a trade surplus. On the other hand, the Caribbean countries (except for Trinidad and Tobago) and the Central American countries (except for Costa Rica) were net importers of food and oil, and most had trade deficits. To support the most vulnerable families, Mr. Paz recommended stepping up food aid programs and said the impact on rural families would vary widely from country to country, depending on the degree to which external prices were transmitted to domestic markets, the production structure in place and the makeup of farming units. Finally, he believed many marginal agricultural areas could be incorporated into production and new producers would enter national markets.
- 0.7.2 *The causes and impact of the food crisis and strategies for addressing it* (presentation by Rafael Trejos, Director of IICA's Institutional Modernization Unit)
- 0.7.2.1 In his presentation, the Director of the Institutional Modernization Unit (UMI) focused on some questions related to the ongoing crisis in food prices and its impact on food security, such as: i) the implications of rising prices for food security; ii) the impact that price increases were having on purchasing power in the region; iii) the countries that were most vulnerable to price hikes; iv) the countries best equipped to cope with the increases; v) the situation of social vulnerability prior to the present crisis; and, vi) the countries best placed to benefit from the situation.
- 0.7.2.2 The Director of the UMI analyzed each of the points listed based on quantitative information and taking into account the heterogeneity of the countries in the western hemisphere. He believed few countries

were net winners in the food price crisis and that the important factors that would determine the winners and losers were the duration of the trend; the way in which prices were transmitted (to consumers and producers), dependency on imports, the structure of consumption and the elasticity of demand, the respective weights of the rural and urban sectors and the social situation prior to the crisis. The speaker said that the LAC countries were poorly prepared for the crisis, as could be seen from the following facts: a fall in investment for two decades, less public spending on the agricultural sector, a decline in the portfolio of multilateral banks, the focusing of investment on more profitable cash crops and the weakening and disarticulation of sectoral institutions. He recognized that there were very positive micro-entrepreneurial and local efforts, but not enough.

- 0.7.2.3 He concluded his remarks by stating that: i) the causes of the crisis were more complex than those of past crises; ii) the crisis had exacerbated unsolved structural problems; iii) agriculture and the rural milieu could provide solutions to many of the problems; iv) the scenarios called for more comprehensive visions and strategies; v) the role of agriculture and the rural milieu in development needed to be revisited; and, vi) the way in which agriculture and the rural milieu were viewed, and the policies applied to them, needed to be reconsidered.
- 0.7.3 *Results of the International Workshop of Experts on the Contribution of Agriculture and the Rural Milieu to Sustainable Development and Food Security* (presentation by Jim French, IICA Director of Technical Leadership and Knowledge Management)
- 0.7.3.1 The Director of Technical Leadership gave details of the main conclusions of the workshop, held 8-9 July 2008 in San Jose with the participation of representatives of the IDB, the World Bank, FAO, academia, representatives of research centers, experts on specific issues and IICA professionals. He explained that the objectives of the workshop were to analyze different visions of the rural milieu and agriculture's role in reducing poverty and promoting rural prosperity; to produce inputs for a shared vision and a joint proposal by

international agencies and academia to be presented to the Fifth Summit of the Americas; and to obtain inputs for improving strategies and programs proposed by the countries and international agencies for achieving food security and the development of the sector and the rural milieu.

0.7.3.2 The speaker then enumerated the main challenges facing agriculture and the opportunities for guaranteeing the availability of, and access to, food in the short, medium and long terms. He emphasized the need to adopt a new development model that attached greater value to the multidimensional and multisectoral nature of agriculture, and assigned the agricultural sector an important role in the solution of various ongoing problems. He said the model would call for changes to, and the adaptation of, the institutional framework, to coordinate macroeconomic, fiscal, trade, monetary and exchange-rate policies that affected sectoral policies, and make them more consistent. Finally, he highlighted four major actions that needed to be implemented as a matter of urgency: a) give family agriculture the attention it deserved; b) support the process of adaptation to climate change; c) successfully conclude the Doha Round in a way that was satisfactory for developing countries; and, d) in the fields of agroenergy and biofuel production, promote the development of options that were sustainable and efficient and did not compete with food production.

0.7.4 *Dialogue and discussion*

0.7.4.1 The Chair of the meeting thanked the speakers for their presentations and invited the Representatives of the countries to comment on them.

0.7.4.2 The Representative of Mexico referred to the complexity of the problem of food security. He said Mexico was convinced that the use of agricultural technology and innovation would provide most of the solutions, and described the actions his country had taken, in tandem with other Latin American and Caribbean nations, to address the problem of food security. He reported that a high-level technical meeting on food security had taken place from 26-27 May in Mexico. The participants had exchanged views and identified actions and

information for addressing the situation. At the same meeting, the delegates had attached great importance to technology research and transfer, and discussed the factors that had triggered the present situation. As a result of the meeting, a matrix of nine technologies that were needed had been developed. The role of the participating countries had also been defined (those that could supply the technologies and those that were in need of them). The speaker stressed the importance of defining IICA's role, to provide an immediate response to the food security problem and help predict situations that would arise as a result of it. IICA could play an important role in the development and adoption of technologies adapted to the conditions in the countries, and also provide access to them. The Institute should coordinate its actions with other international and regional organizations.

- 0.7.4.3 The Representative of Antigua and Barbuda urged the delegates to recognize that Latin America and the Caribbean were in a good position to undertake the restructuring of the agricultural sector, for which a long-term strategy should be implemented aimed at achieving comprehensive solutions. The countries should decide what needed to be done. For small economies, knowing whether to adopt protectionist measures was a priority. She reported that CARICOM had studied the question of how many of its members were able to produce food efficiently and sustainably, and how intraregional trade could be promoted. She felt that agriculture in the region should focus on both poverty alleviation and efforts to improve the food security situation.
- 0.7.4.4 The Director of Technical Leadership said the countries were very different and each required a specific approach to solve food insecurity, improve the situation of small producers and promote trade in agricultural products with other countries in the region. He explained that the only countries with a food surplus in the Caribbean were Guyana and Suriname, and that recent research had suggested the countries should produce biofuels instead of bananas.
- 0.7.4.5 The Director of Trade and Policy said that higher prices served as a protective measure, because they opened up the possibility of new

actors beginning to produce and new land being used, whereas previously they could not compete. He affirmed that everything depended on the relationship between the increase in the prices of agricultural products and the higher cost of the inputs needed to produce them. The rising cost of transportation was another barrier to trade and, in the case of the Caribbean, the viability of intraregional trade depended on the cost of transportation between the islands, in relation to the cost of transportation from the sources of foodstuffs. Finally, he stressed that tariffs should not be established or raised at the present time, and that the State's role was to create an enabling environment to make agricultural production in the countries feasible.

- 0.7.4.6 The Representative of Chile congratulated IICA for providing an opportunity to discuss the issue. He said the ongoing food crisis had occurred at a time when a major revolution was taking place in the food field, with issues such as biotechnology, customized diets and knowledge-based agriculture were marking the big difference between the past and the present. He agreed there was a great opportunity for agriculture to contribute to development, so the sector could position itself better politically and small-scale agriculture receive the attention it deserved. The latter - as had been noted in the presentations - was important for many countries in the region. As well as opportunities, there were risks inherent in the measures that the countries were implementing, including an increase in poverty, protectionism and self-sufficiency.
- 0.7.4.7 Some countries were not equipped to respond to the present crisis as well as others. In the case of Chile, small-scale agriculture faced some specific problems - for example, access to credit. Agriculture had become more profitable, but in the years ahead it might be less so, due to higher costs and the uncertainty of markets. In response to the initial question ("What can IICA do?"), he felt it was important that such discussions be replicated at the national level. In addition to what had already been mentioned, it was very important that the countries knew what other countries were doing, and the Institute could promote the dissemination of such information. Another important aspect was the promotion of horizontal cooperation and Chile wished to reiterate its

offer, made on other occasions, to collaborate in that field. Finally, it was important to help the countries develop risk management tools (insurance, climate, markets).

- 0.7.4.8 The Representative of Dominica congratulated the speakers for providing a clear, concrete analysis of the food security situation in the Americas. He said Dominica had experienced the negative impact of higher food prices, since food imports stood at US\$10 million and the figure would continue to rise. Imports of dairy products, grains and meats had increased, while the cost of fertilizers had doubled. In general, there had been a substantial increase in production costs, both for production for domestic consumption (which contributed to food security) and for export products, all of which was having an impact on producers. The Government was making efforts to increase investment in agriculture, which accounted for 17% of GDP.
- 0.7.4.9 He said it was important that IICA continue to carry out research and studies to assist the countries in designing short, medium and long-term strategies. He also thought attention needed to be paid to rising production costs and their impact on agriculture. He suggested that the Member States should support one another in seeking solutions to the crisis and that countries with resources available should help others. He cited Venezuela as an example. As a country that produced fertilizers, it could collaborate with other countries in the Americas and help reduce their costs. He announced that a meeting was to be held on 30 July to discuss ways of alleviating the food crisis in the region.
- 0.7.4.10 The Representative of Ecuador said his country was concerned about the increase in the cost of food and mentioned some of the measures that were being implemented, especially the lowering of tariffs and the provision of loans.
- 0.7.4.11 The Representative of Haiti said his country was the one of those most affected by the food crisis and felt that the problem went beyond the capacity to produce food, since food security entailed addressing the problem of access. He reported that the Government had prepared a National Food Security and Rural Development Plan, and was

executing actions that included the distribution of food and agricultural production. Another problem facing the country was related to climatic phenomena, such as cyclones and hurricanes, which could make the situation worse in the months ahead. He felt that interagency coordination needed to be strengthened between the organizations (FAO, IICA and WFP) and the countries that helped Haiti; such coordination was particularly necessary to implement the plan mentioned. Above all, the country needed assistance to provide follow-up to activities and coordinate projects.

- 0.7.4.12 The Representative of the United States believed there was consensus on the need to find effective ways of dealing with the problem of food insecurity. He announced that his country's Secretary of Agriculture had proposed a multi-pronged approach to the problem and that President Bush had requested more funds from Congress, which had earmarked US\$5 billion to provide assistance to the most vulnerable countries so that they could rapidly increase the supply of food. He emphasized the importance of trade liberalization to his country. Turning to IICA's role, he felt the Institute should make efforts to promote proper coordination with other organizations, to avoid duplication and wasting the limited resources available. In his opinion, there was a clear need to invest more in agriculture and improve technology transfer, but he had reservations about certain proposals for intraregional actions aimed at increasing the protection of domestic economies.
- 0.7.4.13 The Director General congratulated the speakers and thanked the Member States for their contributions. He mentioned various factors that were making the crisis worse, such as: a) the rising prices of fossil fuels, which mainly posed a threat to the oil-importing countries; b) climate change, a factor that was already critical in some regions and would affect the planet a little more each day; c) the problems of citizen insecurity and the amount being spent on counterterrorism; d) the crisis in many educational institutions; e) the crisis in nutrition, which had led to high levels of obesity and malnutrition; and, f) the evident financial crisis. He recognized that the solutions were not easy and had to take into account this entire frame of reference.

- 0.7.4.14 The Director General then said it was important for the countries to think about the development model they had been using, and to consider whether they needed to modify it, either completely or in part. He felt the questions that had been raised with regard to the issue were valid and that, in the current context of rising food prices and production costs, it was more difficult to achieve a rapid response to promote food production and, at the same time, assess the need for another “green revolution.” He believed that promoting production was not the only solution and that inclusion policies were needed to afford access to food and improve the conditions for the most vulnerable populations. Crucial issues, such as the availability of credit, risk management and insurance and climate change, should be addressed to make any proposal viable.
- 0.7.4.15 In addition to what had already been mentioned, he felt that issues needed to be addressed related to the institutional frameworks and coordination actions, because the links and articulation among the ministries of trade, health and agriculture and other institutions were currently not satisfactory. He said one of the most important tasks was to analyze what had worked and what had not. Many of the current problems, such as transboundary diseases, technology and risk management, were multinational in nature. He noted that while some measures were being implemented, the countries were not considering many others that should be used to strengthen agriculture and solve long-term problems. He concluded by stating that IICA was an organization that was facilitating cooperation among countries and institutions to address the food crisis.

0.8 *Close of the session*

The Inaugural Session was adjourned at 09:40.

FIRST PLENARY SESSION

1.1 *Opening of the Session*

1.1.1 The First Plenary Session was called to order at 14:25 on 22 July 2008, under the chairmanship of Mr. Ezequiel Joseph, Representative of Saint Lucia.

1.2 *Status of the 2006-2010 MTP; 2007 IICA Annual Report*

1.2.1 Mr. Christopher Hansen, Deputy Director General of IICA, gave a presentation on the progress achieved in 2007 in implementing the 2006-2010 MTP.

1.3 *Remarks by Ms. Denia Leon, Representative of Honduras*

1.3.1 The Chair announced that the Representative of Honduras, Ms. Denia Esperanza Leon Tejada, had joined the meeting of the Executive Committee and gave her the floor. Ms. Leon said she would be taking part in the meeting as the representative of Mr. Hector Hernandez Amador, Minister of Agriculture of Honduras. She then announced that a meeting of the ministers of agriculture of the countries that were benefiting from the PETROCARIBE agreements would be held in Honduras on 30 July, where the issues likely to be addressed included food security and technology transfer. Finally, she thanked the Chair for allowing her to introduce herself to the plenary.

1.4 *Current status of quota payments and progress in collecting quota arrearages*

1.4.1 The Chair gave the floor to Ms. Karen Kleinheinz, the Institute's Director of Finance, who presented her report on the current status of

quota payments received from the Member States and the progress made in collecting quotas owed to the Institute from previous years.

- 1.4.2 The Observer Representative of Peru said his Government was determined to pay all the quotas it owed to IICA as soon as possible, as reflected in the country's recent payment of US\$431,456 to the Institute. His country would soon be making another payment.
 - 1.4.3 The Observer Representative of Canada expressed satisfaction with the Director of Finance's report and congratulated the IICA Director General and the Member States on the efforts they had made to pay their arrearages, thereby helping to improve the Institute's financial situation.
 - 1.4.4 The Representative of Chile pointed out that his country had not endorsed the provisional quota scale agreed upon at the IABA meeting held in 2007 in Guatemala. He said his Government was willing to accept the definitive quota scale that would take effect in 2009.
 - 1.4.5 The Director General thanked the Member States for the efforts they had made to improve the Institute's financial situation, in return for which they were receiving appropriate, timely and quality technical cooperation services to help them promote food security and agricultural and rural development. He extended special thanks to Peru, for its efforts to pay off its quota arrearages, and to Chile, for its readiness to accept the new quota scale.
- 1.5 *Financial Statements of the Institute and Report of the External Auditors*
- 1.5.1 The Director of Finance presented the Institute's financial statements for 2007 and the report of the external auditors. She explained that, according to IICA's Financial Rules, an external audit had to be performed once a year. The firm of Deloitte & Touche had been designated to carry out the audit, in accordance with the pertinent international standards. She reported that, in the opinion of the external auditors, IICA's financial statements presented fairly, in all material respects, the financial situation of the Institute as of 31 December 2006

and 2007, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for both years, in accordance with generally accepted accounting standards.

- 1.5.2 The Representative of Dominica felt it was important to increase the allocation of resources used to finance activities related to the repositioning of agriculture, technology, the modernization of agricultural systems and support for CARDI.
- 1.5.3 The Representative of the United States of America felt it important that future presentations of the financial statements include a more detailed analysis by the external auditors.
- 1.5.4 The Director of Finance explained that the external auditors followed an established methodology, which was limited to reviewing the financial information. However, she emphasized that the management always prepared and attached to the financial statements complementary information on matters such as the status of quota payments, the budget executed by Chapter and the programs carried out with other institutions. Finally, she said the Audit Review Committee (ARC) conducted a detailed review and analysis of the financial information and informed the Administration immediately of any special situations it deemed pertinent.
- 1.5.5 The Representative of Argentina asked why income appeared to be less than expenditure in the 2006-2007 budget.
- 1.5.6 The Director of Finance explained that the income included the quotas received for 2007. She added that quota arrearages from previous years were recorded as a reduction in accounts receivable. She also said that the outgoings referred both to the regular and special budgets.
- 1.5.7 The Director General explained that the budget approved by the IABA was supervised at no less than four levels, namely: i) how much cash was available (execution of the budget depended on the payment of quotas by the Member States and, as a result, of the funds actually available); ii) by the Internal Audit Unit and the Budget and Control

Division, which ensured that the Institute's current rules and regulations were observed; iii) by the external auditors; and, iv) by the ARC. He added that other controls were also being implemented, such as the SAP Financial System, all of which guaranteed the accuracy and transparency of the financial information delivered to the Member States and the Director General.

1.5.8 Finally, he stressed the need for further investment in information systems and the importance of making greater use of the technologies available. He also underscored the importance of governments establishing links with institutions that were promoting new technologies, such as EMBRAPA, in Brazil, and CARDI, in the Caribbean.

1.6 *Fourteenth Report of the Audit Review Committee (ARC)*

1.6.1 The Director of Finance apologized on behalf of the members of the ARC, who, for reasons beyond their control, had been unable to attend the meeting to present the audit report to the Executive Committee in person, as they had done in previous years. She added that all the delegations had received a copy of the report before the meeting.

1.7 *Proposed 2008-2009 Special Program Budget*

1.7.1 The Director of Administration and Finance, Mr. Francisco Barea, presented the Proposed 2008-2009 Special Program Budget, which included the expected results of the technical cooperation actions in the following fields: i) capacity building for effective use of the WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures; ii) systematization and dissemination of experiences related to agricultural insurance; iii) support for horizontal cooperation initiatives among the Member States; iv) promotion of links between agriculture and tourism; and, v) the Center for Leadership in Agriculture. He added that the proposal also included institution-building actions related to continuous professional development and the modernization of the institutional infrastructure.

- 1.7.2 The Representative of Argentina thanked Mr. Barea for his presentation and requested a breakdown by major object of expenditure of the activities to be financed with the special budget. He also wished to know whether the efforts to enhance the Institute's capabilities involved the hiring of additional personnel. Lastly, he asked for more information about the future financing of the Professional Development Program and improvements to the infrastructure. They should be programmed in the Institute's regular budgets, since they were continuous activities.
- 1.7.3 The Director of Administration and Finance said the amounts allocated in the regular budget for the 2008-2009 biennium for activities in the fields of agricultural health, horizontal cooperation and agrotourism were US\$200,000, US\$260,000 and US\$278,376, respectively. He gave a breakdown of each of the budget items by major object of expenditure. He also pointed out that the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) had approved the incorporation into the regular budget of an allocation for infrastructure improvements.
- 1.7.4 The Director of Human Resources, Ms. Linda Landry, added that the special budget included, under capacity-building activities, the payment of allowances for officials who participated in training activities and took sabbaticals for professional updating, and resources for hiring personnel to replace the beneficiaries of those programs temporarily. She also mentioned that the training would mostly involve local and international professional personnel.
- 1.7.5 The Representative of Honduras requested information about the budget allocated to the IICA Office in her country and how it was being executed. She also wanted to know the ratio between its quota contributions and the amount of technical cooperation received from IICA. She then said her country contributed a considerable amount in the form of Institutional Net Rate (INR) resources paid to IICA for the management of externally funded projects.
- 1.7.6 The Director of Administration and Finance explained that the IICA Offices in the countries drew up technical cooperation agendas working

with the national authorities and determined the amount of regular resources required to implement them. In the case of external resources that IICA Offices administered for the countries, the national authorities decided in which activities the resources were to be invested and the accountability mechanisms to be used. The details were set out in legal support instruments.

- 1.7.7 The Director of Administration and Finance added that every year the IICA Offices in the countries held accountability workshops with the national public and private authorities and other international agencies. The activities served as transparency and feedback mechanisms, making it possible to improve the cooperation that the Institute provided to the countries. Mr. Barea pointed out that the cost of the Institute's cooperation activities in Honduras was equivalent to roughly 10 times the country's quota contribution, in line with the principle of solidarity among the Member States established in the Convention on IICA.
- 1.7.8 The Representative of the United States of America thanked Mr. Barea for the information and said he was in agreement with the draft special budget presented. He endorsed the Representative of Argentina's suggestion that staff training should be incorporated into the Institute's regular budget. He asked for information about the efforts that IICA had made to secure additional resources for the activities financed with the special budget.
- 1.7.9 The Director of External Financing and Investment Projects, Mr. François Dagenais, said IICA prepared project profiles for presentation to international financial institutions, which were drawn up in collaboration with national and international organizations. He added that, in the case of Haiti, funds had been obtained for the development of small plots for growing food, through partnerships with the governments of Canada and Argentina. Business plans had been developed with a view to approaching financial institutions in Washington and Europe. Finally, he cited achievements with regard to agricultural insurance.

- 1.7.10 The Deputy Director General, Mr. Christopher Hansen, added that in 2008 IICA was executing projects with funds provided by financial institutions and the governments of the Member States worth nearly 180 million dollars. Funds contributed by national and international cooperation agencies and financial institutions complemented the regular resources at IICA's disposal for technical cooperation actions in its member countries.
- 1.7.11 The Representative of Chile endorsed the proposed special budget and said that, in his opinion, three activities should be given top priority: support for efforts to strengthen the capabilities required to implement sanitary and phytosanitary measures, the development of agricultural insurance and horizontal cooperation among the Member States.
- 1.7.12 The Director General said the Institute was receiving requests for technical cooperation in new areas. The Administration was financing the activities in question by managing external resources and using quota contributions from previous years and INR resources. He warned that in the future the amount of overdue quota contributions would be limited, due to the significant reduction in quotas owed to the Institute. This meant that the cooperation that IICA provided to the Member States would depend primarily on the resources contributed directly by the Member States.
- 1.8 *Status of the Summit Process and the preparations for the Fifth Ministerial Meeting "Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas," Jamaica 2009*
- 1.8.1 Mr. Bernardo Badani, Director of the Office of Follow-up to the Summit of the Americas Process, gave a presentation on the progress made with the summit process and the preparations for the Fifth Ministerial Meeting.
- 1.8.2 The Director General said that, unlike in previous years, the Fifth Summit of the Americas would precede the Fifth Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Rural Life. Therefore, it was important that the

Ministerial Delegates send in the points they wished to see included in the summit declaration sufficiently in advance, to ensure that the topics related to agriculture and rural life remained a focus of the Summit of the Americas Process and high on its agenda.

