



Thirty-eighth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee

**Report on the results of the  
IICA-CATIE program of joint action  
Period covered by the report  
July 2017 – June 2018  
IICA-CATIE  
Coordination and Monitoring Committee (CMC)**

San Jose, Costa Rica  
17-18 July 2018



## Report on the Results of the IICA-CATIE Program of Joint Action

### Background

Under the provisions of the IICA-CATIE General Bilateral Agreement for Interinstitutional Cooperation (2011), the IICA-CATIE Program of Joint Action (PJA) was approved by means of Resolution IICA/JIA/Res 500 (XVIII-O/15) of 22 October 2015. The program establishes the strategic areas of collaboration between the two institutions, as well as the coordination and operational management mechanisms required to ensure smooth implementation of the joint activities related to technical cooperation, capacity building and corporate services. The bilateral agreement establishes—among other things—that the institutions will carry out joint activities of interest to both and promote externally funded technical cooperation projects.

On 15 January 2018, Dr. Manuel Otero Justo took office as the Director General of IICA and, among other activities, met with Dr. Muhammad Ibrahim, Director General of CATIE, to discuss the bilateral relations between the two institutions. The two directors general agreed to strengthen links between IICA and CATIE by means of a new “win-win” strategy, with positive agendas, transparent operations and a long-term vision, undertaking joint efforts designed to harness the strengths of each institution, generate synergies and tap opportunities for cooperation.

The directors general reactivated the IICA-CATIE Coordination and Monitoring Committee (CMC) and tasked it with identifying new actions and joint projects for inclusion in the PJA; instructed the committee to respond to Resolution 507 of the IABA, which calls for the preparation of a Strategic Plan for the future of CATIE to be presented to the next meeting of IICA’s Executive Committee, scheduled to be held from 17-18 July this year; and agreed that all corporate, legal, administrative and other non-technical matters that need to be coordinated should be studied by the IICA-CATIE CMC and referred to the management of the two institutions’ administration and finance departments. The directors general also decided that, henceforth, they would sign the various legal instruments between IICA and CATIE, as a way of monitoring the progress of the relationship.

The present report describes the main activities carried out in the second half of 2017 and the first half of 2018.

### I. Technical cooperation

The progress made with the various technical cooperation activities carried out in a number of areas is described below:

#### 1. Central American Program for Integrated Coffee Leaf Rust Management (PROCAGICA)

On 16 November 2016, IICA and CATIE signed a sub-delegation contract for implementation of the actions to be carried out by CATIE during the period 2016-2020. A total of €1,488,497



(one million four hundred eighty-eight thousand four hundred ninety-seven Euros) is available for implementation of the various activities subdelegated to CATIE.

CATIE is carrying out applied research, field validation technology transfer and technical assistance activities aimed at enabling small and medium-scale coffee farmers to adapt to variability and climate change in Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama and the Dominican Republic. Planning of CATIE's activities is decided and coordinated jointly with PROCAGICA's Regional Executing Unit, IICA's delegations in the countries and institutions in the coffee sector.

CATIE's efforts in the first half of 2018 focused on strengthening and monitoring the national and regional research and transfer platforms involved in controlling coffee rust, implementation of the analysis of technology transfer systems and extension materials in seven countries, capacity building with national extension networks, and the preparation of technical documents on regional issues, which are now nearly ready for publication. In addition, CATIE supported the implementation of a regional workshop on races of rust in Honduras. Overall, 20% of the technical work stipulated in the sub-delegation contract has been completed and 11% of the financial resources executed.

## **2. FORAGRO**

The first assembly of the Forum for the Americas for Agricultural Research and Technology Development (FORAGRO) was held from 8-10 August 2017 at IICA Headquarters, with support from CATIE. The meeting approved the Forum's by-laws.

## **3. PROMECAFE**

Both IICA and CATIE, as well as the technical managers of the partner coffee institutions, are permanent members of PROMECAFE's management body and Technical Committee. Both entities hold onsite meetings twice a year.

In response to the alert issued by IHCAFE in Honduras concerning the appearance of new races of rust to which the Lempira variety is not resistant, PROCAGICA's Regional Executing Unit (REU) asked CATIE to focus on, and give priority to, this problem so that the task of devising a regional strategy for monitoring rust races in the region could get under way as soon as possible. As a result, CATIE, working with CIRAD, PROMECAFE and national coffee research institutions, is developing a regional strategy aimed at bolstering research on the monitoring of races of rust in the region.