1.9 *Draft resolutions*

1.9.1 The Chair announced that the first group of draft resolutions had been distributed for the delegates to consider. They would be submitted for approval during the following session.

1.10 *Close of the Session*

1.10.1 The First Plenary Session was adjourned at 17:50.

SECOND PLENARY SESSION

2.1 *Opening of the Session*

2.1.1 The Second Plenary Session was called to order at 08:30 on 23 July 2008, under the chairmanship of Mr. Ezequiel Joseph, Representative of Saint Lucia.

2.2 *Draft resolutions*

2.2.1 The Rapporteur read out the following draft resolutions: “2007 IICA Annual Report,” “2007 Financial Statements of IICA and Report of the External Auditors,” “Fourteenth Report of the Audit Review Committee (ARC),” and “Progress with the Collection of Quotas Owed to IICA as of June 15, 2008.” The resolutions were approved without modifications.

2.2.2 The Observer Representative of Canada asked the Technical Secretariat to explain for whom the Executive Committee’s resolutions were intended. The Technical Secretary explained that the resolutions of the Institute’s governing bodies were in the public domain and could be consulted on IICA’s website. They were also made available in printed form in the reports on the meetings, copies of which were sent by the Director General to the ministries of foreign affairs and ministries of agriculture of the Member States and to the permanent observers and special guests.

2.2.3 The Director General noted that copies of the reports were also sent to the representatives of the Member States to the Permanent Council of the OAS.

2.3 *Draft resolution: “Action taken in the face of the food security situation in the Americas”*

2.3.1 The Rapporteur read out the draft resolution “Action taken in the face of the food security situation in the Americas.”

2.3.2 The Observer Representative of Mexico pointed out that the preambular paragraphs highlighted the negative aspects rather than the positive ones. He felt they should also mention the opportunities that the current situation presented for strengthening agriculture in the Member States, including research and development and technology transfer, employment and the capitalization of the small and medium-scale producers. In addition, he said the resolution should include a paragraph recognizing the efforts that IICA’s Member States were making to cope with the crisis and make progress with regard to food security.

2.3.3 The Observer Representative of Canada pointed up the importance of the draft resolution on food security. He suggested making the following adjustments to the preambular paragraphs: (i) strengthen the reference to the causes of the present situation; (ii) state that it was a question of rising demand rather than a reduction in supply; and, (iii) refer to the right to food based on the content of other declarations adopted by the international community. Finally, he recommended that some figures be included, such as the number of undernourished people in the hemisphere.

2.3.4 He then suggested including in the operative paragraphs the providing of information about the potential results and the status of the activities. He also proposed underscoring the importance of sharing information and creating information networks with other international organizations like the World Bank and the IDB, and encouraging them to channel more financial resources into the sector.

2.3.5 The Representative of the United States of America agreed with the remarks of the Representative of Canada and said other international organizations, such as FAO, were making progress in identifying the

causes of the food crisis. He recommended that those efforts and documents be taken into account. He stressed the importance of having a strong, solid document with a more constructive approach.

- 2.3.6 The Representative of Honduras agreed with Mexico's position. She said national and regional efforts needed to be recognized; and suggested that IICA's cooperation should focus on concrete actions in support of those efforts. She pointed out that the Central American region had the Central American Agricultural Policy (PACA) as a regional instrument, while her country had a State policy. Therefore, the efforts should be geared toward harmonizing, rather than creating, policies.
- 2.3.7 The Director General highlighted three key points made by the Representatives: i) the opportunity that the situation presented for the agricultural sector of the countries of the Americas; ii) the importance of including the ongoing actions that the Member States were executing to address the crisis; and, iii) the potential role that the Americas could play in solving the problem, in particular the huge natural resources available in the region, its technical capabilities and financial resources, and the presence of regional financial institutions such as the IDB, CABEL, the CDB and others. Finally, he suggested that an ad hoc group be set up to study and adjust the content of the resolution, supported by the following Institute officials: James French, Julio Paz and Rafael Trejos.
- 2.3.8 The Representative of Argentina suggested stating more clearly in operative paragraph 1 the structural nature of the food crisis and how it impacted the planning actions of the agricultural sector. He also pointed out the need to adapt the national technical cooperation agendas (NTCA), which were drawn up by the authorities in the Member States, regional organizations such as the CAC, the CAS and the SACMI. In addition, he suggested specifying the scope, terms and resources of the actions to be carried out.

- 2.3.9 The Representative of Chile proposed strengthening operative paragraph 1 of the draft resolution under discussion to emphasize the issues of technological modernization, the incorporation of knowledge, management capacity building, equity and the availability of food.
- 2.3.10 The Observer Representative of Mexico endorsed the Director General's idea of setting up an ad hoc group. He also recommended emphasizing the technological aspect, which was consistent with the temporal dimension of the present situation. He agreed that IICA needed to coordinate its work in support of the Member States with other organizations, such as CATIE and others in South and Central America, to complement capabilities, enhance results and avoid duplication.
- 2.3.11 The Observer Representative of Brazil also supported the idea of setting up a working group and reiterated the desire to obtain concrete results.
- 2.3.12 The Chair asked the delegates to propose candidates for the working group. The Representatives of the delegations of Canada, Argentina, the United States of America, Mexico and Brazil were chosen to take part in the group.
- 2.3.13 Finally, the Director General stressed the importance of including in the resolutions of the Twenty-eighth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee the most important concerns of the countries, such as the food crisis and the importance of defining the Institute's role.
- 2.4 *Draft resolution: 2008-2009 Special Budget financed with resources from the General Subfund*
- 2.4.1 The Rapporteur read out the draft resolution "2008-2009 Special Budget financed with resources from the General Subfund."
- 2.4.2 The Representative of the United States of America asked whether the contents of Table 1 in the report was consistent with what was stated in operative paragraph 2.

- 2.4.3 The Director General suggested that operative paragraph 2 be modified to read "...the execution of the Special Budget does not negatively affect or undermine the normal execution of the Institute's Program Budget for the period 2008-2009."
- 2.4.4 The Director of Finance explained that, provided the trend in the payment of quotas and overdue quotas was maintained, the Institute should have no cash flow difficulties. She reiterated that operative paragraph 2 was designed to guarantee execution of the special budget, not undermine the normal execution of the 2008-2009 regular program budget that was currently in effect.
- 2.4.5 The Representative of the United States of America supported the Director General's suggestion that the words "negatively affect" or "undermine" be added to operative paragraph 2.
- 2.4.6 The Representative of Argentina said that in the past execution of the budget had been subject to the collection of quota arrearages, and that should be reflected in the resolution, so as not to affect other sources of resources. He then said he understood that the special budget would be financed with overdue quotas that the Institute expected to receive, which might encourage the Member States to pay their quota arrearages to IICA.
- 2.4.7 The Director General suggested that operative paragraph 1 be modified to read "...and to be financed exclusively with such resources as IICA may obtain from the collection of quota arrearages." Finally, he pointed out that, in its Resolution 434, the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) had established a global allocation of US\$1,000,000 for the Special Budget, which was to be financed with resources that IICA obtained from the collection of quota arrearages.
- 2.4.8 The draft resolution was approved with the suggested modifications.

2.5 *Presentation on the progress made in implementing the recommendations for strengthening IICA's technical capabilities*

- 2.5.1 Mr. James French, Director of Technical Leadership and Knowledge Management, gave the presentation on the progress made in implementing the recommendations for strengthening the Institute's technical capabilities. In his presentation, he referred to the following: i) recommendations whose implementation did not require additional resources or decisions by the Institute's governing bodies; ii) actions that IICA planned to implement in 2008-2009; and, iii) recommendations of the Steering Committee and the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues (SACMI).
- 2.5.2 In his capacity as the coordinator of the Steering Committee in charge of analyzing the Institute's technical expertise, the Observer Representative of Mexico thanked Mr. French for his presentation, and the Director General and the technical personnel of IICA for the cooperation that the committee had received in preparing the report. He believed the decision to undertake the analysis had been the right one, as it allowed the institution to adjust its capabilities to the new conditions and the technical cooperation needs of its Member States.
- 2.5.3 The Representative of Chile acknowledged the work carried out to enhance the Institute's technical expertise. He said the report highlighted the fact that the Institute lacked a strategic framework. He also requested information about the process of implementing the Steering Committee's recommendations.
- 2.5.4 The Observer Representative of Brazil proposed that the Steering Committee be expanded and continue to support the process of preparing the strategic framework for 2010-2020.
- 2.5.5 The Representative of Antigua and Barbuda congratulated the speaker and IICA's senior management for the work carried out and the presentation made. She said the effort showed that the management had a

clear future vision, which was needed to tackle the many challenges facing agriculture and the rural milieu in the Americas.

- 2.5.6 The Representative of the United States of America congratulated Mr. French and his colleagues. He believed IICA should focus its actions on those areas in which it possessed technical expertise and competitive advantages; budgetary constraints also had to be taken into account. Therefore, IICA needed to define its role clearly in a context characterized by constant change.
- 2.5.7 The Director General thanked the delegates for their comments and praised the work of the Steering Committee and the personnel of the Institute. The document laid the groundwork for institution-building efforts, provided feedback to enable IICA to adapt to a changing world and emphasized the importance of the fact that the Institute had to operate with limited resources and in partnership with other organizations. He recommended that the strategic framework recognize the actions of organizations operating in the hemisphere, to avoid the duplication of actions, facilitate the coordination of efforts and make better use of the resources available for cooperation. That would also enable the Institute to identify the specific niche in which it should concentrate its activities.
- 2.5.8 The Chair of the Executive Committee thanked the speaker for his presentation and the delegates for their comments. He said the future role of the Steering Committee had to be decided, along with the mechanism via which the committee's recommendations would be implemented.
- 2.5.9 The Representative of Chile asked about the steps that needed to be taken to implement the Steering Committee's recommendations for strengthening the Institute's technical expertise. He felt the Executive Committee should analyze the mandate given to the Steering Committee, with a view to implementing the recommendations and increasing the number of members of the Committee. The Representative of Chile and the Observer Representative of Brazil expressed their readiness to serve as members of the Steering Committee.

- 2.5.10 In his capacity as the Coordinator of the Steering Committee, the Observer Representative of Mexico acknowledged the importance of the Steering Committee continuing to assist the Institute in implementing the recommendations of the assessment of technical expertise at the Institute. He recommended that experts be hired to strengthen the work of the Steering Committee, for which additional financial resources would be needed.
- 2.5.11 The Director General emphasized that the Member States' involvement in the process of strengthening the Institute's technical expertise was vital to define its future actions. In that regard, he acknowledged the importance of the Steering Committee's recommendations. Establishing a Strategic Plan through 2020 called for a series of activities that both the outgoing and incoming administrations would have to implement. He recommended specifying precisely the actions for which each one would be responsible. Finally, he said it was feasible to allocate a sum similar to the one already invested in the work of the Steering Committee.
- 2.5.12 The Chair of the Executive Committee recommended that the Steering Committee continue its work, with Mexico as the coordinator and incorporating Chile and Brazil. Finally, he suggested that the Steering Committee and the Administration identify the activities that would be the responsibility of the current Administration, and those that the new Administration would have to implement after it took office on 16 January 2010.
- 2.6 *Conferring of the title of emeritus*
- 2.6.1 The Technical Secretary explained that, pursuant to Article 16 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Directorate, the Executive Committee could confer the title of "Emeritus," on its own initiative or in response to a proposal from the Director General, to senior members of the professional personnel who had made an outstanding contribution, completed thirty years of professional service, been involved in the Institute's activities for fifteen years and had worked for IICA directly

for at least ten years. He added that conferring the title of Personnel Emeritus of IICA did not create any additional costs for the institution.

2.6.2 The Director General presented for the consideration of the Twenty-eighth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee the names of M. Susana Dancourt Iriarte, H. Arlington D. Chesney, P. Lizardo de las Casas, Ernani M. da C. Fiori, Guillermo Grajales and Víctor Manuel Tunarosa Murcia as candidates for the title of Emeritus.

2.6.3 The Chair asked the plenary to consider the proposal, which was approved without changes.

2.6.4 The Director General thanked Peru, Guyana, Brazil and Colombia for the contributions that their professionals had made to the Institute. Finally, he pointed out that H. Arlington D. Chesney was present and the entire Executive Committee acknowledged his important contributions to IICA.

2.7 *Draft resolution: “2008 Titles of Emeritus”*

2.7.1 The Rapporteur read out the draft resolution “2008 Titles of Emeritus,” which was approved without modifications.

2.8 *Close of the Session*

2.8.1 The Second Plenary Session was adjourned at 11:55 on Wednesday, 23 July 2008.

THIRD PLENARY SESSION

3.1 *Opening of the Session*

3.1.1 The Third Plenary Session of the Twenty-eighth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee was called to order at 14:05 hours on 23 July 2008, under the chairmanship of Mr. Ezequiel Joseph, Representative of Saint Lucia.

3.2 *Network of Competent Authorities in Organic Agriculture of the Americas*

3.2.1 The Chair gave the floor to Mr. Pedro Cussianovich, IICA Specialist in Organic Agriculture, who gave a presentation on the Network of Competent Authorities in Organic Agriculture of the Americas (see Annex).

3.2.2 The Observer Representative of Brazil congratulated Mr. Cussianovich on his excellent presentation, which had shown the importance of organic agriculture for the Americas. He said there were disparities in the development of organic agriculture among the countries of the hemisphere and the Network could be a useful mechanism for finding ways of reducing them. He also spoke of the need to promote the consolidation of the Network, as it could play an important role in reducing the disparities.

3.2.3 The Observer Representative of Peru said his country was experiencing a boom in organic agricultural production. He agreed with the Representative of Brazil with respect to the importance of the Network for the countries of the Americas, especially because it provided an opportunity to learn about the experiences of other countries in the same field. He added that the structure of the Network needed to be improved.

- 3.2.4 The IICA Director General thanked Mr. Cussianovich for his presentation. He said that, given the importance of organic agriculture to countries in the region, it was up to the Institute to help them formulate policies, rules and strategies for the development of that kind of farming. IICA could work with other organizations in the hemisphere that also had projects aimed at promoting organic agriculture, such as CATIE. The Director General took advantage of the opportunity to thank the Director General of CATIE, Jose Joaquin Campos, for attending the meeting.
- 3.2.5 The Representative of Antigua and Barbuda seconded the observations of the Representatives of Brazil and Peru as regards the benefits of the Network for the countries of the Americas and, in particular, for the Caribbean, where organic agriculture could play a significant role in promoting agrotourism.
- 3.2.6 The Chair thanked the Observer Representatives of Brazil and Peru and the Representative of Antigua and Barbuda for their comments. He asked Mr. Cussianovich about the harmonization of standards in organic agriculture, because the regulations of the Latin American and Caribbean countries had to be compatible with those of the countries that were most advanced in that field, such as the members of the European Union.
- 3.2.7 Mr. Cussianovich replied that some Latin American and Caribbean countries, such as Argentina, were already working to harmonize their standards with those established by the European Union. He added that the Network, which was the first component of the hemispheric institutional framework for organic agriculture, would support the transfer of experiences and knowledge from other parts of the world and from the Americas to the countries that required it.
- 3.3 Leadership in agriculture
- 3.3.1 The Chair gave the floor to Mr. Hernan Chiriboga, Coordinator of the Center for Leadership in Agriculture (CLA), who spoke about the Center's activities.

- 3.3.2 Mr. Chiriboga said one of the products and services of the Center for Leadership in Agriculture (CLA) was the Forum for Leaders in Agriculture, targeted at senior executives and decision makers from the agricultural sector. The Forum for Leaders was designed to promote a series of strategic dialogues aimed at gaining a deeper understanding of the processes under way that affect agriculture and rural development in the hemisphere. Ministers of agriculture had participated in the Forum for Leaders and visited projects, farms and institutions involved in agricultural production. The other forum that the CLA had implemented was the Forum for Young Leaders of Agriculture.
- 3.3.3 The speaker also mentioned that young people from the 34 countries of the hemisphere (two representatives per country) had taken part in the first Forum for Young Leaders in Agriculture, held 24-29 March 2008 at IICA Headquarters. During the forum, taking into account the knowledge demonstrated by the young people and their technical expertise, values and leadership traits, two leaders had been chosen to represent all the participants at the meeting of the Executive Committee: Marcus Richards (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines) and Medardo Lizano (El Salvador). He then invited both young people to share their experiences during the forum.
- 3.3.4 Mr. Marcus Richards thanked the Director General and the members of the Executive Committee for inviting him to participate and speak about some of the experiences of the first Forum for Young Leaders in Agriculture. He said all the young people who had taken part had felt very proud to be chosen to attend the forum, and he felt the investment made by IICA in creating the Center for Leadership in Agriculture was very worthwhile. The professionalism shown on the first day of the forum and the excellent organization of the event had paved the way for an exceptional and unforgettable week of activities. Thirty-four countries, all members of the IICA family, had been involved and 81 young leaders from the Americas had received training.

- 3.3.5 He then said the participants had been exposed to a broad range of training activities, in which they had been able to share concepts, methods and varied and useful teaching-learning techniques. A wide variety of topics had been addressed, including value-based leadership and the attributes of a good leader. The speaker also mentioned that combining theoretical sessions with practical activities had been key to maintaining the interest of all the participants, who had returned to their countries with a different vision of what it meant to be a leader and convinced of the importance of teamwork for achieving success.
- 3.3.6 Mr. Medardo Lizano, of El Salvador, thanked the Director General for the invitation to share the experiences of the First Forum for Young Leaders in Agriculture at the meeting of the Executive Committee.
- 3.3.7 Mr. Lizano said the discussions had led to questions being asked about various subjects, such as the new concept of agriculture, climate change, the development of bioenergy and the promotion of rural development.
- 3.3.8 He went on to say the participants had concluded that they should make some kind of commitment, that they should place their knowledge at the service of agriculture and the rural communities of the Americas. They had arrived at the commitments they assumed based on the idea that it was necessary to create mechanisms for reaching consensus on public policies that promoted social and gender inclusion, environmental sustainability, competitiveness, the participation of society in rural development and the sustainable development of the LAC countries; and that young leaders should help disseminate information about the true contribution of agriculture and rural territories to the well-being of societies. They had also emphasized the importance of the cultural diversity that existed in the countries of the hemisphere. The young people had committed themselves to: a) helping to create mechanisms for reaching consensus on public policies; b) disseminating, in their respective countries, information to enable decision-makers to identify the true contribution that agriculture makes to the economy and society; and, c) identifying, recognizing and promoting the true contribution of agriculture.

- 3.3.9 Finally, Mr. Lizano said that, while it was true that the LAC countries needed human resources skilled in agricultural health and food safety, organic farming, biotechnology, bioenergy and other new, interrelated fields of agriculture, such knowledge would be of no use unless there were visionary leaders to promote its proper use, so that it created opportunities for agriculture rather than posing a threat.
- 3.3.10 The delegates then watched a video entitled “Promoting leaders with a global vision.”
- 3.3.11 The Chair thanked Hernan Chiriboga, Marcus Richards and Medardo Lizano for their presentations. He then expressed his satisfaction at the establishment of IICA’s Center for Leadership in Agriculture and congratulated the Director General on the achievement.
- 3.3.12 The Representative of Dominica pointed out that delegates from his country had taken part in the First Forum for Young Leaders. It had proven to be a great experience for them in terms of personal and professional growth. He then urged the Director General and his team to continue the programs designed to promote leadership in agriculture.
- 3.3.13 The Representative of Antigua and Barbuda expressed her satisfaction with all the activities of IICA’s Center for Leadership in Agriculture, especially those related to the training of young leaders, who would soon occupy key positions in the agrifood chain.
- 3.3.14 The Observer Representative of The Bahamas thanked Mr. Chiriboga for his presentation. He agreed with the Representatives of Dominica and Antigua and Barbuda that the Institute needed to continue promoting leadership in agriculture.
- 3.3.15 The Director General congratulated Chiriboga, Richards and Lizano for their presentation and thanked the Member States for having supported the establishment of the Center for Leadership in Agriculture. He added that the sponsorship of other organizations and the support of the Member States were important to promote the sharing of experiences

among young leaders, by means of visits and internships in different countries.

3.3.16 The Chair of the Executive Committee seconded the Director General's comments and emphasized that his country supported the forum and the leadership programs, and urged the countries to support the Institute's initiative.

3.4 *Status of IICA-IDB joint activities*

3.4.1 Mr. Christopher Hansen, IICA Deputy Director General, gave an overview of IICA's ongoing efforts to promote its strategic partnerships, including those with FAO, CATIE and the IDB. He then described the progress of IICA-IDB joint actions, explaining the general objectives of the partnership and the main activities and results.

3.4.2 The Director General pointed up the collaboration that the Member States had provided to the initiatives promoted by IICA and the IDB, which had made it possible to execute important projects for the development of agriculture and the rural milieu. He added that, thanks to the partnership, the IDB might include IICA as a member of the team that analyzed rural development strategies. The Director General also mentioned the need for the IDB to expand its portfolio of projects for the agricultural and rural sector, which would be another positive outcome of the partnership with the Institute.

3.4.3 Finally, he asked the countries to make an effort, through the ministers of agriculture, to have agricultural and rural development projects included in the IDB's agenda. To do so, he suggested they bear in mind the fact that the ministers of finance and economic affairs represented the countries in their dealings with the IDB.

3.5 Draft resolutions

- 3.5.1 The Rapporteur read out the following draft resolutions: “Coordination Mechanisms for the Development of Organic Agriculture in the Americas,” “Center for Leadership in Agriculture” and “Status of the Assessment of Technical Expertise at IICA,” which were approved without modifications.
- 3.5.2 The Rapporteur read out the draft resolution “Report of the Special Meeting of the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues (SACMI).”
- 3.5.2.1 The Director General requested that operative paragraph 3 be modified. While acknowledging that the present Administration was responsible for preparing the draft 2010-2011 Program Budget, he believed that the incoming Administration should have the flexibility to adjust plans and allocate resources. Finally, he said the Steering Committee needed to be allocated a similar amount of resources to the one earmarked for the present period.
- 3.5.2.2 The Observer Representative of Mexico endorsed the Director General’s comments. However, he felt that, while it was up to the current Administration to prepare the draft 2010-2011 Program Budget, the Executive Committee should make provision for certain decisions related to the implementation of the Steering Committee’s recommendations. He then requested information about the resources available to give continuity to the Steering Committee’s work, specifically for the hiring of consultants.
- 3.5.2.3 The Representative of Argentina made two observations about the text of operative paragraph 3 and proposed that the following be included: i) that the General Directorate, not the Director General, be instructed to implement the recommendations of the Steering Committee; and, ii) that provision be made for the continuity of the Steering Committee’s actions in support of the General Directorate.

3.5.2.4 The Technical Secretariat was asked to submit a new draft resolution incorporating the aforementioned observations.

3.6 *Close of the Session*

3.6.1 The Third Plenary Session was adjourned at 17:41.

FOURTH PLENARY SESSION

4.1 *Opening of the Session*

4.1.1 The Fourth Plenary Session was called to order at 09:00 on 24 July on the premises of the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE), in Turrialba, Costa Rica, under the chairmanship of Mr. Ezequiel Joseph, Representative of Saint Lucia.

4.2 *Words of welcome from the Director General of CATIE and CATIE's 2007 Report on Activities and 2008-2012 Plan of Action*

4.2.1 The Chairman welcomed the delegates and senior officials seated at the head table, and gave the floor to Dr. Jose Joaquin Campos, Director General of CATIE.

4.2.2 Dr. Campos thanked IICA's Executive Committee for holding its final sessions at CATIE. It was a very practical arrangement, as the Directors General of IICA and CATIE had scheduled the meeting of CATIE's Governing Council for the same day. He suggested continuing to do the same thing in the future, to further strengthen relations between the two institutions and use their respective resources more efficiently.

4.2.3 Dr. Campos gave a presentation on CATIE's report for 2007, based on the one prepared by the previous Director, Dr. Pedro Ferreira Lamas. He then presented the draft plan of action he had proposed as a candidate for the position of Director General of CATIE for the period 2008-2011. When Mr. Campos had concluded his two presentations, the Chair of the Executive Committee thanked him.

- 4.2.4 The Observer Representative of Mexico expressed his satisfaction with the report presented. He asked how the institution proposed to reconcile the production-oriented approach, based on the more intensive use of technology promoted by the ministers of agriculture, with donors' interest in environmental conservation; and wondered how those ideas would be reflected in CATIE's formal education processes.
- 4.2.5 Mr. Campos said that CATIE aimed to strike a balance between productive activities and environmental conservation. A case in point was the improvement of cacao production systems, which had made it possible to raise physical productivity using environmentally friendly practices.
- 4.2.6 The Representative of Antigua and Barbuda congratulated Dr. Campos on his ambitious work plan and asked for information about CATIE's progress with regard to distance learning.
- 4.2.7 In his capacity as the Representative of Saint Lucia, the Chairman wished to know whether the scholarships that CATIE granted were exclusively for nationals of its member countries. The Representative of Honduras then suggested that information about the scholarship program be disseminated more widely and requested information about three aspects that were of interest to her country: a) intensive stock raising and environmental degradation; b) climate change; and, c) reforestation and watershed management.
- 4.2.8 Mr. Campos explained that CATIE's plans included the development of distance education, in line with international trends. He reported that courses had been held in tandem with organizations that had technological platforms, including IICA. He said that citizens of any country were eligible to receive scholarships, although students from the member countries received special treatment. He thanked the meeting and said he would do as the Representative of Honduras had suggested and disseminate the scholarship program. He also mentioned recent activities related to watershed management carried out in Nicaragua and Honduras.

- 4.2.9 The Representative of Chile congratulated Mr. Campos on the optimism that pervaded his work plan. He added that several of the subjects that CATIE proposed to address went beyond the tropics and offered any support that Chile might be able to provide.
- 4.2.10 The Director General of IICA underlined the importance to the world of the genetic resources conserved in CATIE's germplasm bank and asked whether the materials were exclusively for the use of the Center's member countries.
- 4.2.11 Mr. Campos said CATIE had signed an agreement with FAO that acknowledged the collection's international importance and provided a framework for materials to be exchanged with every country in the world by means of specific technology transfer agreements.
- 4.2.12 The Chairman of the Executive Committee thanked Dr. Campos for his comments and explanations in response to the questions and concerns raised by the delegates and wished him every success in his duties.
- 4.3 *Status of the execution of IICA-CATIE joint activities and development of mechanisms for joint action*
- 4.3.1 The IICA Director General said the relationship between the two organizations was based on several years of joint work. He also highlighted the benefits to be derived from coordinating CATIE's technology research and generation work with institutions like CARDI.
- 4.3.2 IICA's Director of Regional Operations and Integration, Mr. Mariano Olazabal, presented the report on the activities carried out by the two organizations between January 2007 and June 2008 (Working Document IICA/CE/Doc.526(08)).
- 4.3.3 The IICA Director General added that, in addition to working closely together, it might be possible to beef up strategically important work by establishing joint offices in the countries. Finally, he commended the

personnel of IICA and CATIE for their dedication in implementing joint activities.

- 4.3.4 The Director General of CATIE thanked IICA's senior management for its support for his recently inaugurated administration. In recent months, the general directorates and technical teams of the two organizations had strengthened their cooperation ties, which would benefit the Member States in particular. He concluded his remarks by thanking the personnel of both institutions.
- 4.3.5 The Observer Representative of Mexico congratulated the senior management of CATIE and IICA on the progress they had made in complementing each other's work. He also commended the IICA Director General for facilitating the last session of the Executive Committee at CATIE's headquarters, thereby strengthening the ties between the two organizations even further. He cited as one of the mutual benefits of the partnership between the two institutions the fact that it could facilitate the payment of quotas.
- 4.3.6 He then pointed out that the fields on which the cooperation had focused were basically those of a technical nature and reflected the areas in which both organizations were interested and the joint work would have the greatest impact. He suggested identifying and strengthening the synergies in the administrative and operational areas, possibly sharing offices and support services whose contributions could be quantified. Finally, he suggested that IICA provide office facilities to both CATIE and CARDI.
- 4.3.7 The Director General thanked the Mexican delegation for supporting the idea of stepping up of joint activities and reiterated that it was keeping with the aims of the inter-American and regional institutional framework, which included developing and strengthening synergies of that kind. He agreed with the speakers who had said that the countries were finding it increasingly difficult to fulfill their commitments to international organizations. That meant it was even more important for

the organizations to demonstrate their usefulness, to encourage the payment of quotas.

4.4 *Draft resolution: "IICA-CATIE Strategic partnership"*

- 4.4.1 The Rapporteur read out the draft resolution "IICA-CATIE Strategic partnership."
- 4.4.2 The Representative of the United States of America asked whether the construction of the shared knowledge management platform, referred to in operative paragraph 3, would call for the allocation of additional resources.
- 4.4.3 The IICA Director General and Director of Technical Leadership and Knowledge Management cited the improvement of the respective information centers as an example of the two institution's joint activities. The work included integrating their libraries, constructing a digital library, signing an agreement with Google and establishing links to libraries such as those of Cornell University and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Finally, they said that these activities would not require a special, additional allocation of resources, as they formed part of CATIE and IICA's current regular budgets.
- 4.4.4 The Observer Representative of Mexico and the Representative of Argentina recommended modifying the operative paragraph so that it read "2.b Define a strategy and more appropriate management, administrative and operational mechanisms to ensure the necessary continuity and enhance the results of joint action."
- 4.4.5 The resolution was adopted with the modification suggested.

- 4.5 *Draft resolution: "Report of the Special Meeting of the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues (SACMI)"*
- 4.5.1 The Rapporteur read out the draft resolution "Report of the Special Meeting of the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues (SACMI)."
- 4.5.2 The Representative of the United States of America offered to serve on the Steering Committee. The Observer Representative of Brazil then recommended that a paragraph be included stating that the Steering Committee had been expanded to include Brazil, Chile and the United States of America.
- 4.5.3 The Observer Representative of Mexico asked whether the 2009 budget would include additional resources for the hiring of a consultant to support the Steering Committee.
- 4.5.4 The Director General said the General Directorate would provide as much logistical and financial support for the operation of the Steering Committee as it possibly could.
- 4.5.5 The resolution was adopted with an additional operative paragraph (No. 4) reading "To expand the Steering Committee to include Brazil, Chile and the United States of America."
- 4.6 *Draft resolution: "Status of the resolutions of the Fourteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA and the Twenty-seventh Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee"*
- 4.6.1 The Rapporteur read out the draft resolution "Status of the resolutions of the Fourteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA and the Twenty-seventh Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee," which was adopted without modifications.

- 4.7 *Draft resolution: “Date and Site of the Twenty-ninth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee”*
- 4.7.1 The Rapporteur read out the draft resolution “Date and Site of the Twenty-ninth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee.”
- 4.7.2 The Observer Representative of Mexico said his country would be honored to host the Twenty-ninth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee. He added that he would ask his countries’ authorities to ratify the offer to host the meeting.
- 4.7.3 The Director General thanked Mexico for its offer to host the next regular meeting of the Executive Committee and said it was an honor for the Institute to receive such an offer.
- 4.7.4 The Technical Secretary proposed thanking the Government of Mexico explicitly in the draft resolution.
- 4.7.5 The resolution was adopted with the suggested modification.
- 4.8 *Report of the Awards Selection Commission and draft resolution “Amendments to the Regulations for Conferring Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector”*
- 4.8.1 The Chairman gave the floor to the Representative of Honduras, who had chaired the Awards Selection Commission.
- 4.8.2 The Representative of Honduras thanked the members of the Commission and the IICA personnel who had supported its work. She explained that the proposed modifications to the regulations involved changes in both form and content. They included a broader definition of rural agriculture that incorporated the principle of sustainability and the creation of a new award, for individual producers or groups of producers. The Commission had also eliminated the requirement that candidates had to have received a similar award at the national level, and recommended that IICA promote the presentation of awards at the national level.

Another recommendation was that members of the Selection Commission for the Inter-American Awards be chosen using a process similar to the one employed for the Audit Review Committee (ARC).

- 4.8.3 The Representative of Antigua and Barbuda suggested revising the text of the English version of the regulations and stating clearly in which currency the awards were paid.
- 4.8.4 The Director General thanked the Commission for the work it had done, which had been exhaustive and productive. He suggested approving the amendments proposed and set forth in the document that had been circulated, and that the wording be revised and corrected by the Technical Secretariat.
- 4.8.5 The Chairman thanked the Commission and asked the meeting to discuss the draft resolution “Amendments to the Regulations for Conferring the Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector,” which was approved with the changes mentioned.
- 4.9 *Close of the Session*
- 4.9.1 The Fourth Plenary Session was adjourned at 12:00 on 25 July 2007.

CLOSING SESSION

5.1 *Opening of the Session*

5.1.1 The Closing Session was called to order at 12:05 on Friday, 25 July 2008 at the headquarters of the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE) in Turrialba, under the chairmanship of Mr. Ezequiel Joseph, Representative of Saint Lucia.

5.2 *Remarks of the Director General of CATIE*

5.2.1 The Director General of CATIE said he was delighted that CATIE had been chosen to host the final sessions of the Twenty-eighth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee. There were four points he wished to mention. He thanked everyone involved for the collaboration received and said he was especially pleased that the synergies existed for promoting a better relationship. He was optimistic, as it was clear that the leaders of agricultural institutions had a shared vision, and stood ready to tackle the challenges resulting from the changes made. He promised to keep the Committee informed of the results of the IICA-CATIE partnership. Finally, he offered CATIE's facilities for future meetings.

5.3 *Remarks of the Director General of IICA*

5.3.1 The IICA Director General shared the feelings expressed by the Director of CATIE and was delighted that the Twenty-eighth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee had concluded so successfully. He thanked the participants for their support and collaboration during the meeting. He listed the topics addressed during the sessions and the results achieved. He also highlighted the results of the technical forum on food security and the causes of, and possible solutions to, the food crisis.

- 5.3.2 He mentioned CATIE's hospitality and thanked its Director General. The meeting would spur them to continue working together in aid of agriculture and rural life in the Americas.
- 5.3.3 He reaffirmed that poverty levels in the Americas were unacceptable and could not be allowed to continue rising. To that end, it was essential to modernize the rural sector and strengthen its communities by providing them with education, health care, infrastructure and access to technology and credit. He reiterated that promoting rural prosperity was essential to ensure urban peace.
- 5.3.4 He believed that stimulating the rural milieu would contribute to the Millennium Development Goal of reducing poverty by 50% by the year 2015. He emphasized that IICA realized that that objective could only be achieved by instituting state policies that promoted social inclusion, equity and transparency, education and a culture of entrepreneurs and innovators.
- 5.3.5 He mentioned that in April 2009 the Heads of State and Government of the Americas would be holding the Fifth Summit of the Americas in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. The theme of the meeting would be "*Human Prosperity, Energy Security and Environmental Sustainability.*" He warned that very little or no progress would be made in promoting environmental sustainability unless food security, the development of agriculture and the rural economy were priorities on national and international development agendas.
- 5.3.6 Finally, he thanked the personnel of IICA and CATIE, and took the opportunity to thank the Government of Mexico for offering to host the next regular meeting of the Executive Committee.
- 5.4 *Remarks of the Chairman*
- 5.4.1 On behalf of his country, Mr. Ezequiel Jospeh, Chairman of the Twenty-eighth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee, thanked the participants for granting him the honor of serving as the Chair. He also

underlined the collaboration of the representatives of the countries, which had made the meeting a success.

5.5 *Close of the meeting and signing of the final report*

5.5.1 Mr. Ezequiel Joseph, in his capacity as Chairman of the meeting, and Mr. Chelston W. D. Brathwaite, Director General of IICA, signed the report of the meeting.

5.6 *Close of the meeting*

5.6.1 The Twenty-eighth Meeting of the Executive Committee concluded at 12:40 on 25 July 2008.

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IICA/CE/Res.481(XXVIII-O/08)

23 July 2008

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 481

2007 IICA ANNUAL REPORT

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Twenty-eighth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/Doc.520 (08), “2007 IICA Annual Report”,

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 Institute and take appropriate action;

That the General Directorate prepared and published the 2007 IICA Annual Report, which was submitted by the Institute to the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (OAS) on February 25, 2008, pursuant to the provisions of Article 35 of the Rules of Procedure of the Permanent Council of the OAS;

That the report describes the cooperation activities carried out by the Institute in 2007 for the purpose of implementing IICA’s national, regional and hemispheric cooperation agendas;

That the report also contains information on programmatic, budgetary and financial aspects that have special importance for the institutional life of the Institute; and

That the report is available in printed and electronic format and may be accessed on the Institute's web site (www.iica.int),

RESOLVES:

To approve the 2007 IICA Annual Report.

IICA/CE/Res.482(XXVIII-O/08)

23 July 2008

Original: English

RESOLUTION No. 482

**ACTION TAKEN IN THE FACE OF THE
FOOD SECURITY SITUATION IN THE AMERICAS**

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Twenty-eighth Regular Meeting,

HAVING HEARD:

The presentations by Messrs. Julio Paz, Rafael Trejos and James French on the food security situation in the Member States of IICA in the current international context, the presentation by the Director General and the discussion in the meeting room;

HAVING SEEN:

That a series of factors has combined to generate a rapid increase in food prices that has resulted in serious challenges for global food security;

The vigorous and concerted effort on the part of the countries of the region to face the crisis and jointly make use of the opportunity to work together to strengthen agricultural productivity, efficiency and competitiveness in order to increase food production,

CONSIDERING:

That many of the Member States are affected differently by the various factors that have brought about rising food prices. These include restrictions in supply and increased demand, adverse weather, increasing energy and fertilizer costs, alternative uses of food crops and other factors directly or indirectly related to food production;

That while the current situation poses a challenge for the countries of the region, it also offers an opportunity to strengthen agriculture and the capacity of member states, including the research, development and transfer of appropriate technologies to increase productivity, employment and income of small and medium sized producers;

That IICA has the capacity to support and collaborate with governments, civil society and agricultural producers to develop and implement effective and coherent short, medium and long-term policies that are tailored to the specific realities of each region, nation and territory and that result in a substantial increase in sustainable food production and access to safe and nutritious food, essential inputs, and financing and risk management tools;

That it is essential to strengthen the mechanisms of cooperation between the public and private sectors to confront the present challenges and take advantage of the opportunities in the area of food security for the Americas,

RESOLVES:

1. To instruct IICA to:
 - a. Monitor and expeditiously inform Member countries about the food security situation as it evolves, including the determining factors and impacts;
 - b. Provide, upon request, support and advice to Member States related to food security;

- c. Revise and adjust accordingly the Institute's hemispheric, regional and national technical cooperation agendas through the appropriate IICA governing bodies to provide cooperation to all Member States in their efforts to confront the crisis;
 - d. Provide technical cooperation and collaborate with the OAS and other strategic institutions on food security issues in the region to support the governments, the civil society and the private services sector to increase access to financial resources;
 - e. Promote and collaborate with strategic institutions to support training and technology transfer as one of the key mechanisms to increase food production particularly to the small and medium sized farmers.
2. That IICA will take into account the programs of other international, regional, government development organizations in order to promote cooperation and avoid duplication of efforts.

IICA/CE/Res.483(XXVIII-O/08)

23 July 2008

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 483**STATUS OF THE ASSESSMENT OF
TECHNICAL EXPERTISE AT IICA**

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Twenty-eighth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/Doc.525(08) “Progress with the Implementation of the Recommendations of the Assessment of Technical Expertise at IICA”,

CONSIDERING:

That under Resolution IICA/CE/Res.447(XXVI-O/06) “Assessment of IICA’s Technical Capabilities”, the Executive Committee instructed the Director General to support and coordinate the assessment of the technical expertise of IICA’s personnel, to be conducted by external experts, and to present it to Member States and the Executive Committee for consideration before the end of the first half of 2007;

That pursuant to that mandate, the General Directorate hired the consulting firm “*Servicios Internacionales para el Desarrollo Empresarial SIDE S.A.*”, which has presented to the Executive Committee a report on the assessment of technical expertise at IICA, based on the terms of reference approved by the Executive Committee, the guidelines of the Steering Committee and the work schedule prepared with the General Directorate;

That after receiving that report, the Executive Committee established, under resolution IICA/CE/Res.462(XXVII-O/07), a process for following up on the report, which included consultations with all Member States of the Institute;

That under resolution IICA/JIA/Res.430(XIV-O/07), the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) instructed the Director General to draw up a plan of action for implementing the recommendations contained in the report on the assessment of technical expertise and to report thereon to the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues (SACMI);

That under that same Resolution, the IABA extended the term of the Steering Committee until the next regular meeting of the IABA, to be held in 2009, and requested that that Committee, with the support of a team appointed by the Director General, present a report to the IABA at its Fifteenth Regular Meeting on progress with strengthening technical expertise at IICA; and

That at its meeting held in San Jose, Costa Rica on April 22 this year, the SACMI considered a report from the Steering Committee and the Director General's response to the assessment of technical expertise at IICA and made the pertinent recommendations to this Executive Committee,

RESOLVES:

1. To accept the report of IICA on progress with the implementation of actions aimed at improving technical expertise at IICA in order to meet the cooperation needs of Member States contained in the technical cooperation agendas and the resolutions adopted by the governing bodies of IICA.
2. To instruct the Director General to continue to implement the actions aimed at improving technical expertise at IICA in 2008 and 2009 that can be implemented by decision of the Director General and that do not require the allocation of additional resources.

3. To instruct the Director General to present to the Executive Committee at its next meeting a report on progress with implementing the recommendations to improve technical expertise at IICA.

IICA/CE/Res.484(XXVIII-O/08)

23 July 2008

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 484

**COORDINATION MECHANISM FOR THE DEVELOPMENT
OF ORGANIC AGRICULTURE IN THE AMERICAS**

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Twenty-eighth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/Doc.527(08), “Network of Competent Authorities in Organic Agriculture in the Americas”,

CONSIDERING:

That organic agriculture has been experiencing significant growth in the Americas as it seeks to meet the rapid increase in the demand for organic agricultural products on national and international markets;

That IICA’s 2006-2010 Medium-Term Plan (MTP) establishes that the Institute must support the development and implementation of national plans and programs in support of the sustainable development of agriculture, as well as promote the development of technological innovation mechanisms applicable to family agriculture, with a view to strengthening the linkage among agriculture, trade and the environment;

That a significant part of the organic food supply comes from small- and medium-scale farmers and that the MTP of IICA stipulates that the Institute must

support Member States in developing mechanisms that foster collaboration and shared responsibility;

That the transmission of knowledge and the dissemination of innovations in the field of organic agriculture, as well as the development of effective public policies, are limited because of the absence of mechanisms for linking public-sector institutions that have competence for the development and regulation of organic agriculture in the countries of the region;

That in August of 2007, at a meeting held in Managua, Nicaragua, the competent governmental bodies that promote, regulate and establish standards to govern the development of organic agriculture established the Network of Competent Authorities in Organic Agriculture in the Americas to monitor and address jointly the main issues that fall within their institutional purview, as well as the development of organic agriculture in general, and that that Network is the only existing regional structure for coordinating the promotion, regulation and control of that activity; and

That the competent governmental bodies that promote, regulate and establish standards to govern the development of organic agriculture in the Member States of IICA have expressed to the General Directorate their interest in institutionalizing a technical mechanism to serve in an advisory capacity vis-à-vis the authorities in the agricultural sectors in the hemisphere and in which IICA would serve as Technical Secretariat,

RESOLVES:

1. To establish the Network of Competent Authorities in Organic Agriculture in the Americas as the Inter-American Commission for Organic Agriculture, with responsibility for coordinating the standards and procedures for promoting and regulating the production of organic food in the hemisphere, as well as trade in those products, and to serve as a technical body for knowledge management in the area of organic agriculture and as a mechanism for consultation, liaison and reciprocal cooperation with the

competent governmental bodies that promote and establish standards for the development of organic agriculture in each country.