During the XXIII Latin American Symposium on Coffee Growing (August 2017, San Pedro Sula, Honduras), PROCAGICA's REU organized a first regional meeting in order to present to the PROMECAFE countries its proposal for implementing the strategy. The participants in the event included the directors, technical managers and researchers of the institutions responsible for the coffee sectors of the seven countries where PROCAGICA works. After discussing the matter at the meeting, the stakeholders decided the next steps to be taken to implement the strategy, which include the monitoring of races of rust in each country with support and assistance from the Vicosa Federal University in Brazil (with which an agreement will be signed).

#### **4. IICA-IFAD Project: Knowledge management for the adaptation of family farming to climate change, INNOVA-AF.**

IICA submitted this project to IFAD in response to its call for proposals in 2017. Costing USD 2 million, it will be implemented over a period of 36 months in eight countries, beginning in the second half of 2018. The project will be executed in partnership with the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE) and the Network on Public Policy and Rural Development in Latin America (Red PP-AL), coordinated by CIRAD.

CATIE has worked extensively in processes for adaptation to climate change in rural territories. It also has specific experience in organizing and implementing field schools and knowledge fairs, as well as opportunities for South-South exchanges. The project is designed to promote innovative adaptation processes undertaken by local people in collaboration with national and international partners, coordinated with innovation systems or networks in rural territories.

With this rationale and goal, territorial entities will take charge of the process with a view to solving current and future problems and critical issues. The project needs to enhance its organizational and functional capabilities and the territorial institutional framework in support of processes of this kind, insofar as possible mobilizing complementary resources for this purpose.

#### **Cooperation in the countries**

#### **5. Cooperation actions in Bolivia**

In May 2018, CATIE informed IICA's Representative in Bolivia of the interest of certain Haitian organizations in receiving technical assistance with quinoa production. The aim would be to introduce varieties of the crop into the country and validate them, promote consumption and incorporate production into the government's social programs. The IICA Delegation in Haiti, the Office of the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bolivia and the International Quinoa Center then became involved in the development of the idea of providing support for Haiti under a South-South cooperation arrangement with the participation of CATIE and IICA. In June 2018, an exploratory mission of specialists from Bolivia visited Haiti. Since this mission was carried out, IICA and CATIE have begun to design a project that will include the introduction and validation of improved varieties of quinoa into the country, the promotion of quinoa consumption based on its high nutritional value, training, and the identification of mechanisms whereby Bolivia would supply the product for the government's social programs while the crop is being developed in Haiti. The stakeholders are also identifying possible sources of financing and discussing the creation of a consortium, with clearly defined responsibilities, for the implementation of a long-term joint IICA/CATIE project under a public/private partnership.



## 6. Cooperation actions in Colombia

IICA provides CATIE with office space in that country and will assist the Center with project management and the organization of events within Colombia. The aim is to carry out joint efforts to support national agricultural and rural development institutions.

## 7. Cooperation actions in Ecuador

Under the technical cooperation agreement entitled “Gradual Implementation of the Provincial Sustainable Animal Production Agenda,” the IICA Delegation in Ecuador and the Autonomous Decentralized Government of the Province of Esmeraldas (GADPE) organized the first International Symposium on Sustainable Animal Production in the Tropics - Esmeraldas 2017, which took place from 9-10 November 2017 in the city of Esmeraldas. CATIE contributed to the event with a presentation entitled “Low Carbon Animal Production Strategies: The Case of Costa Rica.” The event was attended by roughly 500 people.

## 8. Cooperation actions in El Salvador.

In their capacity as members of the International Cooperation Group for Agriculture, IICA and CATIE participated in the following events:

- Regular meetings of the Cooperation Group for Agriculture.
- Forum: Challenges and opportunities for rural development for women and young people in El Salvador. 25 July 2017.

## 9. Cooperation actions in Guatemala

**Regional Agricultural Research Consortia (CRIA) project:** under this USDA-funded, IICA-implemented project on food monetization, CATIE has provided assistance with the assessment of the agricultural chains prioritized by the project. It has also collaborated with training in biostatistics for new researchers, under the ICTA’s Education and Training in Agricultural Research (FYCIA) course.

**Support for Guatemala’s MAGA:** under the flagship project on agricultural chains, CATIE and IICA supported the MAGA initiative aimed creating a mechanism for technical and political dialogue for the cocoa chain, known as the Committee for Cocoa Integration of Central America and the DR (CICACAO), coordinated by SECAC and the ministries of agriculture. The committee designated IICA and CATIE as strategic technical partners for the regional initiative.