2. To instruct IICA to prepare, in conjunction with the competent governmental authorities that promote, regulate and establish standards to govern the development of organic agriculture, the bylaws and rules of procedure of the Inter-American Commission for Organic Agriculture, and to submit them to the Executive Committee for consideration at its Twenty-ninth Regular Meeting, to be held in 2009.
3. To entrust the General Directorate of IICA with providing services as Technical Secretariat to the Inter-American Commission for Organic Agriculture, using the resources allocated for that purpose in the Institute's current Program Budget, and with considering also any financial and technical contributions that Member States, technical and financial cooperation agencies, other institutions and individuals might make to the operation of that Commission and the achievement of its purpose.
4. To urge the Member States of IICA that do not have competent governmental bodies to promote, regulate and establish standards to govern the development of organic agriculture, to establish them so that they may join the Network of Competent Authorities in Organic Agriculture in the Americas and be part of the Inter-American Commission for Organic Agriculture. Countries that do have such a governmental body are urged to reinforce their institutional structure.

IICA/CE/Res.485(XXVIII-O/08)

23 July 2008

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 485**CENTER FOR LEADERSHIP IN AGRICULTURE**

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Twenty-eighth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

The presentation on IICA's Center for Leadership in Agriculture,

CONSIDERING:

That IICA's 2006-2010 Medium-Term Plan (MTP) establishes that the Institute must promote the execution of programs to train leaders with capability in agricultural and rural development in the Americas and, for this, the MTP recognizes the importance of improving the effectiveness of leaders by giving them the tools to enable them to define strategic guidelines and help their institutions achieve targeted goals and objectives;

That these programs must also allow for an analysis of the capabilities and mandates of IICA so that the institution can respond to the needs of Member States and tailor its cooperation agenda to the priorities of the new national authorities;

That in fulfillment of these mandates, IICA's Center for Leadership in Agriculture has been implementing a leadership program intended for Ministers of Agriculture, senior executives and other decision makers, especially, those who have been recently elected, as well as a program for young leaders who will

assume a future leading role in agricultural and rural development in their countries and in the region;

That both programs seek to give current and future leaders: (i) a global vision of agriculture and rural development based on an analysis of the scenarios for agriculture in the hemisphere, the challenges it faces and the new policy frameworks for facing these challenges; (ii) new ideas, innovations, ways of thinking, methodologies, technologies and information, as well as new knowledge; (iii) skills and attitudes so that they can actively influence processes of change, not only within member countries, but also at the regional level; (iv) a network that links young leaders and enables them to exchange knowledge and successful experiences; and

That at its regular meeting held in San Jose, Costa Rica, from March 13-14, 2008, the members of the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues (SACMI) took cognizance of progress achieved in setting up IICA's Center for Leadership in Agriculture and expressed broad support for the presentation by the Director General of the Institute,

RESOLVES:

1. To state that IICA should give high priority to consolidating the Center for Leadership in Agriculture.
2. To urge the Ministers of Agriculture and other leaders to participate in the activities of IICA's Center for Leadership in Agriculture so that they may analyze the current state of agriculture in the global context and learn about the Institute's true ability to support the implementation of the agricultural and rural development agendas in Member States.
3. To instruct the Director General to reinforce the efforts of the Center for Leadership to shape the future young leaders that agriculture in the region will require.

4. To urge the Ministers of Agriculture to promote training in their respective countries and to facilitate the personal development of the young leaders who will have future responsibility for agricultural and rural development and to extend to them the necessary facilities and support to enable them to participate in the activities of IICA's Center for Leadership in Agriculture.
5. To instruct the Director General: (i) to report to future regular meetings of the Executive Committee on the activities of the Center for Leadership in Agriculture; and (ii) to report on implementation of the provisions of this resolution.

IICA/CE/Res.486(XXVIII-O/08)

23 July 2008

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 486

**2007 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF IICA
AND REPORT OF THE EXTERNAL AUDITORS**

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Twenty-eighth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/Doc.521(08), “2007 Financial Statements of the Institute and Report of the External Auditors,”

CONSIDERING:

That Article 4(d) of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee establishes that this Governing Body is to study the Institute’s financial statements and forward the corresponding report to the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA);

That the External Auditors have attested to the sound management of the Institute’s financial resources during 2007, and that the administration of IICA has acted in conformity with the regulations of the Institute; and

That, in its Fourteenth Annual Report, the Audit Review Committee (ARC) states that it has studied the report of the External Auditors on IICA’s 2007 Financial Statements and found the work performed to be thorough and in accordance with IICA’s rules and international auditing standards,

RESOLVES:

To approve the 2007 Financial Statements of the Institute and the Report of the External Auditors on said Financial Statements.

IICA/CE/Res.487(XXVIII-O/08)

23 July 2008

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 487

**FOURTEENTH REPORT OF THE AUDIT REVIEW
COMMITTEE (ARC)**

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Twenty-eighth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/Doc.522(08), “Fourteenth Report of the Audit Review Committee (ARC)”,

CONSIDERING:

That at its Seventh Regular Meeting, the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), by Resolution IICA/JIA/Res.231(VII-O/93), created the ARC and approved its Statute; and

That Article 3(k) of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee establishes that it is to receive and approve the ARC’s reports and make a determination on its recommendations,

RESOLVES:

1. To approve the Fourteenth Annual Report of the ARC.

2. To instruct the Director General to implement the recommendations contained in that report.
3. To thank the members of the ARC for the effective work accomplished.

IICA/CE/Res.488(XXVIII-O/08)

23 July 2008

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 488

**PROGRESS WITH THE COLLECTION OF QUOTAS
OWED TO IICA AS OF JUNE 15, 2008**

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Twenty-eighth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/Doc.523(08) which contains the “Report of the Director General on the Current Status of Quota Payments and Progress with the Collection of Quotas owed to the Institute”,

CONSIDERING:

That by Resolution IICA/JIA/Res.414(XIII-O/05), the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) adopted the document “Revised Measures for Collecting Quotas owed to the Institute”;

That the aforementioned document draws and improves on the provisions of Resolutions IICA/CE/Res.417(XXIV-O/04) of the Executive Committee and IICA/JIA/Res.392(XII-O/03) of the IABA for the purpose of establishing a set of measures intended to encourage Member States to make current their financial obligations 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, and the efforts of the General Directorate, it has been possible to decrease considerably the total amount of quotas owed to the Institute;

That the above has enabled the Administration to fund the 2007-2008 Program Budget and to fund the 2007-2008 special budget approved by the governing bodies of the Institute for the execution of high-priority technical cooperation programs; and

That the financial strengthening of the Institute and the normal execution of the programs and projects included in the national, regional and hemispheric cooperation agendas can only be possible if Member States pay their quota arrearages and keep up to date with payments of their annual quotas,

RESOLVES:

1. To thank the Ministers of Agriculture, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and other high-level government officials in the Member States of IICA 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 Member States to make their annual quota payments to the Institute in a timely fashion and to pay quota arrearages for previous years.
3. To instruct the Director General to: a) continue efforts to collect quotas for the current year and those in arrears for previous years and b) to keep the Member States informed of progress in this area.

IICA/CE/Res.489(XXVIII-O/08)

23 July 2008

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 489

**2008-2009 SPECIAL BUDGET FINANCED WITH
RESOURCES FROM THE GENERAL SUBFUND**

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Twenty-eighth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/Doc.524(08), "Proposed 2008-2009 Special Budget Financed with Resources from the General Subfund",

CONSIDERING:

That the Institute requires financial resources to: i) meet the growing demand for cooperation services from its Member States; ii) address new mandates from the governments; and iii) continue the modernization and transformation process aimed at enhancing its response capability and improving the quality of its services;

That by means of resolution IICA/JIA/Res.434(XIV-O/07) adopted at its Fourteenth Regular Meeting, the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) approved an overall allocation of US\$1,000,000 for the 2008-2009 Special Budget;

That by means of that same resolution, the IABA authorized the Executive Committee to approve, at its Twenty-eighth Regular Meeting, to be held in 2008, the distribution of the resources of the 2008-2009 Special Budget, in accordance

with the analysis and recommendations emanating from the 2008 meeting of the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues (SACMI);

That the SACMI endorsed the proposal presented by the General Directorate containing the detailed allocation of resources to reinforce the allocation for high-priority activities in the following areas: (i) the development of capabilities required for full compliance with the WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement); (ii) agro-tourism; (iii) agricultural insurance; (iv) horizontal cooperation among Member States; (v) the Center for Leadership in Agriculture; and (vi) professional development; and also to make urgently needed investments in equipment, remodeling and maintenance of the IICA Headquarters building,

RESOLVES:

1. To approve the distribution of funds of the Special Budget included as the sole appendix to this resolution, for execution during the 2008-2009 biennium, and to be financed exclusively with such resources as IICA may obtain from the collection of quota arrearages.
2. To instruct the Director General to adopt the appropriate measures to ensure that the execution of the Special Budget does not negatively affect the normal execution of the Institute's Program Budget for the period 2008-2009.

APPENDIX**Summary of the Resources of the General Subfund Allocated to the Special Budget for 2008-2009****(US\$)**

ITEM	AMOUNT
1. Development of Capabilities to Fully Benefit from the Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS)	200.000
2. Systematization and Dissemination of Experiences in the Field of Agricultural Insurance	100.000
3. Support for Horizontal Cooperation among the Member States	100.000
4. Execution of the IICA Strategy for the Promotion of Agritourism Linkages	100.000
5. Center for Leadership in Agriculture	200.000
6. Ongoing Professional Development	200.000
7. Modernization of Institutional Infrastructure	100.000
TOTAL SPECIAL BUDGET FOR 2008-2009	1.000.000

IICA/CE/Res.490(XXVIII-O/08)

24 July 2008

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 490**REPORT OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE SPECIAL ADVISORY
COMMISSION ON MANAGEMENT ISSUES (SACMI)**

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Twenty-eighth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Documents IICA/CE/Doc.519(08) “Report of the Special Meeting of the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues on the Assessment of Technical Expertise at the Institute” and IICA/CE/Doc.525(08) “Progress with the Implementation of the Recommendations of the Assessment of Technical Expertise at IICA”,

CONSIDERING:

That by Resolution IICA/JIA/Res.430(XIV-O/07), the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) instructed the Director General to draw up and institute a plan of action for implementing the recommendations of the Report on the Assessment of Technical Expertise at IICA, based on the observations and comments received from all Member States on that Report;

That under that same Resolution, the IABA instructed the Director General to present to the meetings of the SACMI a progress report on the implementation of that plan of action;

That, at its Twenty-sixth Regular Meeting, held from September 27-28, 2006, the Executive Committee formed a steering committee to follow up on the assessment of technical expertise at the Institute and that steering committee held several meetings and produced proposals for moving forward with the implementation of the recommendations of that external assessment;

That the Director General presented to the Special Meeting of the SACMI a report on progress achieved by the Institute in implementing the recommendations of the external assessment that do not require decision by the Executive Committee and the IABA or the allocation of additional resources; and

That this process will enhance the modernization of the Institute and its efficiency in facing the challenges confronted by its member countries,

RESOLVES:

1. To thank the SACMI and the members of the Steering Committee for the work accomplished.
2. To approve the recommendations for improving technical expertise at IICA contained in the Report of the Special Meeting of the SACMI, held in San Jose, Costa Rica, on April 22, 2008.
3. To instruct the General Directorate to: (i) continue to implement the recommendations of the SACMI that do not require additional resources; (ii) continue to provide the necessary support for the operations of the Steering Committee; and (iii) include in the proposed Program Budget for 2010-2011 the necessary financial resources for implementing the provisions of operative paragraph 2 of this resolution and thus give continuity to the work of the Steering Committee.
4. To expand the Steering Committee to include Brazil, Chile and the United States of America.

IICA/CE/Res.491(XXVIII-O/08)

23 July 2008

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 491**REPORT OF THE 2008 REGULAR MEETING OF THE SPECIAL
ADVISORY COMMISSION ON MANAGEMENT ISSUES (SACMI)**

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Twenty-eighth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/Doc.518(08), “Report of the 2008 Regular Meeting of the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues (SACMI)”,

CONSIDERING:

That by Resolution IICA/JIA/Res.341(X-O/99), the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) created the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues (SACMI) “to facilitate more regular discussion between the Director General and the Member States on administrative and financial initiatives and issues in order to facilitate the process of reaching consensus on those issues and initiatives in the Executive Committee and in the IABA”;

That by Resolution IICA/JIA/Res.419(XIII-O/05), the IABA extended the term of the SACMI from 2006-2010; and

That the SACMI held its 2008 regular meeting at IICA Headquarters on April 23, 2008 and delivered its report with recommendations for the Director General of IICA,

RESOLVES:

To accept the Report of the 2008 Regular Meeting of the SACMI.

IICA/CE/Res.492(XXVIII-O/08)

24 July 2008

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 492**STATUS OF THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE FOURTEENTH
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (IABA)
AND THE TWENTY-SEVENTH REGULAR MEETING
OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (EC)**

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Twenty-eighth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/Doc.530(08), “Status of the Resolutions of the Fourteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture” and document IICA/CE/Doc.531(08), “Status of the Resolutions of the Twenty-seventh Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee”,

CONSIDERING:

That the above-mentioned reports demonstrate that the General Directorate has complied with the resolutions adopted at the Fourteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA, and satisfactorily carried out the tasks required to comply with the resolutions adopted at the Twenty-seventh Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Institute,

RESOLVES:

1. To accept the reports: (i) “Status of the Resolutions of the Fourteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture”, and (ii) “Status of the Resolutions of the Twenty-seventh Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee”.
2. To express satisfaction with the progress achieved in complying with the resolutions issued by IICA’s governing bodies referred to in operative paragraph 1.

IICA/CE/Res.493(XXVIII-O/08)

23 July 2008

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 493**2008 TITLES OF EMERITUS**

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Twenty-eighth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/Doc.529(08), "Proposal for Conferring Appointment and Title of Emeritus",

CONSIDERING:

That Mrs. M. Susana Dancourt Iriarte and Messrs. H. Arlington D. Chesney, P. Lizardo de las Casas, Ernani M. da C. Fiori, Guillermo Grajales and Victor Manuel Tunarosa Murcia, have devoted a significant part of their professional lives to the service of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture where they occupied important positions in which they were eminently successful, dedicated and resourceful;

That Mrs. M. Susana Dancourt Iriarte and Messrs. H. Arlington D. Chesney, P. Lizardo de las Casas, Ernani M. da C. Fiori, Guillermo Grajales, Victor Manuel Tunarosa Murcia, meet all the requirements established in Article 16 of the General Directorate's Rules of Procedure to qualify for the title of Personnel "Emeritus"; and

That, pursuant to Article 16 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Directorate, the Executive Committee may confer appointment and title of “Emeritus”,

RESOLVES:

To confer the title of “Emeritus” of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, with all the privileges and prerogatives that that title implies, on Mrs. M. Susana Dancourt Iriarte and Messrs. H. Arlington D. Chesney, P. Lizardo de las Casas, Ernani M. da C. Fiori, Guillermo Grajales, Victor Manuel Tunarosa Murcia.

IICA/CE/Res.494(XXVIII-O/08)

24 July 2008

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 494**AMENDMENTS TO THE REGULATIONS FOR CONFERRING
INTER-AMERICAN AWARDS IN THE RURAL SECTOR**

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Twenty-eighth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/Doc.528(08) Rev.2, "Proposed Amendments to the Regulations for Conferring the Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector",

CONSIDERING:

That experience with the processes for selecting and conferring awards in the rural sector shows that improvements need to be made in the current procedures;

That in 1958, IICA created the Inter-American Agricultural Medal to which another three awards were added in 1979;

That the purpose of these awards is to bring to the attention of the international community the work of citizens and institutions in Member States of IICA that have made outstanding contributions to the development of agriculture and the improvement of rural life in the Americas;

That by means of Resolution IICA/JIA/Res.174(V-O/89), adopted at its Fifth Regular Meeting, the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA)

approved the Regulations for Conferring the Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector;

That the selection process may be improved by a more ample publication and distribution of information about the awards offered by IICA and by establishing national awards in each country that recognize at the local level the contributions of individuals, groups, and institutions to sustainable agriculture and rural life;

That the current regulations governing such awards require modification for the purpose of stimulating a greater interest in the awards and implementing improvements in the selection process,

RESOLVES:

1. To approve the amendments to the current Regulations for Conferring Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector proposed in document IICA/CE/Doc.528(08) Rev. 2, attached to this Resolution.
2. To authorize the Director General to put into effect, as of this date, the version of the regulations that includes the approved amendments as the basis for the process for conferring Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector.
3. To urge Member States, with the support of the IICA offices, to promote the selection of candidates and the granting of national awards that recognize individuals, groups and institutions for their outstanding contributions to the development of sustainable agriculture and rural life.
4. To establish as a transitory provision, only for the present biennium, that the members of the Awards Selection Commission be selected in the preparatory session of the next Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee.

**REGULATIONS FOR CONFERRING THE INTER-AMERICAN
AWARDS IN THE RURAL SECTOR**

Corresponding Articles of Current Text	Proposed Text
<p>INTRODUCTION</p> <p>The Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector should be an instrument for recognizing the outstanding contributions made by individuals, institutions and enterprises to bring about sustainable development of agriculture and the improvement of rural life.</p> <p>It also contains a “Guide of the Selection of Candidates,” which provides instructions to be followed for the presentation of candidates and the key requirements of each award.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">CHAPTER I: INTRODUCTION²</p> <p>INTRODUCTION</p> <p>The Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector recognize the outstanding contributions individuals, institutions and enterprises over time to the development of sustainable agriculture and the improvement of rural life in the Americas.</p> <p>For the purpose of complementing these Regulations, the General Directorate shall prepare a Guide and distribute it to the Member States (“the Guide”). The Guide will contain additional instructions for the selection process.</p>
<p>Article 1</p> <p>The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), by resolution of the Executive Committee, shall bestow awards to bring to the attention of the international community, and especially to the</p>	<p>Article 1:</p> <p>1.1 The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), by resolution of the Executive Committee, shall confer the Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector to bring to the attention of the international community, and especially to the</p>

² Titles affixed by the General Directorate to facilitate use of these regulations.

<p>Member States of IICA, the work carried out by citizens and institutions of its Member States who have distinguished themselves through outstanding contributions to the development of agriculture and to the improvement of rural life in the Americas.</p>	<p>Member States of IICA, the work and contributions of citizens, institutions and enterprises of its Member States that have distinguished themselves through outstanding contributions to the development of sustainable agriculture and to the improvement of rural life in the Americas.</p> <p>1.2 The Chair of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture shall present the awards in a special ceremony at the Regular Meeting of the Board.</p>
	<p>CHAPTER II: THE AWARDS</p>
<p>Article 2</p> <p>The Inter-American Awards consist of four different awards: i) the Inter-American Agricultural Medal, ii) the Inter-American Agricultural Award for Young Professionals, iii) the Inter-American Award for the Contribution of Women to Rural Development, and iv) the Inter-American Award for Institutional Contributions to Agricultural and Rural Development.</p>	<p>Article 2:</p> <p>2.1 The five Inter-American Awards are: i) the Inter-American Agricultural Medal, ii) the Inter-American Award for Innovative Rural Producers, iii) the Inter-American Agricultural Award for Young Professionals, iv) the Inter-American Award for the Contribution of Women to Rural Development, and v) the Inter-American Award for Institutional Contributions to Agricultural and Rural Development.</p>
<p>Article 3</p> <p>The Inter-American Agricultural Medal is bestowed upon professionals who have received the National</p>	<p>Article 3:</p> <p>3.1The Inter-American Agricultural Medal is for those—individuals who have distinguished themselves through</p>

<p>Agricultural Medal in the respective countries and who have distinguished themselves through outstanding contributions to the development of agriculture and to the improvement of rural life, both in their own countries or in other countries of the Americas. In granting these awards, consideration will be given, essentially, to their work and their contributions.</p>	<p>outstanding contributions to the development of sustainable agriculture and to the improvement of rural life, in their own countries and, in particular, those will be contributions that have had an impact in other countries of the Americas and/or other parts of the world. In evaluating the candidates, the utmost consideration is given to the impact of the candidate's contributions on progress in sustainable agriculture and on the improvement of rural life.</p> <p>3.2 The award for the Inter-American Agricultural Medal consists of a gold medal and a certificate and US\$10,000.</p>
<p>Article 4</p>	<p>Article 4</p> <p>4.1 The Inter-American Award for the Innovative Rural Producer is for producers (individuals or groups). It recognizes producers whose experience and contributions, especially in the area of innovation in production, have served as an example for producers in their own countries and other countries of the Americas.</p> <p>4.2 The Inter-American Award for Innovative Rural Producers consists of a medal, certificate and US\$5,000.</p>

<p><u>Article 4</u></p> <p>The Inter-American Agricultural Award for Young Professionals is a distinction granted to those professionals who are under thirty-five years of age at the time of nomination, who have received in their country the National Agricultural Award for Young Professionals, have distinguished themselves through their professional contributions and who have demonstrated an outstanding willingness to serve, exceptional initiative and dedication in working for agricultural development and the well-being of the rural population. In granting these awards, consideration will be given, essentially, to the candidates' concrete contributions.</p>	<p>Article 5:</p> <p>5.1 The Inter-American Agricultural Award for Young Professionals is for those professionals who are under thirty-five years of age at the time of nomination, have distinguished themselves through their professional contributions and have demonstrated an outstanding willingness to serve, exceptional initiative and dedication in working for the development of sustainable agriculture and the well-being of rural communities.</p> <p>5.2 The Inter-American Agricultural Award for Young Professionals consists of a medal, a certificate and a scholarship to participate in IICA's Program for Young Leaders. Nevertheless, if a winner has already participated in that Program, he/she shall receive a US\$10,000 scholarship to attend an equivalent program for the development of his/her leadership capabilities, in accordance with conditions set out in the Guide.</p>
<p><u>Article 5</u></p> <p>The Inter-American Award for the Contribution of Women to Rural Development shall be awarded to those women who have received in their country the National Award for the Contribution of Women to Rural</p>	<p>Article 6:</p> <p>6.1 The Inter-American Award for the Contribution of Women to Rural Development is for those women who have distinguished themselves through outstanding-contributions to the process of involving women in rural</p>

<p>Development and who have distinguished themselves through outstanding contributions to the process of involving women in rural development, in general, and to improving the quality of life, in particular, both in their own country or in other countries of the Americas.</p>	<p>development, in general, and to improving the quality of life, in rural communities.</p> <p>6.2 The Inter-American Award for the Contribution of Women to Rural Development shall consist of a medal and a certificate and US\$5,000.</p>
<p><u>Article 6</u></p> <p>The Inter-American Award for Institutional Contributions to Agricultural and Rural Development is conferred on a public or private organization, enterprise, university or nongovernmental organization of the Member States of IICA that has made significant corporate contributions to improving agriculture and rural life in one or more countries of the Americas. This institution or enterprise shall be elected from among those that have received a National Award for Institutional Contributions to Agricultural and Rural Development.</p>	<p>Article 7:</p> <p>7.1 The Inter-American Award for Institutional Contributions to Agricultural and Rural Development is conferred upon the public or private organization, enterprise, university or nongovernmental organization in the Member States of IICA that has made significant contributions to improving sustainable agriculture and rural life in one or more countries of the Americas.</p> <p>7.2 The Inter-American Award for Institutional Contributions to Agricultural and Rural Development consists of a hand-punched bronze wall hanging and a certificate.</p>
<p><u>Article 7</u></p> <p>The Executive Committee shall select the candidates for each award at the meeting it holds immediately prior to the biennial meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), based on the results of the pre-selection</p>	<p>Article 8:</p> <p>8.1 In its Regular meeting held in the year that the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) celebrates its Regular Biennial Meeting, the Executive Committee shall select the winners of the Inter-American Awards</p>

<p>processed conducted by the General Directorate.</p>	
<p><u>Article 8</u></p> <p>The awards shall be conferred biennially to only one person for each of the awards for individuals, and to only one organization in the case of the institutional award. The qualifications established for each award shall be the only criteria used in the selection of awardees.</p>	<p>Article 9:</p> <p>9.1 The Inter-American Awards shall be conferred for the corresponding biennium. There will be no more than one winner for each award. No person shall receive more than one award for the same biennium.</p>
<p><u>Article 9</u></p> <p>The Institute, through its Offices in the Member States, will receive nominations from government and private institutions, enterprises, universities, nongovernmental organizations and trade associations for the following National Awards: Agricultural Medal, Award for Young Professionals, Award for the Contribution of Women to Rural Development, and Award for Institutional Contributions to Agricultural and Rural Development.</p>	<p>[Text of Current Article 9 Eliminated in Proposed Regulation]</p>
<p><u>Article 10</u></p> <p>The Institute will propose to an ad-honorem National Panel of Judges a list of three candidates for each of the</p>	<p>[Text of Current Article 10 Eliminated in Proposed Regulations]</p>

<p>awards. Based on the background of the candidates, the National Panel of Judges will confer the national awards, which will consist of a certificate and a metal plaque. The winners of the national awards will be automatically designated as candidates for the inter-American awards in their respective categories.</p>	
	<p>CHAPTER III: THE AWARDS SELECTION COMMISSION AND ITS SECRETARIAT</p>
<p><u>Article 11</u></p> <p>The selection of candidates for the IICA awards shall be the responsibility of a committee of the Executive Committee (the Awards Selection Committee) consisting of five representatives from countries sitting on the Executive Committee in the years in which a regular meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture will be held. Each nominee shall represent one of the areas of IICA (Andean, Caribbean, Central, Northern and Southern). The voting shall take place in alphabetical order by country and in accordance with the aforementioned criteria. The Director General shall appoint an IICA official to serve as Secretary of the Awards Selection Committee. The Secretariat of the Committee shall be responsible for keeping the Committee</p>	<p>Article 10:</p> <p>10.1 The Executive Committee shall constitute the Awards Selection Commission (“the Commission”) to review and evaluate the candidates for the Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector, and to recommend to the Executive Committee the most worthy candidate for each award. The Commission shall consist of three Member States, who shall be appointed and serve as further specified below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The three members of the Commission shall be elected by the Executive Committee during the preparatory session of its Regular Meeting in the first year of the biennium. b. The Member States selected shall be responsible for

informed of the nomination of candidates, organizing all the information to be examined by the Committee, and facilitating the meetings of the Committee.

- assigning a principal delegate and an alternate to represent it on the Commission for the entire biennium;
- c. The term of membership shall be the biennium. No member state may be elected for consecutive terms.
 - d. One member shall be nominated by and elected from among the six major contributors of Regular Fund of the Institute; another shall be nominated by and elected from among the remaining Member States of the Institute; and the third member shall be nominated by and elected from among all the Member States other than those states elected from among the first two groups.
 - e. In electing each member, the Executive Committee shall give due regard to the principles of equitable geographical representation and rotation.
 - f. The Commission shall conduct one Regular meeting each biennium which shall coincide with the Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee in the year of the Regular IABA meeting for the biennium. That meeting shall begin at least one day prior to the preparatory session of that Executive

Committee meeting so that the Commission may timely submit its report and recommendations for the awards to the Executive Committee.

- g. The Commission may also meet at other times during the biennium either in the presence of each other in the same place or through teleconferencing and other electronic means, subject to the availability of funds as determined by the Director General.
- h. The Commission shall elect a Chairperson to preside over its meetings, and it may elect such other officials it deems necessary from among its members.
- i. The Commission may meet with a quorum of at least two Members and take decisions by a vote of a majority of its Members. The Commission may adopt additional rules of procedure for its meetings and electing its officers, provided those rules of procedure are consistent with these Regulations and other pertinent norms of the Institute.

10.2 The Director General shall appoint two IICA staff members to serve as the Technical Secretariat of

	<p>the Awards Selection Commission. The Secretariat shall be responsible for: i) organizing the documentation on the candidates; ii) informing the Commission's members of the progress in the nomination of the candidates; iii) supporting them in the performance of their duties.</p>
<p><u>Article 12:</u></p> <p>Members of the Selection Committee shall serve two-year terms, to begin January 1 of the year following their election. Once their term is concluded, these countries will not be eligible to sit on the Committee again until all the countries of their area have served a two-year term.</p>	<p>Article 11:</p> <p>11.1 The Awards Selection Commission, after studying the documentation for each candidate systematized by the Technical Secretariat, shall recommend to the plenary of the Executive Committee the candidates who, in its judgment, should receive the Inter-American Awards.</p> <p>11.2 Also, the Commission shall present to the Executive Committee a Report setting out the reasons for its recommendations and explaining the process by which it arrived at them.</p> <p>11.3 The Commission may recommend that no award be conferred for the corresponding period because, in its judgment, the candidates nominated do not meet the requirements. Nevertheless it may recommend one honorable mention for each category.</p>

<p><u>Article 13:</u></p> <p>The Committee shall appoint a Chairperson from among its members.</p>	<p>Article 12:</p> <p>12.1 The Commission’s Chairperson shall present the Commission’s Report and Recommendations to the plenary of the Executive Committee.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">CHAPTER IV: RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE GENERAL DIRECTORATE</p>
<p><u>Article 14:</u></p> <p>The General Directorate shall have the following duties:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. To broadly disseminate the call for the presentation of candidates for the National and Inter-American Awards in the Member States. b. To review and update the guide for selecting award recipients, specifying the merits of the candidates to be considered in the final selection of the winner of each national and inter-American award. 	<p>Article 13:</p> <p>13.1 In order to ensure the effectiveness and transparency of the selection process, the General Directorate, through the IICA Offices in the Member States, shall be responsible for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Publicizing the convocation for the presentation of candidates for national and Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector through the Institute’s Offices in the countries and in co-ordination with the Ministries or Secretariats of Agriculture, in the Member States; b. Prepare and maintain the Guide for the Nomination and Selection of Candidates for the Inter-American Awards;

<p>c. To undertake, with the support of authorities in the Member States at the national level, to encourage institutions, public and private agencies, enterprises, universities and trade associations to propose suitable candidates for the different awards.</p> <p>d. To study the information on the institutional and individual candidates, and to ensure that they meet the requirements for the corresponding award, issuing the respective certification.</p> <p>e. To create in each Member State ad-honorem committees for granting the national awards. These committees shall comprise a representative of the public agricultural sector, a representative of the private institutions associated with agriculture and rural development, a representative of academia, and a representative of the trade associations of the rural sector.</p> <p>f. To take responsibility for holding, with the participation of national authorities responsible for agricultural and rural development, the ceremonies for conferring the awards in each country.</p>	<p>c. In collaboration with authorities in the Member States, encouraging institutions, public and private agencies, enterprises, universities and trade associations at the national level to propose qualified candidates for the awards;</p> <p>d. [Current Text of Section d Eliminated]</p> <p>e. Provide support to national authorities for the establishment of a system of national awards for the Rural Sector;</p> <p>[Current Text of Section f Eliminated]</p>
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<p>h. To submit a report to the Awards Selection Committee on the process to publicize and certify the qualifications of the institutional and individual candidates.</p> <p>j. The Awards Selection Committee, after examining the information certified by IICA, shall propose to the plenary of the Executive Committee the most appropriate candidate for each award. The proposal must be accompanied by the considerations presented by the Committee to justify its choices.</p>	<p>g. Publishing biographic sketches of the recipients and disseminating throughout the hemisphere information on their contributions to agriculture and rural life in their countries and in the Americas.</p> <p>[Current Text of Sections h and I Eliminated]</p>
	<p>CHAPTER V: FINAL SELECTION</p>
<p><u>Article 15</u></p> <p>The Executive Committee, at its regular meeting in the year in which the Board will meet, shall study the report of the Awards Selection Committee and, based on the same, shall select the candidates who they consider should</p>	<p>Article 14:</p> <p>14.1 The Executive Committee during a Plenary Session of its Regular Meeting in the year in which the IABA meets, shall study the report of the Awards Selection-Commission.</p>

<p>receive the inter-American awards. The Executive Committee may decide, on the basis of the Committee’s report or by <i>motu proprio</i>, to declare any or all the awards void for the corresponding biennium. In this event, the competition shall be reopened for the following biennium and only new candidacies shall be considered, pursuant to the procedure set out in Articles 8 (new), 9 (amended, previously 8) and 14 (amended, previously 12).</p>	<p>14.2 Based on the conclusions and recommendations in the Report, the Executive Committee shall take the corresponding action.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">CHAPTER VI: NOTIFICATION OF CONFERRAL AND PRESENTATION OF THE AWARD</p>
<p><u>Article 16</u></p> <p>The General Directorate of IICA shall communicate the pertinent resolution to the candidates selected and to the governments of the countries of the award winners, within fifteen days of the conclusion of the Executive Committee meeting held in the year of an IABA meeting. The awards shall be granted within six months of the decision, in coordination with the corresponding government. The awards shall be conferred in a solemn ceremony, preferably in the country of the individual or the institution that won the award, and broad national and international publicity shall be given to</p>	<p>Article 15:</p> <p>15.1 Within thirty days of the conclusion of the Executive Committee meeting in which the winners of the Inter-American Awards are selected, the General Directorate of IICA shall notify the winners and their governments.</p> <p>15.2 The IABA shall present the Inter-American Awards to the recipients during its regular meeting.</p> <p>15.3 The honorable mentions for each award shall be presented in a solemn ceremony in their country of residence.</p>

<p>the awards themselves and to the recipients of the awards. IICA shall publish a document containing the speeches made at the ceremonies and biographical sketches of the recipients of the awards.</p>	<p>15.4 Broad national and international publicity shall be given to the awards themselves and to the qualities of the recipients.</p>
<p><u>Article 17</u></p> <p>The award for the Inter-American Agricultural Medal shall consist of a gold medal and a certificate.</p>	<p>[Current text of Article 17 incorporated in new article 3]</p>
<p><u>Article 18</u></p> <p>The person granted the Inter-American Agricultural Award for Young Professionals is awarded a certificate and a scholarship of US\$10,000, which may be used in the country of origin of the recipient of the award, or in the another country mutually agreed to with IICA, to complete his/her professional training or to conduct research. The scholarship shall expire one year after the professional in question has been notified in writing of the resolution of the Executive Committee granting him/her the award.</p>	<p>[Current text of Article 18 incorporated in new article 4]</p>
<p><u>Article 19</u></p> <p>The Inter-American Award for the Contribution of Women to Rural Development shall consist of a gold medal and a certificate.</p>	<p>[Current text of Article 19 incorporated in new article 5]</p>

<p><u>Article 20</u></p> <p>The Inter-American Award for Institutional Contributions to Agricultural and Rural Development consists of a gold medal and a commemorative metal plaque.</p>	<p>Article 20</p> <p>[Current text of Article 20 incorporated in new article 6]</p>
<p><u>Article 21</u></p> <p>On recommendation of the Awards Selection Committee, the Executive Committee may confer honorable mentions with certificates.</p>	<p>[Current Text of Article 21)</p>
	<p>CHAPTER VII: GENERAL CONDITIONS</p>
<p><u>Article 22</u></p> <p>The General Directorate of IICA shall disseminate these regulations among the governments, national institutions and trade associations, and shall inform international institutions that work in support of agriculture and rural communities in the hemisphere of same.</p>	<p>Article 16:</p> <p>16.1 The General Directorate of IICA shall disseminate these regulations among the governments of the Member States, national institutions and trade associations, and shall inform the leaders of the community of agriculture and rural life in each Member State country of the importance of the Inter-American Awards as a means of recognizing the outstanding contributions of individuals and organizations to the development of agriculture and to the improvement of rural life.</p>

<p><u>Article 23</u></p> <p>These regulations shall take effect once approved by the Executive Committee, and render null and void all earlier provisions concerning the Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector.</p>	<p>16.2 These regulations shall enter into force once approved by the Executive Committee, and render null and void all earlier provisions concerning the Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector.</p>
<p><u>Article 24</u></p> <p>These regulations may be amended or altogether revoked by the Executive Committee.</p>	<p>16.3 These regulations may be amended or altogether revoked by the Executive Committee.</p>

IICA/CE/Res.495(XXVIII-O/07)

24 July 2008

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 495

**DATE AND SITE OF THE TWENTY-NINTH
REGULAR MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Twenty-eighth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/Doc.532(08), "Date and Site of the Twenty-ninth 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 Institute must hold one regular meeting each year;

That it is necessary to set the date and site of the Twenty-ninth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee in 2009;

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

That the Representative of Mexico offered his country as the site for the Twenty-ninth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee,³

RESOLVES:

1. To hold the Twenty-ninth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee in Mexico during the first half of 2009.
2. To instruct the Director General to issue the convocation to the Member States to participate in the Twenty-ninth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee, in accordance with the procedures outlined in the rules currently in effect.
3. To thank the Government of Mexico for its generous offer.

³ Awaiting written confirmation of the offer made by the Representative of Mexico.

IICA/CE/Res.496(XXVIII-O/08)

24 July 2008

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 496

IICA-CATIE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Twenty-eighth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/Doc.526(08), “Status of IICA-CATIE Joint Actions”,

CONSIDERING:

That for more than three decades, both institutions have engaged in joint agricultural and rural development activities and have supported each other through various technical, financial and administrative undertakings and that these inter-relationships have been conducted within the established legal framework in clearly differentiated spheres of action, in accordance with the nature of each organization and the purposes for which they were created;

That both IICA and CATIE have been engaging in joint activities to support the efforts of Member States to develop agriculture, livestock farming and forestry, based on a sustainable development approach that is respectful of the environment;

That given the new challenges facing the countries of the Americas, it is imperative that cooperation be strengthened between the two organizations on the basis of their respective areas of expertise and strengths to enable them to meet Member States’ cooperation needs and maximize the use of resources;

That in order for the joint effort to have greater impact, a strategy and shared guidelines are required, and operating mechanisms need to be consolidated to facilitate increased joint cooperation activities and reinforce the ability of both institutions to meet the needs of Member States,

RESOLVES:

1. To congratulate both the Director General of CATIE and the Director General of IICA on progress achieved in the execution of joint activities in aid of Member States.
2. To instruct the Director General of IICA and the Director General of CATIE to prepare and submit to the Executive Committee, at its next regular meeting, a joint program of action for 2009 and 2010. That program should:
 - a. Attach priority to the execution of joint activities in the following areas: (i) territorial rural development, natural resource management, the environment, climate change, and (ii) technological innovation, value chains and competitiveness;
 - b. Define a strategy and more appropriate management, administrative and operating mechanisms to ensure the necessary continuity and enhance the results of joint action.
3. To mandate both the Director General of IICA and the Director General of CATIE to build a common knowledge management platform so as to facilitate access for all professionals, institutions and individuals working for agricultural and rural development in the Americas, as well as students pursuing professional and technical degrees related to agriculture, to the information and knowledge of both institutions.

SIGNING OF THE REPORT

SIGNING OF THE REPORT OF THE TWENTY-EIGHTH REGULAR MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Pursuant to Article 97 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee, the Report of the Twenty- eighth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee is hereby signed at 12:00 hours on the Twenty-fourth day of July of the year two thousand eight, in Turrialba, Costa Rica.

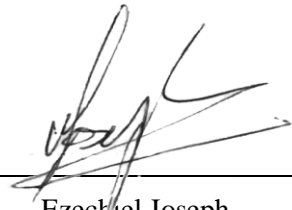
The Report will be edited by the Secretariat, and the changes approved during the Closing Session will be included before it is published in the four official languages of the Institute, in the Official Documents Series, all versions being equally authentic and valid.

The Secretariat shall file the original texts in the archives of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, post the electronic files on the Institute's Web page and send copies of 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.

Turrialba, Costa Rica



Chelston W. D. Brathwaite
Director General of IICA and
Ex officio Secretary of the
Executive Committee



Ezechiel Joseph
Minister of Agriculture, Lands,
Forestry and Fisheries of Saint
Lucia
Chairman of the 2008 Executive
Committee

ADDRESSES

OPENING REMARKS BY DR. CHELSTON W. D. BRATHWAITE, DIRECTOR OF IICA, AT THE INAUGURAL SESSION

Introduction

I am indeed pleased to welcome you to another meeting of the Executive Committee and to thank all of you for your continued support of this administration.

We meet at a time when soaring food and energy prices have the potential to reverse the progress made by our countries in reducing hunger, poverty and malnutrition during the last five years of positive economic growth in our Hemisphere.

Rising Food Prices

The Economist magazine notes in its edition of February 16th 2008 that “Wheat prices soared after the United States of America, the biggest exporters of grain reported that its stock pile had fallen to the lowest levels since 1948. Prices for the crop were already high following a dip in world wide production caused by drought in several countries”. In its edition of April 19, 2008, the magazine speaks of the Food Crisis as a silent tsunami.

Dwindling reserves of fossil fuels like oil are having a major impact on production patterns worldwide, with basic food crops such as wheat, corn and soybean increasingly being used to produce fuel and pushing up the prices of those commodities to unprecedented levels. For example, the price of a ton of bread wheat rose from an average of US\$170.47 in January 2006 to US\$443.78 in January 2008, an increase of 160%. The international price of corn rose 128% between January 2006 and January 2008, while the price of soybean increased 39% between September 2006 and March of this year.

These increases are having a direct impact on the cost of living, since wheat, corn and soybean form the base of the food pyramid in many of our countries. In Costa Rica, for example, feed accounts for 87% of the cost of producing an egg, feed that is made from yellow corn and soybean concentrates that the country does not produce and therefore has to import. The situation is similar in the pork industry, where feed accounts for 80% of production costs.

The current pronouncement by the World Bank and others suggests that the observed increase in food prices is not a temporary phenomenon; rather it is a trend that is likely to persist in the medium term.

Food prices in the world will continue to rise for four basic reasons.

- a) The continued high price of oil, now at more than \$140 a barrel, will increase the cost of inputs for food production and thus an increase in the cost of food.
- b) The continued high cost of oil will continue to divert more corn and more land to the production of ethanol and other biofuels
- c) As the world demand for food increases due to higher incomes, population growth and urbanization especially in the developing world, world food prices will increase.
- d) Climate change which results in floods, droughts and hurricanes will continue to reduce available food supplies.

Food riots have occurred in more than 20 countries of the world for lack of food and high food prices are generating social and political tensions in several other countries.

Given these developments, what does all this mean in a world where 800 million are still in poverty and the world food program of the United Nations indicated recently, that the current food price situation could result in 100 million more returning to poverty? In other words the gains which we have made in poverty reduction since the year 2000 may be eliminated by the current crisis.

In order to avoid a deepening of the crisis it is our view, that agriculture and food production must be given highest priority in the national and international agendas and the true contribution of agriculture to development must be recognized.

When I assumed leadership of our Institute in 2002, we incorporated food security as one of three pillars of our mission, conscious as we were then that food is a basic right of every citizen of the world and that our democracies are not sustainable if a considerable percentage of our population does not have access to the basic necessities of life, such as food, shelter, healthcare and education.