## 10. Cooperation actions in Haiti

The go-ahead was given to an expression of interest in participating in a call for proposals financed by the Inter-American Development Bank “for the design and implementation of two agricultural research, training and extension programs on climate change adaptation,” under Phase II of the Natural Disaster Mitigation Program of the Ministry of Agriculture, Natural



Resources and Rural Development. The preparation of the full proposal will now get under way, for presentation in the final phase of the call.

## **11. Cooperation actions in Honduras**

IICA and CATIE have been collaborating together with the ECADERT National Commission on the development of institutional frameworks and capabilities for sustainable area-based management, providing proactive and practical support.

## **12. Sustainable silvopastoral animal production actions in Mexico**

IICA is involved in the project, “Promoting biodiversity conservation through climate-smart agro-silvopastoral practices in landscapes dominated by animal production in three regions of Mexico,” known as BioPaSOS, which is financed by the IKI/BMU. The project is spearheaded by CATIE, working with national counterparts CONABIO and SAGARPA. The general objective of the project is to promote climate-smart, biodiversity-friendly agro-silvopastoral approaches for adoption by producers in three pilot areas (or landscapes) of Mexico and successfully disseminate the experience through knowledge management structures and changes in the institutional and political framework. Actions are being carried out under this project in Campeche, Quintana Roo, Yucatán, Chiapas and Jalisco at the local level (municipalities and cattle farmers’ organizations), the state level (governments and private-sector organizations) and the national level (government, financial institutions and scientific community).

## **13. Cooperation actions in Panama**

IICA and CATIE participated together with MIDA’s Environmental Unit in the work of the Climate Change Committee for the agricultural sector, contributing to various activities such as workshops, meetings and analysis for the formulation of the PNCMCA. They also took part in the technical support provided to the National Rural Area-based Development Commission (ECADERT).

This year they are involved in the tripartite commission (FAO-IICA-CATIE) tasked with analyzing and devising a new approach to rural development in Panama, working on the formulation of strategic guidelines and the organization of a national forum. Working meetings have also been held at the School of Agricultural Sciences of the University of Panama, in order to identify opportunities for implementing joint activities with the university.

## **14. Cooperation actions in Peru**

The two institutions have participated together in technical events related to the measurement of greenhouse gases for cattle in the High Andes:

Organization of the Workshop on Peru-New Zealand Agricultural Cooperation. UNALM-New Zealand-IICA-CATIE. January-March 2018. Held at UNALM on 22 March 2018. More than

150 professionals, producers and officials from national and international institutions took part.

Revision of the technical bulletin “Mitigation of livestock emissions in the Andean region” produced by the project “Improvement of animal production systems with emphasis on dairy farming in the Andean region within the context of climate change.” IICA-UNALM-CORPOICA-INIAP-INIAF-FONTAGRO-New Zealand. April 2018.

## II. Capacity building

### 1. International Professional Master’s Program in Watershed Management:

In 2017, IICA and CATIE began working on a proposal for restructuring CATIE’s International Professional Master’s Degree Program in Watershed Management (a distance education course).

Once the change in the strategy for supporting CATIE’s education area had been established, in April and May of this year IICA’s CTL transferred to CATIE the courses and core content of the watershed program and the proposed Academic Regulations for CATIE’s distance programs. It also held coordination meetings with the new unit in charge of coordinating the watershed master’s program, and with the officials responsible for the Virtual Campus.

In 2017, the following actions were carried out:

- The restructuring proposal was prepared, and then studied and approved by CATIE.
- An expert on watershed management was tasked with creating the entire program: 12 courses and a final examination consisting of 100 questions.
- 8 of the 12 distance courses were uploaded to the Web, initially to IICA’s Virtual Campus: geographic information systems; hydrology for watershed management; hydraulics for watershed management; land use planning; watershed management; disaster risk management; soil conservation and water harvesting technologies; and, watershed restoration.
- The elements required for the configuration of CATIE’s Virtual Campus were established so that the distances courses could function correctly.
- Draft Academic Regulations for CATIE’s distance programs were drawn up.
- A working relationship was established between IICA’s CTL and the unit in charge of coordinating CATIE’s Virtual Master’s Program and the administrator of CATIE’s virtual platform.
- In May 2018, a meeting was held at IICA to discuss the virtual courses with CATIE personnel. The work focused on IICA support for the design of courses on CATIE’s virtual Campus and advisory assistance for the implementation of processes to enable CATIE to administer the program properly. The parties agreed to:
  - Hold a 3-day online course/workshop to train the professors for their role as tutors and facilitators of the distance courses. CATIE will be selecting the professors for the first 4 master’s courses.