We began the administration in an environment in which food security and agricultural development were not high priority issues on the agenda of many of our countries nor the multilateral development banks.

Today, the situation is different. The World Development Report of the World Bank, 2008 has clearly indicated that agricultural development is key to poverty reduction and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and several of our countries have incorporated food security on their development agenda.

In the circumstances, one may be tempted to ask the question “are we ready as an institution to assist our member states at this critical moment in history where food insecurity has the potential to create social and political dislocation in several of our countries?”. The answer to the question must be a resounding yes.

Over the last six years, we have worked steadfastly to prepare this organization to meet the challenges of the 21st Century by implementing an internal reform process.

Our medium plan for 2006-2010 defines quite clearly the policies and strategies which must be pursued for the development of a modern agricultural sector in the Hemisphere.

We have worked with our member states to develop a strategic framework for agriculture in the hemisphere, the 2003-2015 Agro Plan, which recognizes the multidimensional, multisectoral role of agriculture and which it implemented will make a significant contribution to the integral development of our countries.

We were of the view that in many of our countries, the true contribution of agriculture to development is under estimated and so we began a study on the true contribution of agriculture to the economy of our countries.

We have concluded that the Food and Agriculture Sector of an economy consist of two interrelated systems. The primary agriculture production system and the agrifood system. The primary agriculture production system consists of the production of crops, livestock and forest products. The agri-food system consists of the processing, marketing, distribution and consumption of food products. This continuum results in the consideration of commodity chains.

Official statistics often measure the contribution of primary agricultural production to gross domestic product and the results derived from these measurements are often single digit percentages.

The contribution of the Food and Agriculture Sector (or the expanded agricultural sector) is much greater than what is reflected in national statistics because it includes all backward and forward linkages in the commodity chains. Input supplies, transport, storage, agribusiness, contribution to exports, agro-industry, the food industry, financial services for agriculture are all part of the expanded agricultural sector.

National Statistics underestimate the contribution Of the Food and Agriculture sector to development

Our work over the last four years has shown that when all the backward and forward linkages in the commodity chain are considered, the Food and Agriculture Sector's contribution to national development is 3 to 7 times higher than the percentages reported for agriculture in national statistics.

For example, our study shows that in Argentina, the official statistics indicate that the agriculture sector contribution to GDP is 4.6%, but when we consider all the backward and forward linkages this figure increases to 32.2%.

In Brazil, the figure grows from 4.3% to 26.2%, in Chile from 5% to 32.1%, in Mexico from 4.6% to 24.5%, and in Costa Rica from 11.3% to 32.5%. In the Dominican Republic, Belize, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago a similar trend has been recorded and the study is being expanded to all countries of the Hemisphere.

The study also shows that some 75% of primary production is used to generate wealth and employment in other activities such as agribusiness, processing and agro-industry.

The importance of agriculture and rural life in development is also emphasized by the findings of recent research by other international agencies and studies carried out by the countries themselves. The World Bank, in their pioneering study called “Beyond the City – The Rural Contribution to Development” (de Ferranti et. al., 2005), and a recent study on “Poverty Reduction and Growth: Virtuous and Vicious Circles” (Perry, et. al, 2006) concluded that the countryside’s contribution to development is greater than usually thought and bigger than official statistics suggest. It estimates that the contribution of agriculture and other rural activities related to national development in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) is about double its percentage of GDP. It also affirms that the development of the rural economy and rural communities is essential for national well-being and policy makers should pay more attention to rural development policies.

In its World Employment Report 2004-2005, the International Labor Organization (ILO) concludes that “in today’s world of widening inequality, the growth of productivity and the creation of decent employment are key issues that policy makers must consider. It also points out that since agriculture remains a major part of the economy in most developing countries and employs a very large number of the world’s poorest people, agriculture should not be put aside if the priority is the reduction of the poverty and that neglecting the agricultural

sector during the process of industrialization can constrain the development process.”

The impact of the under estimation of the real contribution of agriculture to economic development.

Underestimating the importance of food and agriculture industries in economic development has had a series of negative consequences. The true contribution made by agriculture and agricultural professionals to national development is not recognized; agricultural research, training and education is under-funded; young people have little interest in a career in agribusiness; rural infrastructure and investment in the sector are under-funded; there is a bias toward urban areas in the allocation of national resources; and, some countries of the Americas continue to depend on imported food.

There is a prevailing myth in the development literature that as a country grows the agricultural sector contribution to the economy declines. This is so if we only examine the case of the primary agricultural sector. However, if we see the sector as an expanded sector, with linkages to other sectors, the Food and Agriculture Sector’s contribution to development actually increases.

We must therefore examine the potential in rural communities for rural services, agrotourism, forest products, transportation, food processing, marketing, input supplies and output-related services, as a basis for rural prosperity and the provision of rural employment.

This concept of an expanded agricultural sector allows us to redefine a new multisectoral role for agriculture in national development and its contribution to confronting the Global challenges of the 21st Century

In 2007, we continued the process of institutional reform which we initiated in 2002 when we distributed the document “Repositioning IICA to face the challenges of the 21st Century”.

The reform process was focused on promoting

- a) Operational Efficiency
- b) Prudent Financial Management
- c) Better use of our human resources
- d) Expanded Strategic Partnerships and
- e) A new relationship with our member states based on participation, transparency and accountability.

Today, I am pleased to report that a significant part of the plans and proposal presented in that document have been achieved.

The fundamental achievement of the past 6 years is that we were able to reposition our institution and refocus it so that today it is recognized as an important component of the development framework of the Americas; one which can contribute to the promotion of sustainable agricultural development, food security, and the promotion of rural prosperity in our hemisphere.

This was achieved through the implementation of a new model of technical cooperation which resulted in:

- a) The development of a new relationship with Member States based on participation, transparency and accountability, with the national and regional cooperation agendas serving as instruments for prioritizing IICA's activities and tailoring them to the needs of Member States.
- b) The development of the Agro 2003-2015 Plan, a common agenda for Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas, fashioned in cooperation with Member States.
- c) The promotion of increased operational efficiency which enabled the institution to do more with limited resources; thanks to prudent and responsible financial management.
- d) The promotion of a culture of excellence in performance and respect for ethical principles and values, with an emphasis on recognition of the contribution made by individuals and groups to the goals of the Institute.
- e) The development of expanded relations with strategic partners as a means of providing a more holistic approach to agricultural and rural development.

- f) The strengthening of the Institute's financial base. Thanks to the financial contribution of the Member States.

The management model that emerged during this process of leading change and institutional modernization has been documented in the publication – Ten Keys to the Modernization of an International Organization the case of IICA – characteristics of a Modern Institution published in 2005.

Today, all Member States except one, are now in regular or special “status”. I have been told that this is the best payment situation since 1986 (22 years ago). The payment of the annual quota by all Member States can only be interpreted as a signal of satisfaction with our work. The external auditors of the Institute have for the 5th year, confirmed that there has been financial prudence, transparency and accountability in the management of the finances of our Institute.

I wish to express special thanks to the Government and people of Brazil and Argentina and Nicaragua for their commitment in honouring the payment plans agreed to in 2003.

The Audit Review Committee report is positive and reflects the improved financial situation of the Institute and supports the administrative changes made to improve operational efficiency especially implementation of the new financial system and improved efficiency of the internal Audit Unit.

The contribution of the Member States to the financial health of the Institute has allowed us to carry out a number of important initiatives:

- a) Renewal of the infrastructure at Headquarters long overdue to buildings constructed in 1976 (32 years ago).
- b) Purchase of a new financial system. (SAP)
- c) Development of Funds for Training, Emergencies and Horizontal Cooperation.
- d) Assignment of resources to new actions in agrotourism, agroindustry and organic agriculture.
- e) Implementation of new programs in Biotechnology, Agricultural Insurance,

Agroenergy and Financing of our office in Miami to support trade, agribusiness and food safety in the hemisphere.

We also established a new institutional structure which (i) emphasizes the technical leadership of the Institute; (ii) facilitates cooperation and team work between operational and technical units; (iii) develops effective linkages between the national, regional and hemispheric agendas of the countries; and (iv) aligns these agendas with the MTP 2006-2010. The incorporation of knowledge management in the structure seeks to improve the technical quality of the technical support services which the Institute provides to our Member States.

The Medium-Term Plan of the Institute for 2006-2010 has as its global objective to contribute to the reduction of rural poverty and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by promoting prosperity in the rural communities of the Americas. It defines the strategic orientation for the work of the Institute and proposes mechanisms to help our countries create greater opportunities in the rural economy.

We are preparing the Institute to cooperate in implementing a model for development where agriculture and rural life are priority themes on the development agenda. We hope to work with our member states, our development banks, with IDB, the World Bank and development partners in achieving this goal.

The results of our efforts are provided in the several documents of the Institute and our achievements in 2007 will be presented by the Deputy Director General in this meeting.

In this administration, we have been following the eight strategic elements for a successful change process as described by John P. Kotter, Professor of Leadership at Harvard Business School. During the first six years we have:

- a) Developed the vision and the strategy for change.
- b) We have communicated the vision.
- c) We have established a sense of urgency.

- d) We have built a team for managing the change process.
- e) We have empowered our Staff especially our Representatives.
- f) We have reported on some short term successes.

In the remaining months of this administration we will

- g) Consolidate the gains of the past, and
- h) Anchor the new approach into the institutional culture.

In 2008, we are:

- a) Upgrading further technical expertise at the Institute;
- b) Implementing the new financial system (SAP) in the countries;
- c) Promoting updated knowledge and refresher training for our staff by implementing a new policy for sabbatical leave and training programs;
- d) Fine-tuning instruments for supervising and following up on actions at the hemispheric, regional and national levels;
- e) Expanding our program for the development of leaders in agriculture in the hemisphere;
- f) Cementing our relations with strategic partners, especially with the IDB, the FAO and CATIE;
- g) Preparing plans for the upcoming Regular Meeting of the IABA, to be held in Jamaica in 2009, and our contributions to the Fifth Summit of the Americas, to be held in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago in 2009.

I wish to express our profound gratitude for the sterling contribution which this Committee has made in the past, which has helped the institute to make steady progress toward fulfilling its vision and achieving its mission. Thanks to your sound recommendations and advice, we have been able to make significant strides in a number of key areas. However, ladies and gentlemen, given the growing number of issues that we are being asked to service and in light of the increasing challenges facing the agricultural sector, we need to appeal to you for your support to help us keep this institution on a firm financial footing so that we can maintain our position as a leader in the agricultural sector in the Americas and so that we can continue to be an organization with the technical capacity to provide meaningful solutions to Member States when they seek our assistance.

At 65, the Institute is not ready to retire but begin a new life. We will continue to pursue goals and strategies to ensure that the Institute becomes a world class institution and the partner of choice for the Member States of the Americas in the provision of technical cooperation services to the agricultural sector. I therefore look forward to your cooperation and support in the pursuit of these noble goals.

In this meeting we will receive a report on the ongoing evaluation of IICA's Technical Capacity which provides a strong basis for better prospective planning, enhancing IICA's future role in technical cooperation and strengthening its technical capacity so as to continue to provide quality services to its member countries. The report outlines many recommendations, which are essential to strengthening the technical capacity of the Institute and we believe that General Directorate working closely with IICA's governing bodies must continue to strengthen the Institute's technical capacity and to guarantee success in the future. We are grateful for the work of the steering committee and the SACMI in this exercise.

The report also recognizes the Institute's critical role in the hemisphere and its strategic position and permanent presence in the countries that allow it to interpret and respond effectively to the priorities of its member countries. At the same time, it recognizes the emerging challenges that the institution faces, as well as the various factors that limit its operations and effectiveness.

We look forward to working with the Executive Committee in the implementation of the recommendations of the Report.

In this meeting we also ask for your approval of the extraordinary budget for \$1 million dollars which was approved in Resolution 434 of the Board in Guatemala, to support priority programs.

We also present a revision of the rules and regulations for the Inter-American awards in the rural sector.

Today we meet at a time when world attention is focused on food security, energy security and climate change.

Concerned about the increase in food prices, our Institute has been evaluating the potential impact of increases in food prices on the agricultural sector of the Americas and its implications for consumers, producers and the rural economy.

The current pronouncement by the World Bank and others suggests that the observed increase in food prices is not a temporary phenomenon; rather it is a trend that is likely to persist in the medium term.

We believe that a sustained increase in food prices will contribute to higher levels of poverty and poor nutrition in our hemisphere. It will also limit the capacity of our countries to achieve the Millennium Development Goal of reducing poverty by 50% in 2015, unless steps are taken to increase food security.

Government leaders, Ministers, civic leaders and leaders of the private sector have an enormous responsibility to contribute to alleviating the critical food situation. For this, they will require up-to-date technical and scientific knowledge to help them formulate programs, investment strategies and national, regional, and hemispheric policies for food and energy security.

We are prepared to assist our Member States with the technical knowledge and information that can contribute to finding solutions that will improve food and energy security and promote a sustainable environment for this generation as well as future generations.

We can assist in the development of policies to protect the most vulnerable in society from the impact of increasing food prices and the development of strategies that stimulate food production to satisfy increased food demand.

Our Institute is of the view that the time has come for the countries of the Americas to review their food security policies and take appropriate steps to avail themselves of the technical recommendations that will help them design appropriate policies to make agricultural production a priority on the national development agendas and invest more in the rural economies. We believe that the welfare of farmers and food security must be priority items on the national development agenda of each country.

Support for agricultural development and investment in agricultural technology and innovation have been on the decline in many of our countries since the eighties. Official development assistance has also declined substantially. For example, in 1980, 30% of annual World Bank lending went to agricultural development projects; in 2007, this figure dropped to 12 percent.

We are pleased to note that the World Bank published its “2008 World Development Report” in which it considers agriculture to be crucial to achievement of the millennium development goal of reducing poverty by 50% in 2015. IICA welcomes this vision and hopes that development institutions and national governments will invest more in agriculture and the rural economy.

Since 2006, in implementing our Medium-Term Plan for 2006-2010, we have been assisting our member states in areas such as trade and agribusiness; agro-energy; agricultural health and food safety; biotechnology; agricultural insurance; agro-tourism; rural agroindustry; and organic agriculture, which have great relevance for the promotion of food security in the Hemisphere.

Implementation of the Plan will also assist our countries with the:

- a) Design of appropriate policies and strategies aimed at improving the welfare of the most vulnerable groups of the rural economy;
- b) Offer of education and training aimed at improving knowledge, skills and abilities so that vulnerable groups, women, youth and indigenous peoples, may participate effectively in agricultural and rural markets;
- c) Strengthening of civil society organizations and the promotion of greater interaction among actors in the food chains in order to produce common agendas and improve their ability to negotiate and defend their interests;
- d) Promotion of the modernization and expansion of agricultural services to improve productivity and competitiveness;
- e) Strengthening of agricultural and rural organizations in trade capacity and other relevant themes; and
- f) Promotion of investment in agricultural research, technology and innovation.

It is our firm belief that the Institute's work in these areas, together with the implementation of sound national policies, will help our countries modernize their agricultural sectors and confront the challenges associated with rising food prices and food scarcity in some of our member states.

At this time when we face the enormous challenge of food security in the hemisphere, our Institute is prepared to support our countries by providing technical knowledge and information. Our Representatives in our 34 Member States will work with national governments, international financial agencies and the private sector to prepare plans and projects to meet the challenges of our time and build a more secure world for all.

In this meeting we have organized a forum in which we will present a summary of our activities in the response to the crisis and we hope to receive your comments and ideas with the view to approving a plan of action to address the food crisis.

We see this crisis as an opportunity. An opportunity to reposition and modernize the agricultural sector of the Americas so that it can make a real contribution to the reduction of poverty and the integral development of our countries.

The problem which we face is not only about what we do today but how we face the future. A future that requires a new dimension of development on a dimension that clearly values the agricultural sector and rural economy as keys to integral development.

In the last 25 years the world has seen a reduction in attention to and financing of agriculture. The development banks dismantled, their agricultural divisions, the governments of our countries invested less in technology and innovation and we have dismantled our agricultural extension services. When during the period of structural adjustment reduced government expenditure became necessary, we reduced the size of the Ministries of Agriculture. The investment in the rural economy where 40% of our population live, we invest on average 6% of our national budgets. We have established a Millennium Development Goal of a reduction in poverty by 50% by the year 2015 but the

world food program now indicates that instead of reducing poverty by 2015, an additional 100 million will return to poverty. In this hemisphere where in the last 5 years according to ECLAC, 27 million have left poverty, we face the possibility that 27 million and more will return to poverty.

The crisis which we face is not insurmountable and there are those who believe that we need a new green resolution.

You will doubt remember that the Green Revolution was the term used in the 1960 to explain the increase in agricultural output which resulted from the use of new crop varieties, irrigation, use of fertilizers, pesticides and mechanization and which resulted in Norman Borlang receiving the Nobel Peace Prize in 1970.

The initiative resulted also in reducing hunger and food insecurity in many countries and has been credited with saving over 1 billion lives.

But those who advocate a new green revolution must also take into consideration some of the negative aspects of the last green revolution including social exclusion of small producers, dependence on the pesticide / fertilizer complex and many environmental problems related to pollution of land and water supplies.

There can be no doubt that technology, biotechnology and technological innovation will be critical elements in our search for solution to the current food crisis.

However, I think rather than a new green revolution, we need a new development model. A model that values the key contribution of a multidimensional agriculture and the rural economy to integral development for its contribution to food security, energy security, supply of water, employment, the preservation of the environment and the provision of social peace and social stability.

But even more profound than a new model of development, we need leadership that understands the multifunctional, multidimensional role of the agricultural sector and which can integrate the social, technical, environmental

and political dimensions of the sector into a strategic instrument for development.

Our Leadership Centre is ready to assist our member states in this important endeavour.

We meet here to help to define the road map to food security to reexamine our current actions and define a road to the future. A future that must include policies of social inclusion that ensure equity, sustainability, competitiveness and environmental responsibility and where the agricultural and rural sector of our countries are seen as a keys to integral development if this is not our goal, then the crisis which we face will worsen and the social and political progress which we achieved will be undermined.

Our, therefore, is a sacred responsibility, a responsibility to humanity a responsibility to the future of our planet. We cannot fail to provide viable solutions today, so that we will have a tomorrow of social equity and rural prosperity. We cannot continue to live in a world of declarations and unfulfilled promises, now is not the time for more declarations, now is the time to make real the objectives of the Millennium Declaration and to delivery results for the people of the Americas so that they can live the true meaning of the dream of Simon Bolivar who said in his famous letter from Jamaica in 1815 “More than anyone else, I desire to see the Americas fashioned into the greatest nation in the world greatest not so much by virtue of her area and wealth as by her freedom and glory.”

Thanks for your presence and I look forward to your cooperation in our efforts to promote food security and a modern agricultural sector in the Hemisphere.

WELCOMING REMARKS AND PRESENTATION BY DR. JOSE JOAQUIN CAMPOS, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF CATIE

Welcoming remarks

For CATIE, it is a great privilege and honor to have you here, both those of you who are visiting us for the first time - whom I feel sure will return, as most people do after they have been here once - and those who have been here in Turrialba several times before. As the IICA Director General said, this is a historic moment, because today you are visiting the place where, 56 years ago, the idea was born of creating an institution for the Americas specializing in agriculture and natural resources. At this meeting of the Executive Committee, we have seen that the idea first proposed by a visionary and a number of countries in the region continues to be as valid today as it was 65 years ago.

I am delighted that the members of this year's IICA Executive Committee have come to CATIE to hold the last plenary session of the 2008 Regular Meeting. It is a symbolic and historic event, because we have begun to work together intensively with the IICA Director General and other senior IICA and CATIE officials. Later on, Dr. Mariano Olazabal will be presenting a report on the progress of our work to the Executive Committee. At CATIE, we continue to promote the creation of knowledge, education and training for human capital through postgraduate programs, training courses and activities aimed at projecting our institution in the countries.

This afternoon, several of you will be taking part in the meeting of CATIE's Governing Council of Ministers, which meets once a year. We hope that in future years IICA's Executive Committee will hold a session here on the same day as the meeting of CATIE's Governing Council, as it is another way of improving the coordinated work of the two institutions. Both organizations are very important parts of the institutional framework that the hemisphere requires for agricultural and rural development, a framework that we must continue to strengthen.

Summary of the CATIE report for 2007

I should like to begin by acknowledging the fact that Dr. Pedro Ferreira, the previous Director General of CATIE, was the author of the report that I am going to present. The management team and I added a report on 2007, and my proposed new vision and strategy for CATIE. The report on my Administration's first 100 days is also available.

As you are aware, CATIE's 14 member countries are Mexico, Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, Dominican Republic, Venezuela, Colombia, Bolivia, Paraguay and Spain, which has been an affiliate member since 2001. We have national technical offices in Bolivia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama. We have also carried out certain actions in non-member countries.

CATIE has a remit to perform three basic functions, namely: a) research, b) postgraduate education and c) projection. Our strength lies in the way in which we integrate those three functions and we have been strengthening our capabilities and adopting integrated and collaborative approaches in order to integrate them even better.

CATIE's governing bodies are its Board of Directors, comprising representatives of the member countries and the international scientific and academic community, and the Governing Council of Ministers, made up of the ministers of agriculture or environment of the thirteen member countries, including Spain. The IICA Director General and a representative of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) are also members of the Governing Council of Ministers.

New members are elected to the Board of Directors on a regular basis. In 2007, Dr. David Kaimowitz, former Director General of the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), was appointed for the period 2008-2011.

The Board of Directors and the Governing Council of Ministers are also responsible for electing the Director General of CATIE. A new Director General was appointed last year.

The Governing Council of Ministers and the Board of Directors awarded honorary doctorates to four distinguished scientists, two from Europe and two from Latin America. The two Europeans were Dr. Bjorn Lundgren, former Director General of ICRAF, and Professor Jeff Burley, who was Director of the Oxford Forestry Institute. One of the two Latin Americans acknowledged was Dr. Rodrigo Gamez, President of the National Biodiversity Institute in Costa Rica. In December of this year, during the graduation ceremony, we shall also be presenting an honorary doctorate to Dr. Christian Samper, of Colombia. Despite his youth, he has already had a very distinguished professional career and served as a member of CATIE's Board of Directors.

The first article of the law creating CATIE states that we are only permitted to grant diplomas and graduate degrees under agreements with universities. That makes it difficult to obtain international accreditation for our postgraduate programs. Therefore, both the Executive Committee and the IABA approved an amendment to the law creating CATIE to allow us to award degrees independently.⁴ The amendment to the law is awaiting approval by Costa Rica's Legislative Assembly.

CATIE is Latin America's oldest postgraduate school specializing in agriculture and natural resources. Since they were created, CATIE and IICA have awarded degrees to nearly 1800 professionals from 43 countries. Many now occupy positions of leadership in this region and in other parts of the world.

CATIE currently offers six master's degree programs. In addition to the programs related to ecological agriculture, agroforestry, watershed management, forests and environmental socioeconomics, last year we initiated - with INCAE, one of the most prestigious business schools in Latin America - a new

⁴ Resolution 479 of the Executive Committee and Resolution 442 of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA)

international master's degree in agribusiness management (MIA). The course is given in English and 140 students are currently enrolled.

We also have joint doctoral programs with the University of Idaho in the United States of America and the University of Wales, in Bangor. We are also developing a program with the University of Freiburg (Germany). Our students have the opportunity to develop scientific theses in other countries and link them to CATIE's research activities and to projects in the countries.

Since the financing available for grants for postgraduate students from Latin American countries is limited, during Dr. Pedro Ferreira's Administration CATIE instituted a grants/loans program that made it possible to maintain the number of enrolled students at an appropriate level. Under the program, CATIE awarded grants to finance part of the cost of courses and students received a loan to cover the rest, repayable after he or she completed his studies, on very favorable terms. Although our graduates have repaid US\$100,000 each year, they still owe the Center US\$1.3 million. In recent months, we have signed agreements with several educational loan institutions that will ensure the money is repaid.

The following is a summary of CATIE's main research activities:

- **Cacao.** In recent years, the CATIE program has continued to improve this crop and has begun to distribute moniliasis-tolerant genetic material among producers. In December 2007, a US\$5 million agreement was signed with the Government of Norway for Central America's cacao program. From Belize to Panama, we are working with eight cooperatives of cacao producers on the reproduction of genetic material and the development of clone banks to produce high-quality materials.
- **Coffee.** New hybrids were distributed and tested that were developed in collaboration with CIRAD, PROMECAFE and ICAFE. Progress was also made in developing tissue culture techniques that will make it possible to multiply germplasm on a large scale. Furthermore, an agreement is now in effect with the Global Crop Diversity Trust, a Rome-based organization that supports the maintenance of germplasm

collections across the world. We received initial financing of US\$230,000 to maintain and improve our germplasm collections - collections of coffee, cacao and tropical fruit trees that are of great importance to the world.

- **Agroforestry.** The CIRAD/CADI/INCAE agreement with PROMECAFE and Bioversity International got under way, aimed at creating a research platform. CATIE is the node.
- **Stock raising.** Mindful of the importance of this activity in our countries, CATIE has been promoting an environmentally friendly approach to stock raising, using production techniques that ensure profitability while conserving the natural resource base. We are also implementing a project to restore degraded pastureland in several countries.
- **Environmental policies.** CATIE has been improving its capabilities for research, education and the delivery of cooperation in this field. Spearheading the initiative is the Research Center on Environmental Policies for Development, one of the six centers specializing in the subject across the world. Environment for Development receives support from the University of Gothenburg, through the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency. The Latin American and Caribbean Environmental Economics Network also has its headquarters at CATIE.

Through the network, with support from Canada and the IDRC, and Sweden, through the Special Assistant to the Resident Coordinator Programme (SARC), CATIE has been helping to enhance young scientists' capabilities for research on environmental policy. We have two chairs on forests that were established with financing from the Government of Switzerland; they have been focusing on territorial management with a systemic approach and a comprehensive vision of the challenges currently facing us.

- **Forests.** CATIE heads up the Ibero-American Model Forest Network, which encompasses 21 rural territories in 12 countries, including Spain. An innovative concept, the network integrates agricultural development

with forestry and the conservation of natural resources. The approach is applied with the participation or leadership of local actors.

Working with local, national and regional partners, CATIE is also promoting a new paradigm of collaborative watershed management, based on the same principle, that local actors should spearhead efforts aimed at transforming the territory of a watershed. We currently have two model watersheds in Honduras and two in Nicaragua, and those experiences could be transferred to other countries. The President of the Environmental Commission of Honduras recently asked CATIE for assistance in implementing the new paradigm in the Sula valley.

- **Climate change.** With financial support from Spain's National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI), we have been helping the countries to develop negotiating capabilities in this field. Moreover, we also operate the Technical Secretariat of the Latin American Group for the Climate Change Negotiations, and have supported the development of project proposals by our partners. We are also going to begin a project with the NARI and the SIAT to assist Latin American NARIs in strengthening their capabilities for conducting research on climate change.
- **Projecting CATIE's image in the region.** CATIE performs this core function through the programs and offices located in the Central American countries and Bolivia. These offices are in need of more technical and financial support, as they are a key mechanism in CATIE's efforts to provide its member countries with a better service.
- Last year we concluded two successful projects. The first, funded by the IDB and aimed at the sustainable development of the Peten, was carried out in Guatemala. The other project, financed by the GEF-World Bank and focused on stock raising, was designed to promote the delivery of environmental services based on animal production.

- The Central American Commission on Environment and Development was set up to carry out the mandate issued by the presidents of the Central American countries, working with IICA and through the Interagency Advisory Committee. The commission comprises the environment ministers of countries in the region, the Central American Agricultural Council, the ministers of agriculture and COMISCA, the equivalent body for social and health issues. We are promoting a very innovative strategy called the Regional Agroenvironmental and Health Strategy (ERAS).
- The aim of the strategy is to work in that field in a more coordinated way, adopting intersectoral approaches. The ministers of the three sectors (agriculture, environment and health) approved the initiative in April 2008 in Panama and their decision was ratified by the presidents at the summit held on 28 May 2008 in San Pedro Sula. CATIE has also been supporting the CCAD in Chiapas, Mexico, with financial assistance from the European Union.
- CATIE began implementing an agreement with the Secretariat of Agriculture of the Dominican Republic that involves the payment of US\$800,000 in quota arrearages. The funds will be used to support the participation of scientists and professionals in courses and workshops held at CATIE.
- **Training.** By way of example, three international courses are taking place at CATIE this week. On average, we train 15,000 people per year. In 2007, the figure included individuals from 40 countries in Latin America, the Caribbean and other regions of the world. We maintain alliances with over 200 public and private institutions and in 2007 executed nearly 100 projects in 17 countries. Working with partners, to take advantage of synergies and complementary resources, is one of our chief strengths.

- **Financing.** The figure on the screen shows the trend in the financing of CATIE. In 2001, we faced a difficult situation because our financing decreased, as the purple line shows. Then we see how we have managed, after a critical period, to achieve a better financial position.

We have to move away from a situation in which most financing is project-based to a CATIE that is funded more strategically. With that aim in mind, we are working on the development of strategic programs that will allow CATIE to implement its medium-term vision. One of them is the Mesoamerican Environmental Program, about which I shall elaborate later on.

Last year CATIE signed agreements involving contributions and commitments to execute projects worth over US\$11 million. During the first days of this Administration, we signed an agreement with the Government of Sweden under which CATIE will receive contributions worth US\$3 million. Norway and Finland have also pledged to sign agreements with us involving financial contributions. Those contributions will enable us to initiate actions in January 2009.

This means that in the period 2008-2012 we shall be receiving additional funding to the tune of US\$300 million. That is very encouraging and is the result of hard work by many people. We will continue to look for other sources of income and work hard to have a healthy financial situation, which is the main challenge for institutions like CATIE.

We have been strengthening our collaboration with Spain's NARI to implement two projects, in the fields of forests and climate change. We are currently negotiating a project aimed at adapting livestock production to climate change, because we are interested in strengthening CATIE's capabilities in that area. We expect the project to be approved in October this year.

CATIE has a foundation called The Tropics Foundation, located in Atlanta, Georgia, that was created to help it secure resources in the United States. Around five years ago, the Weyerhaeuser company, a North American timber-producing enterprise, donated two pieces of land in Chile to the foundation. We recently managed to sell one of them and the foundation will be using the money to

support its fund-raising efforts. Through various activities, the foundation has transferred donations to CATIE totaling a little over US\$100,000. Although the foundation has only been operating for a short time, we expect to see the fruits of its efforts in the future. The foundation has chosen climate change as a key issue for its fund-raising activities.

CATIE, the Tropics Foundation, IICA, GTZ and the University of International Cooperation created a partnership to address climate change and risk management in Latin America and the Caribbean.

We also have another foundation registered in Costa Rica, called FUNDATROPICOS. The red line in the figure shows the endowment fund that the foundation manages for CATIE. In 2007, the amount involved was around US\$12 million. Part of the endowment fund is used to cover the costs of the two trust-endowed chairs that were established with the Government of Switzerland. Strengthening the endowment fund is a key component of the financial strategy we are implementing. Therefore, we are working hard to create new trust-endowed chairs.

That completes my brief report on CATIE's activities in 2007.

CATIE's vision through 2012

I shall quickly describe my vision of CATIE in 2012. As Steven Covey says, when constructing a vision, begin with the end in mind. That is what I did. I envisage CATIE in 2012 as an innovative center of excellence where an enabling environment exists for both professional and personal development that promotes the creativity of workers and students and makes it possible to generate work based on motivated teams with a high level of performance and a spirit of service.

We are at the service of our member countries and partners to make, and project CATIE as, the best organization in the region in the areas of knowledge creation, graduate education and the delivery of technical cooperation in its field of specialization - underpinned, very importantly, by sufficient and growing

financial resources. To make that vision a reality (what I call going from aspiration to implementation) I proposed five strategic objectives.

The first objective is to improve the institution's financial base, increasing our capacity to generate resources by means of commercial activities. That will make it possible to consolidate CATIE's three basic functions: carry out a research agenda, keep the graduate school in operation, and respond and collaborate as a key partner of the member countries. The fifth objective is to create an enabling environment within the institution so the personnel can implement those actions.

With regard to financial sustainability, I have already mentioned that the Mesoamerican Agroenvironmental Program is a strategic initiative. I set the goal of obtaining support from our current partners and new partners to execute US\$10 million per year, the amount we need to have in 2009. The idea is to replicate the MAP initiative we are implementing in Central America in other countries and regions - for example, in the Dominican Republic and the Andean Region. To do so, we must increase CATIE's core budget to US\$5 million in 2009 and US\$6 million in 2012. Those resources are going to give us more freedom of action - for example, to create at least two new chairs within a four-year period and increase the capital of the endowment fund from the current US\$12 million to US\$15 million in 2012.

We also need to improve our ability to market goods and services. To do that, we established a new organizational structure to create a commercial division. This is a new development at CATIE but we believe that opportunities exist for the Center to generate its own income and strengthen collaboration with the private sector.

We feel that climate change offers major opportunities for strengthening the research program and turning it into a world-class program. We have to recognize that the problem we are experiencing, as the IICA Director General said, is not one that should be viewed from the food security perspective alone, but as a more complex issue that requires integrated approaches to understand it.

CATIE aims to become a world-class institution specializing in development and in the use of integrated approaches. To achieve that goal, we are using the Mesoamerican Agroenvironmental Program as the main instrument for strengthening our capabilities related to climate change, and to consolidate capabilities in the interface between science and policy. I also believe that we can tap IICA's capabilities and links in that field, so the information we are generating can be used as input in the policy analysis processes of the countries. That means we shall need to strengthen our capabilities in the social sciences.

It is essential that our research program be connected with the work of the national technical offices, to make a more effective contribution to the countries. We also aim to strengthen our work through platforms with multiple partners, such as the PCP, the Ibero-American Model Forest Network and the work with IICA's PROCIS. CATIE is also the node of IUFRO for Latin America and the Caribbean.

We believe we can strengthen our work by means of joint activities with CATIE's partners under world-class educational programs. Recently, the quality and excellence of our programs was recognized through the accreditation of the subjects I mentioned previously, which are addressed through integrated approaches to agriculture and environment.

We are working with IICA to consolidate the grants/loans program, which has its challenges. We regard it as a way of strengthening study abroad programs, which include first-class training programs. We intend to become a key regional partner for the countries, consolidating platforms of multiple donor partners, as in the case of the Mesoamerican Agroenvironmental Program.

A large slice of the financing granted to that program is used to enable partners to carry out actions within the program and, at the same time, to continue to strengthen our work as a partner of regional institutions like the Central American Commission on Environment and Development (CCAD) and the Central American Agricultural Council (CAC), and to promote the development of different strategies and policies in Central America. We also plan to increase the financing of the national technical offices, so they can play a

strategic role by matching the requests and needs of countries with our capabilities.

This year, with the Director of Research and Development, we managed to increase the budget allocated to the offices in 2008. Through the MAP, we have also assigned a sizable amount of financial resources to strengthen the offices in the countries and support the implementation of CATIE's strategies for the work of projection at the regional and national levels, and to strengthen actions aimed at exerting political influence and improving our communication with the countries.

In the area of institution building and human development, we are implementing the strategy to facilitate an outstanding work environment, something that is essential for organizations based on human capital if they are to achieve their objectives. We need to recruit and retain the best professionals in each position and align the strategy with the new organizational structure, the new strategic management system and a new institutional culture consistent with that vision.

We are fostering leadership designed to promote decentralization, empowerment, collaboration with partners, innovation, the establishment of a leadership school and a coaching program to strengthen leadership capabilities within the institution; and to offer opportunities for professional training and personal growth and to lead by example. We are also committed to implementing a program of institutional social responsibility, which is currently being executed following the guidelines of the United Nations Global Compact initiative.

I have not had time to describe what took place during the first 100 days of my Administration. In closing, may I invite you to read the report on the progress and achievements of that period. Those first 100 days, which we called "the journey toward a better future," were characterized by a spirit of great optimism. We are focusing on clear guidelines for the management of this Administration. Like the agricultural people we are, we prepared the land, are planting good seed and getting ready for the harvest.

In short, the strategy for CATIE consists of five overarching elements, namely: (i) a relevant strategy; (ii) a modern, aligned organizational structure that will allow us to implement that strategy; (iii) the design of a strategic management system; (iv) a monitoring mechanism; and, (v) committed personnel. Hence, the importance we attribute to the institutional culture and to creating a promising financial outlook.

We are very clear about our ultimate objective, since, as an organization, we are a means of contributing to the sustainable development and human well-being of the member countries, working in close collaboration with regional, national and local organizations.

Thank you very much.

**CLOSING REMARKS BY DR. CHELSTON W. D. BRATHWAITE
DIRECTOR GENERAL OD IICA**

We have to the end of the Executive Committee, 2008 and I wish to thanks all participants for your support and cooperation during the meeting.

In this meeting we were able to

- a) Approve an extraordinary budget to strengthen the Institute's work in 5 key strategic areas.
- b) We were able to advance the process for implementation of the recommendations of the technical evaluation.
- c) We received progress reports on the work of the Institute to strengthen relations with IDB and CATIE.
- d) We agreed on a framework for an Inter-American Network to promote organic agriculture in the Americas.
- e) We conferred the title of Emeritus on five former outstanding professionals of the Institute.
- f) We review the regulations for the Awards in the rural sector.
- g) We received the audited financial reports and the report of the Audit Review Committee in which the external auditors, for the fifth consecutive year, confirmed that the Institute's finances are managed in an effective, transparent and prudent manner.
- h) We had a lengthy discussion on the recent increase food prices, its causes and potential solutions.

- i) We received the report on the activities of the new Centre for Leadership in agriculture and an understanding of how the Institute is supporting capacity building of existing and new leaders in agriculture in the hemisphere.
- j) We conclude our meeting with this interesting visit to CATIE and I wish to thank Dr. Campos, CATIE's Director General, for excellent arrangements and wonderful hospitality.

I think we will all conclude that this was a successful meeting.

But, ladies and gentlemen, our work is not finished with the conclusions of this meeting. In fact, the stimulus for us to continue the long and challenging mission of making agriculture and rural development central to the development agenda of our countries.

It is our view that only by pursuing this noble goal can we truly contribute to reducing rural poverty and assist our countries to achieve the Millennium Development Goal of reducing poverty by 50% by 2015.

A life of dignity for the rural poor can be achieved in our time, if we provide the education, the infrastructure, and the appropriate policies to unleash the creativity and enterprise of our people.

It must be our responsibility to reduce the inequality and social injustice which prevails in so many countries of our hemisphere. Modern agriculture and rural development are keys to poverty reduction because the majority of the poor live in rural areas.

In IICA, we are aware that only by pursuing state policies of social inclusion, policies of equity and transparency, policies that promote education and a culture of entrepreneurship and innovation will we win the war against poverty.

A war that will not be won by the traditional weapons of war but by the soft weapons of education, knowledge, the application of technology.

I am not insensitive to the great challenges that lie ahead but I believe that at the beginning of this 21st Century we have the means, the technology and the resources to eliminate hunger and suffering from our world. There is no morally justifiable reason for the continued existence of hunger and misery from lack of food and opportunity in a world of global prosperity.

I am convinced that we need a new development model that can unleash the talent, the energy and the enterprise of the people of the Americas so that the agricultural and rural sectors can compete internationally and which facilitates a culture of excellence which results in the provision of information, knowledge, leadership and technical support that contribute to improving the lives of people and to ensuring prosperity of the nations of the hemisphere.

In April of 2009, the Heads of State and Government of the Americas will meet for the fifth summit of the Americas in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. The theme of this important encounter will be promoting Human Prosperity, Energy Security and Environmental Sustainability". We have indicated that we shall make little or no progress in promoting human prosperity Energy Security Environmental Sustainability unless food security, agricultural development and the rural economy are priorities in national and international development agendas.

Each of us in my view should leave here with a mission. A mission that is clear let us launch a hemispheric educational and promotional initiative to inform the Inter-American Community that the survival of our planet and the security of food supplies depends on giving the agriculture and rural sector its central role in development.

I am optimistic that this goal can be achieved if our message that agriculture is a strategic sector of the economy is promoted.

Let me conclude by expressing again our thanks for your cooperation and support and let us continue to work together to bring peace, food security, social stability, equity and prosperity to the peoples of the Americas.

Let me again thank all of you for your cooperation and support and I thank the representative of the Government of Mexico for the generous offer to host the next executive committee meeting in 2009.

Let me end by wishing all of you a safe trip back to your respective countries and let me thank all of you again for your various contributions to the success of the 28th Annual Meeting of your Executive Committee. I now declare the meeting closed.

APPENDICES

ANNEX 1: NETWORK OF COMPETENT AUTHORITIES IN ORGANIC AGRICULTURE OF THE AMERICAS

Pedro Cussianovich, IICA Specialist in Organic Agriculture, gave a presentation to the Member States attending the meeting of the Executive Committee on the Network of Competent Authorities in Organic Agriculture of the Americas.

Importance of organic agriculture in the Americas and worldwide

Over 30 million hectares of land are farmed organically worldwide. There are around 718,000 certified farms in 130 countries. In 2006, global sales of organic products stood at US\$38 billion, and a range of over 2000 products was available.

Many people do not realize that products of this kind are not limited to the primary sector; there is currently a strong trend towards processing on an industrial scale. A quite diversified industry has developed, involving fields such as pharmacopeia, cosmetology and dairy and meat products. Furthermore, people can wear organic shoes, organic sweaters and even organic belts. Because organic farming is more profitable, capital investment is increasingly being switched from the conventional to the organic sector, with the market expanding by 16% per year.

In Latin America, organic production contributes over one billion dollars to the countries' trade balances. This region accounts for 23% of the surface area certified worldwide (7.1 million hectares) and 33% of all certified farms (235,300 production units). Around 30% of Latin America's organic products are exported to the markets of North America, primarily the United States and Canada, while 65% are sold to Europe and 5% to Japan and other markets. Five of the ten countries with the largest certified surface area are to be found in the Americas: Argentina, United States, Uruguay, Brazil, and Canada. This region

also boasts four of the ten countries with the biggest number of certified farms (Mexico, Peru, Brazil and Bolivia).

Nonetheless, sales of organic products account for less than three percent of global food sales, and the surface area given over to the activity is also less than three percent of all agricultural land.

Organic agriculture's contribution to the development of the countries of the Americas

In addition to the contributions made to food production and food security by the producers who practice it, organic agriculture is a promising activity for the development of the agricultural and rural sectors of the Americas. However, organic agriculture should not be seen as a panacea, or the solution to agriculture's problems, but simply as another productive option and market. Viewed in that light, organic agriculture makes important economic, social and environmental contributions, which is why it has become an important issue on the agendas of the countries' agricultural sectors.

Economic contributions:

- (i) The activity that generates income and is profitable and competitive.
- (ii) It is suited to organized, small-scale producers and family agriculture.
- (iii) It increases the value of the main or only asset that farmers have (land), especially in countries or regions where the number of small producers is high.
- (iv) It contributes to the balance of payments by generating foreign exchange from exports and also by reducing imports of agrochemicals.
- (v) It makes agriculture an attractive proposition and is a counterweight to migration, thereby reducing the public resources used to meet the needs of migrants to the cities.

- (vi) It reduces public spending on diseases caused by poisoning and those related to the use of agrochemicals in rural areas.
- (vii) It contributes to the development of rural areas, since a large slice of the agrotourism being developed in the region is linked to organic farms.