- Conduct a beta test before the courses got under way, to allow the professors to familiarize themselves with the course content and activities; and review other aspects that need to be taken into account to deliver a quality product to CATIE's distance students. CATIE will be responsible for conducting the beta test.
- Deliver the content of the four courses that are not yet set up so that CATIE can configure them on its own Virtual Campus. IICA will provide guidance if necessary.
- CATIE will be responsible for adjustments to the questions for the final examination.
- The content of the remaining 4 courses was delivered, ready to be added to CATIE's Virtual Campus by CATIE itself: Watershed management II; Project formulation and management; Management, leadership and governance in watersheds; and, Systematization of experiences.
- The draft Regulations prepared by IICA were delivered to CATIE.
- The workshop: "Teaching distance courses. The role of the Virtual Tutor. CATIE–Moodle Virtual Platform" is being designed and will be held in July (exact date to be announced).
- The CTL has provided follow-up to the queries received about the configuration and processes of CATIE's Virtual Campus for the implementation of the watershed master's program.

One activity pending is the three-day training exercise for the professors who will be teaching the watershed master's program (it will be taking place in July). Follow-up and support will continue to be provided to the implementation of the program, which will be launched officially in August 2018.

## **2. Orton Memorial Library (OML)**

CATIE and IICA have continued to work on the modernization of the library's services and during the last year both Directors General inaugurated the library's renewed facilities. As a result of the IICA-CATIE Letter of Understanding for the modernization of the library, the following progress has been achieved:

- Agreement on a new system for financing information services by CATIE and IICA which implies resource savings of 100% for CATIE and 62% for IICA.
- Standardization of the entire personnel payroll under IICA standards and procedures.
- Depuration of the collection of books, journals and magazines held in the library with the help of external consultants - specialists in the evaluation of collections - who determined the high value of 60% of the physically available collection.
- Construction of a controlled-environment facility to preserve the unique IICA – CATIE collection in the library. In addition to providing general maintenance to the building, areas such as offices, restrooms and the dining room were renovated and computer equipment was purchased, with an investment of US\$110,000.
- Guarantee of permanent access to top level scientific literature through the EBSCO databases and CGIAR content; in addition, PROQUEST is currently being trialed for all users of CATIE-IICA services.
- Retrieval of the digital record of CATIE's documents and files within the new repository DSPACE, which is available at: <http://repositorio.bibliotecaorton.catie.ac.cr/>
- Updating of information services provided by the SIDALC Alliance through the new servers hosted curtesy of CATIE, and redesign for implementation on the web page



[www.sidalc.net](http://www.sidalc.net) ; IICA's cooperation to benefit 177 institutions in 22 countries and facilitate access to information to more than 1.3 million regular visitors.

CATIE is also working with the Institute to provide training processes on capitalization of experiences in the context of the project led by IICA on this topic, financed with IFAD resources. Four CATIE officers learned about aspects that enable an organization to capitalize on their experiences and institutionalize processes of this nature.

It is important to note that the Directors General of both institutions agreed to transform the Orton Memorial Library into a Knowledge Management Center based on the use of information technologies, and work is under way to implement this instruction.

### **III. Corporate Management**

During the second half of 2017 and the first half of 2018, the following important corporate actions were implemented and results achieved:

#### **1. Tripartite Agreement IICA-CATIE-CCSS.**

In February of this year, the Directors General of IICA and CATIE received a formal communication from the Executive President of the CCSS requesting their approval to use a strip of land for the installation of vent pipes required to discharge rainwater and wastewater produced by the project of the new hospital of Turrialba into the riverbed of the Río Reventazón, in the Lago La Angostura sector. Having considered the scope of this request and the importance of this project for the Canton and for the country as a whole, and given its social and public health benefits, both Directors General agreed to the proposal in an official letter dated April 4, 2018.

In this context, the CCSS was presented with a set of plans issued by the National Registry Office, clearly identifying the specific area in which the aforementioned vent pipes will be installed.

The construction of the new hospital of Turrialba has now been adjudicated to the firm "Vanderlaat and Jiménez", and the facility is expected to be operational by the end of 2020. In this regard, both IICA and CATIE have received the supporting documents related to these developments, which form part of the Technical Annex to the Tripartite Agreement IICA/CATIE/CCSS.