Social contributions:

- (i) In social terms, it is a highly inclusive activity, since organized, small-scale producers are the main actors in the subsector.
- (ii) As it is extremely labor-intensive, it helps to alleviate rural unemployment.
- (iii) For the above reason it helps to combat poverty.
- (iv) It leads to a cultural reassessment, by alleviating migration to the city and making smallholdings and campesino agriculture a viable proposition.
- (v) It makes important contributions to human health and nutrition, mainly because it reduces the risk of poisoning associated with the use of pesticides in rural areas.

Contribution to the sustainable management of natural resources:

- (i) It improves the physical, chemical and biological conditions of the soil.
- (ii) Physical improvements to the soil mean that more water is retained, percolation is better and 20% - 40% less water is used.
- (iii) It makes major contributions to the mitigation of climate change. In organic livestock production, carbon retention is doubled, which minimizes the release of greenhouse gases into the environment.

- (iv) It helps alleviate the energy crisis, as fertilizers and other petroleum-based inputs are not used.
- (v) Certification guarantees the sustainable management of natural resources in food production.

The development of organic agriculture in the Americas

In the Americas - although probably to a lesser degree in the United States and Canada - organic agriculture evolved basically from isolated initiatives that mainly involved small and medium-scale producers and some commercial operations. Supported by a range of organizations, primarily NGOs, international cooperation agencies, universities, certifying agencies and commercial enterprises, they have taken organic farming to its current level and generated a model geared primarily to agro-exports. Most people do not realize that, in social terms, the activity is highly inclusive, since most of the main actors are small farmers.

The information used in organic farming is privately owned and is distributed quite widely among the actors. It is very difficult to find aggregated, less centralized information about the performance of organic agriculture that would encourage the appropriation of knowledge. The State has played a very limited role in the development of organic agriculture, as can be seen from the absence, barring a few exceptions, of promotion or development policies, strategies and structures in the public sector.

In most countries, the units responsible for promoting the activity form part of the institutional frameworks of the agricultural sectors. More recently, states have begun establishing agencies to take charge of organic agriculture (competent authorities), whose responsibilities include promoting the preparation of technical and legal standards for organic agriculture and ensuring that they are implemented and adhered to. In most countries, such units form part of the directorates of agricultural health of the ministries of agriculture and are responsible for controlling the activities of operators (both certified producers

and those in transition), supervising and auditing the work of certifying agencies and keeping official records and statistics.

This institutional framework - practically the only one that exists for organic agriculture in the countries - was established in part because the subsector risked losing access to European markets (some of the most important trading partners in the region), which required that the standards and control systems of countries in the Americas be equivalent to those of Europe (third country recognition). As a result, 20 of the 34 countries of the Americas now have competent authorities, although in the Caribbean only the Dominican Republic has this type of institutional framework.

How the Network of Competent Authorities in Organic Agriculture of the Americas came about

Two competent authority commissions began operating in the countries of the Americas in 2004. They had no contact with each other but their agendas were very similar. The one in South America incorporated the ten countries of that subregion, while the other comprised the Central American countries and the Dominican Republic.

IICA's Hemispheric Organic Agriculture Program (PHAO) was operating in some countries of the Americas and the Institute realized the importance of joining forces and the advantages to be gained from doing so. It took the initiative with a view to holding a meeting of the competent authorities of the two commissions, which took place in August last year in Managua, Nicaragua. The meeting was used to present and address issues of mutual interest and it was clear that there were common agendas. The participants analyzed the threats and opportunities that existed and agreed to pool efforts and create the Network of Competent Authorities in Organic Agriculture of the Americas. They asked IICA to operate the Network's Pro Tempore Secretariat.

The Network was established as an information and knowledge management mechanism, with the core objective of strengthening the agencies of the

competent authorities in the countries as key institutions for the development of organic agriculture in the Americas.

To achieve that objective, some of the duties assigned to the Network were:

- (i) Advise countries on standard-setting processes
- (ii) Foster the establishment of the institutional bodies of the competent authorities
- (iii) Establish an electronic portal as a means of concentrating and disseminating information and allowing the members to interact
- (iv) Provide follow-up to and monitor the international situation, to alert the countries to opportunities and threats
- (v) Manage the official statistics of organic agriculture in the countries
- (vi) Monitor the international environment and provide the countries with information for developing strategies. There is currently a very strong trend in the organic subsector toward processing on an industrial scale. However, there are no bodies monitoring the situation, to alert producers to such opportunities.
- (vii) Support decision-making processes with timely information
- (viii) Facilitate the preparation of proposals or regional strategies

It should be emphasized that if the countries wish to tap the opportunities currently offered by organic agriculture, they should forge public-private alliances to boost their initiatives. However, it is very difficult to push for the establishment of such partnerships in political circles without a clear idea of the scale of the activity - the number of producers, the activities they are involved in, their whereabouts and the size of their operations.

A lack of reliable information makes it difficult to tap opportunities, accounts for the absence of more effective commercial strategies and reaffirms the importance of countries having institutional bodies with the resources and technical capabilities required to perform their important task and oversee the activity.

Some of the Network's activities

Through the Pro Tempore Secretariat that IICA operates, the Network has carried out certain actions that have contributed to the attainment of the objectives for which it was created:

- (i) It promoted horizontal cooperation between countries with more highly developed and consolidated competent authorities and others in need of the expertise that their counterparts have already acquired. For example, Argentina supported Paraguay and Peru, while Costa Rica assisted the other Central American countries. It is worth noting that Argentina and Costa Rica are the only countries in the Americas that have obtained third country recognition from the European Union.
- (ii) It facilitated the participation of members of the Network in the FAO Regional Meeting held in Brazil.
- (iii) It established an electronic portal that affords access, among other things, to national legislation, regulations, policies and other documents related to the activity. The portal includes a private site that the Network's competent authorities used to discuss and reach agreement on a hemispheric proposal in which they present their vision of the development of organic agriculture in the Americas.
- (iv) Through the private site, it assisted the Central American countries and the Dominican Republic with the process of developing a single set of regulations for organic agriculture to facilitate regional and international trade in organic products.

- (v) Since August of last year, the Pro Tempore Secretariat, in coordination with the IICA Director for the Caribbean Region, has also been promoting the establishment of regulations for organic agriculture and the creation of competent authorities in each country.

Why the Network is important

A number of functions were assigned to the Network. The main activities that are meeting important needs in the subsector throughout the region are the monitoring of the organic environment, studies on various aspects of the activity and the dissemination of information.

A series of opportunities and threats exist in the international and regional environment in which organic agriculture operates that very few countries are taking into account and monitoring. Even when they do, the information is seldom shared with other countries and no alerts are issued. Incorporating this information into the agendas of the countries and/or the decision-making processes could help mitigate possible negative effects or boost the positive effects for organic agriculture in the region. Let us look at some examples.

- (i) Decisions are being taken in international forums linked to organic agriculture without the participation of national authorities from the region or any official position. Individuals from Latin America and the Caribbean are invited to attend the forums in a personal capacity, and decisions are taken and agreements reached for subsequent incorporation into the regulations of the main trading partners.
- (ii) The European Union's regulations governing organic agriculture changed recently and will come into effect in January 2009. Many people know this but few are familiar with the scope of the changes. Under one of the amendments to the regulations, the European Union will be drawing up a list of the certifying agencies that wish to provide certification services in the countries of the Americas, and all those wishing to do so must be registered. Obviously, preference will be given to certifiers who are established in, and regulated by, the importing

countries. That poses a threat to the efforts made by countries in the region to develop their own certification capabilities.

- (iii) When the European Union issued its organic agriculture regulations in 1992, our countries' advisors on organic issues, most of them linked to certification agencies, said the State could not offer certification services. However, such a possibility is valid and recognized in the regulations of the European Union, which not only provide for public certification, but also semi-public services. Incorporating those two types of certification into the countries' regulations would cut the costs for producers. That, in turn, would help promote the activity, position products in the European market and develop local markets.
- (iv) The trend toward the industrialization of organic production is now quite evident and industrial capital from the conventional sector is increasingly being invested in the organic sector. Intermediaries are emerging who at first seemed to pose a threat to the activity but are now being viewed more as an opportunity, since they demand consolidated containers of organic products, something that was unthinkable just a few years ago.
- (v) Strong pressure is also being applied to force the countries to introduce participatory guarantee systems (PGS) into their regulations on organic production, as guarantee mechanisms for national consumers. This is an interesting option for the development of local markets but it still has many weaknesses that could threaten the access of organic products to the markets of the chief trading partners of the countries of the Americas. Furthermore, there are at least three other certification alternatives that decision-makers should be aware but no one is analyzing or systematizing them at present.

There are many other examples of threats and opportunities for the activity. The following questions must be asked. Who is monitoring the environment of organic production? Who is performing analyses? And, who is disseminating the information about this field?

Request

For the above reasons, in order to boost the operation of the Network of Competent Authorities in Organic Agriculture of the Americas the members have asked their Pro Tempore Secretariat to seek from the authorities of the region's agricultural sector:

- (i) Formal acknowledgement of the Network as the regional institutional framework and recognized authority in the field of organic production
- (ii) The establishment of a permanent technical secretariat to coordinate and promote the Network's activities
- (iii) The preparation of the Network's by-laws and regulations, recognizing the different levels of development of organic agriculture in the countries of the Americas and the different situations in each case.

Recognition of the Network will legitimize the work it carries out and help it achieve its proposed objectives more efficiently. As a formal institutional structure that is recognized by the authorities of the countries' agricultural sectors, it will carry weight in international forums and it will be easier for it to secure resources by means of agreements with multilateral and bilateral cooperation agencies and other organizations.

Thank you very much.

ANNEX 2: AGENDA
(IICA/CE/Doc. 516 (08) Rev. 1)

- 1. Provisional Schedule of the Meeting** *IICA/CE/Doc. 517(08)*
- 2. Reports to the Executive Committee**
 - 2.1 Message from the Director General *(Unnumbered)*
 - 2.2 Report of the Regular Meeting of the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues (SACMI) *IICA/CE/Doc. 518(08)*
 - 2.3 Report of the Special Meeting of the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues (SACMI) on the Assessment of Technical Expertise at the Institute *IICA/CE/Doc. 519(08)*
 - 2.4 2007 Annual Report of IICA *IICA/CE/Doc.520(08)*
- 3. Budgetary and Financial Matters**
 - 3.1 Financial Statements of the Institute for 2007 and Report of the External Auditors *IICA/CE/Doc.521(08)*
 - 3.2 Fourteenth Report of the Audit Review Committee (ARC) *IICA/CE/Doc.522(08)*
 - 3.3 Current Status of Quota Payments and Progress with the Collection of Quotas Owed to the Institute *IICA/CE/Doc.523(08)*

- 3.4 Proposed 2008-2009 Special Program-Budget *IICA/CE/Doc.524(08)*

4. Institutional Policy and Technical Cooperation

- 4.1 Forum on Food Security in the Americas *(Unnumbered)*
- 4.2 Progress with the Implementation of the Recommendations of the Assessment of Technical Expertise at IICA *IICA/CE/Doc.525(08)*
- 4.3 Status of IICA-CATIE joint actions *IICA/CE/Doc.526(08)*
- 4.4 Status of IICA-IDB joint actions *(Unnumbered)*
- 4.5 Latin American and Caribbean Network of Competent Authorities in Organic Agriculture *IICA/CE/Doc.527(0)*
- 4.6 Program for Leadership in Agriculture *(Unnumbered)*

5. Matters pertaining to the Governing Bodies of IICA

- 5.1 Proposed Amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector *IICA/CE/Doc.528(08)*
- 5.2 Proposal for conferring appointment and title of Emeritus *IICA/CE/Doc.529(08)*

- 5.3 Status of the Resolutions of the Fourteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA *IICA/CE/Doc.530(08)*
- 5.4 Status of the Resolutions of the Twenty-seventh Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee *IICA/CE/Doc.531(08)*
- 5.5 Date and Site of the Twenty-ninth regular Meeting of the Executive Committee *IICA/CE/Doc.532(08)*

6. Other Business

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OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS SERIES**Doc. No.**

- 1 General Plan of IICA
(1970 - English and Spanish)
- 2⁵ Advisory Committee
(1970 - English and Spanish)
- 3* CIES Resolutions on Rural Development
(1971 - Spanish)
- 4 Eleventh Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors - San Salvador, El Salvador,
May 5 to 9, 1972
(English and Spanish)
- 5 Sixth Inter-American Conference on Agriculture - Lima, Peru, May 27-June 2,
1971
(Spanish)
- 6* Twelfth Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors - Santiago, Chile, May 10-13,
1973
(English and Spanish)
- 7 Principal Resolutions of the Board of Directors - Washington, D.C., 1962 to
1972
(English and Spanish)
- 8 Thirteenth Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors - Caracas, Venezuela, May
16-18, 1974
- 9* Fourteenth Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors - Ottawa, Canada. May
6-9, 1975
(English and Spanish)
- 10* Implementation of IICA's General Plan (Elements for Analysis)
(1976 - English and Spanish)

⁵ Out of print.

Doc. No.

- 11 Fifteenth Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors - Washington, D.C., May 6-12, 1976
(English and Spanish)
- 12⁶ Simon Bolivar Fund -Rules and Regulations
(1977 – English and Spanish)
- 13* Sixteenth Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors - Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, May 11-19, 1977
(English and Spanish)
- 14* Seventh Inter-American Conference on Agriculture - Tegucigalpa, Honduras, September 5-10, 1977
(English and Spanish)
- 15* Medium-Term Indicative Plan. IICA: The Next Five Years
(1977 - English and Spanish)
- 16 Seventeenth Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors - Asuncion, Paraguay, 22-24, 1978
(English and Spanish)
- 17* Eighteenth Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors - La Paz, Bolivia, May 14-16, 1979
(English and Spanish)
- 18 Nineteenth Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors - Mexico, D.F., September 22-26, 1980
(English and Spanish)
- 19 Principal Resolutions of the Board of Directors, Washington, D.C., 1973-1980
(English and Spanish)
- 20 First Special Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture - San José, Costa Rica, February 17-19, 1981
(English and Spanish)

⁶ Out of print.

Doc. No.

- 21 Eighth Inter-American Conference on Agriculture – Santiago, Chile, April 6-11, 1981
(English and Spanish)
- 22 Base Documents: Convention on the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture; Rules of Procedure of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture, the Executive Committee and the General Directorate
(Third Edition, 1990 - English, Spanish, French and Portuguese)
- 23 Resolutions Adopted by the Board of Directors of the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences and Still in Force
(1984 - English, Spanish, French and Portuguese)
- 24 First Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee and the Inter-American Board of Agriculture - San Jose, Costa Rica, June 9-12, 1981 and Buenos Aires, Argentina, August 7-13, 1981
(English and Spanish)
- 25 Second Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee - San Jose, Costa Rica, September 12-17 and October 25-26, 1982
(English, Spanish, French and Portuguese)
- 26 Second Special Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture - San Jose, Costa Rica, October 27-29, 1982
(English, Spanish, French and Portuguese)
- 27 General Policies of IICA
(1982 - English, Spanish, French and Portuguese)
- 28 Medium-Term Plan 1983-1987
(1982 - English, Spanish, French and Portuguese)
- 29 Second Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture - Kingston, Jamaica, October 24-28, 1983
(English, Spanish, French and Portuguese)
- 30 Fourth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee - San Jose, Costa Rica, December 2-7, 1984

Doc. No.

- (English, Spanish, French and Portuguese)
- 31 Fifth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee -San Jose, Costa Rica, July 29 August 2, 1985
(English, Spanish, French and Portuguese)
- 32 Third Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture -
Montevideo, Uruguay, October 21-25, 1985
(English, Spanish, French and Portuguese)
- 33 Sixth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee - San Jose, Costa Rica, July
13-17, 1986
(English, Spanish, French and Portuguese)
- 34 Third Special Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture - Mexico,
D.F., Mexico, October 27-30, 1986
(English, Spanish, French and Portuguese)
- 35 1987-1991 Medium-Term Plan
(1986 - English, Spanish, French and Portuguese)
- 36 Seventh Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee - San Jose, Costa Rica,
June 15-17, 1987
(English, Spanish, French and Portuguese)
- 37 Program II: Technology Generation and Transfer. Guidelines for Cooperation,
June 1987
(English, Spanish, French and Portuguese)
- 38 Program I: Agricultural Policy Analysis and Planning. Guidelines for
Cooperation, June 1987
(English, Spanish, French and Portuguese)
- 39 Program III: Organization and Management for Rural Development. Guidelines
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- 40 Program IV: Marketing and Agroindustry. Guidelines for Cooperation, September 1987
(English, Spanish, French and Portuguese)
- 41 Program V: Animal Health and Plant Protection. Guidelines for Cooperation, September 1987
(English, Spanish, French and Portuguese)
- 42 Ninth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture - Ottawa, Canada, August 29-September 2, 1987
(English, Spanish, French and Portuguese)
- 43 Fourth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture - Ottawa, Canada, August 31-September 4, 1987
(English, Spanish, French and Portuguese)
- 44 Guidelines for the Work of the Center for Investment Projects (CEPI) within the Framework of the Medium-Term Plan
(English, Spanish, French and Portuguese)
- 45 Eighth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee - San Jose, Costa Rica, August 1-4, 1988
(English, Spanish, French and Portuguese)
- 46 Ninth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee - San Jose, Costa Rica, June 12-16, 1989
(English, Spanish, French and Portuguese)
- 47 Fifth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture - San Jose, Costa Rica, October 9-12, 1989
(English, Spanish, French and Portuguese)
- 48 Tenth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee - San Jose, Costa Rica, August 27-29, 1990
(English, Spanish, French and Portuguese)

Doc. No.

- 49 1987-1993 Medium-Term Plan
(1990 - English, Spanish, French and Portuguese)
- 50 Eleventh Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee - San Jose, Costa Rica,
June 24-26, 1991
(English, Spanish, French and Portuguese)
- 51 Tenth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture - Madrid, Spain,
September 23-27, 1991
(English, Spanish, French and Portuguese)
- 52 Sixth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture - Madrid,
Spain, September 23-27, 1991
(English, Spanish, French and Portuguese)
- 53 Twelfth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee - San Jose, Costa Rica,
June 22-24, 1992
(English, Spanish, French and Portuguese)
- 54 Thirteenth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee - San Jose, Costa Rica,
June 21-23, 1993
(English, Spanish, French and Portuguese)
- 55 Seventh Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture - Mexico,
D.F., Mexico, September 19-23, 1993
(English, Spanish, French and Portuguese)
- 56 Fourteenth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee - San Jose, Costa Rica,
September 12-14, 1994
(English, Spanish, French and Portuguese)
- 57 Medium-Term Plan 1994-1998
(English, Spanish, French and Portuguese)
- 58 Fifteenth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee - San Jose, Costa Rica,
June 19-21, 1995
(English, Spanish, French and Portuguese)

Doc. No.

- 59 Eighth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture - San Jose, Costa Rica, September 17-20, 1995
(English, Spanish, French and Portuguese)
- 60 Sixteenth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee - San Jose, Costa Rica, June 26-28, 1996
(English, Spanish, French and Portuguese)
- 61 Seventeenth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee - San Jose, Costa Rica, July-August 1997
(English, Spanish, French and Portuguese)
- 62 Ninth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture - San Jose, Costa Rica, October 28-30, 1998
(English, Spanish, French and Portuguese)
- 63 Eighteenth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee - San Jose, Costa Rica, October 28-30, 1998
(English, Spanish, French and Portuguese)
- 64 1998-2002 Medium-Term Plan
(English, Spanish, French and Portuguese)
- 65 Nineteenth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee - San Jose, Costa Rica, July 28-30, 1999
(English, Spanish, French and Portuguese)
- 66 Tenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture - Salvador, Bahia, Brazil, October 26-29, 1999
(English, Spanish, French and Portuguese)
- 67 Twentieth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee - San Jose, Costa Rica, November 2-3, 2000
(English, Spanish, French and Portuguese)

Doc. No.

- 68 Twenty-first Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee - San Jose, Costa Rica, July 25-27, 2001
(English, Spanish, French and Portuguese)
- 69 First Ministerial Meeting held in the Context of the Summit of the Americas and of the Eleventh Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture Bavaro, Dominican Republic, November 26-29, 2001
(English, Spanish, French and Portuguese)
- 70 Twenty-Second Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee - San Jose, Costa Rica, October 2-3, 2002
(English, Spanish, French and Portuguese)
- 71 2002-2006 Medium-Term Plan. Focused on People and Committed to the Future
(English, Spanish, French and Portuguese)
- 72 Los Comités para la Gestión de la Dirección General. Propósito responsabilidades, composición y modalidades de funcionamiento. Junio 2003
(Spanish only)
- 73 Twenty-Third Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee - San Jose, Costa Rica, July 23-24, 2003
(English, Spanish, French and Portuguese)
- 74 Twelfth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture – Panama City, Panama, November 13, 2003
(English, Spanish, French and Portuguese)
- 75 Twenty-Fourth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee – San Jose, Costa Rica, July 22-23, 2004
(English, Spanish, French and Portuguese)
- 76 Twenty-Fifth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee – Riberao Preto, S.P. Brazil, May 13-14, 2005
(English, Spanish, French and Portuguese)

Doc. No.

- 77 Thirteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture – Guayaquil, Republic of Ecuador, August 30 – September 1, 2005
(English, Spanish, French and Portuguese)
- 78 Twenty-sixth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee – San Jose, Costa Rica, September 27-28, 2006
- 79 2006-2010 Medium Term Plan
- 80 Twenty-seventh Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee – San Jose, Costa Rica, May 15-17, 2007
- 81 The Fourteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture – La Antigua, Guatemala, July 30 – 27, 2007.
(English, Spanish, French and Portuguese)

Note: The publications of the Executive Committee and the IABA are available on the IICA Web site: www.iica.int