#### **2. Updating of cadastral and registry information on IICA/CATIE properties**

In June 2017, a process began to prepare the "Topographical Update for Finca 49514-A-000 of the IICA/CATIE properties, since the institutional verification process had determined that an area of land of approximately 6.5 hectares was missing and had not been included in said plan.

The updated version of the plan with the inclusion of that area is currently being processed for approval by the Municipality of Turrialba. Once the respective approval has been granted, the next step will be to register this plan in a public document or deed at the National Public Registry of Property.

### 3. Financial management

- **Financial contributions to CATIE:** IICA has continued to make financial contributions to CATIE, as established in Law 8028, transferring USD 7.8 million between 2010 and the first quarter of 2018, reaffirming the Institute's commitment to the Center's work.
- **Orton Memorial Library (OML):** During the second semester of 2017, IICA invested USD 110,000 in the Orton Memorial Library (OML) – additional to its regular contribution - with the aim of modernizing the physical space, providing maintenance to the building and ensuring appropriate preservation of its unique resources; in addition, access to top-level online resources was reinforced and new computer equipment was purchased. In a Letter of Understanding signed by the Director General of IICA and the Director General of CATIE, both institutions made a commitment to contribute equal amounts to finance the library's annual management costs from 2018, estimated at US\$150,000, with a view to ensuring its continued excellence and high standards in the delivery of services.
- In order to achieve economies of scale and improve the administration of CATIE and its finances, the Center's staff members have been working with their IICA counterparts to familiarize themselves with the SAP financial-accounting Platform used by IICA, and have analyzed the viability of exporting it to CATIE.

### 4. Letters of Understanding

- A Letter of Understanding was signed with the IICA Office in Bolivia on July 27, laying the groundwork for joint collaboration on corporate matters, with a view to establishing and strengthening the IICA-CATIE plan of action for technical cooperation and capacity building in that country. This Letter of Understanding was based on a model developed by the parties pursuant to the provisions of the General Bilateral Agreement for Inter-institutional Cooperation signed between IICA and CATIE in 2011, which establishes the general framework for cooperation between both institutions for the implementation of joint actions in the technical areas of interest to the Parties.
- The Institute is in the process of finalizing the Letter of Understanding to provide logistical support to CATIE for the installation of its office in the building of the IICA Office in Jamaica, in order to support CATIE's consultancy work for the project "Integrated Watershed Management for the Yallahs and Hope Rivers Watersheds" financed with resources from the Global Environment Facility (GEF). These closer institutional ties are expected to result in the joint development and implementation of technical cooperation agendas in Jamaica.

- Separate Letters of Understanding were signed in Colombia and Mexico, in December 2017, to provide logistical support to CATIE for the installation of its offices in the buildings of the IICA Offices in those countries and to carry out joint technical work. In Mexico, joint efforts are under way to accredit IICA and CATIE – through Expressions of Interest – as a consortium before the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). This will enable them to apply jointly to a climate change project that UNDP implements in that country.

#### IV. Outlook for joint work in 2018 – 2019

Joint actions may be divided into three large areas: technical, education-training and corporate.

**Technical area:** the goal is to expand and improve (make more efficient and effective) the cooperation on technical topics offered by CATIE (see Annex 1) and IICA, focusing on the joint formulation of new projects, under the leadership of IICA’s project offices and CATIE’s Office of Strategic Alliances, in close cooperation and joint action with the national offices of IICA and CATIE. The priority areas include:

- Projects in the coffee sector of the Andean Region, especially in Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia
- Partnerships for the purpose of participating as a consortium in calls for projects issued by USDA and USAID
- Utilize CATIE’s expertise in environmental issues, given that many agricultural topics are now linked to the environment, climate change and other areas that have not been IICA’s natural field of action
- Target activities in certain key countries, such as Haiti, which constantly generate calls for proposals in the agricultural and environmental sectors
- Focus efforts on certain biomes, such as the Central American Dry Corridor, an area of major interest to the donor community.
- **Panama: a)** Strengthen current work and improve coordination in the areas of rural development and climate change in the agricultural sector and design of joint projects, b) Based on the potential of both institutions, government demand and business opportunities in the agricultural sector, establish new lines of work in the following areas: coffee production (production, plantation management, business strengthening etc.); cocoa production (production, plantation management, business development etc.); watershed management and capacity-building through training, c) joint efforts in topics related to coffee and cocoa, in which CATIE has implemented previous actions with MIDA, cooperatives and private sector institutions. These could be effectively complemented with actions that IICA is currently undertaking through the technical cooperation project with MICI and CATIE, and with initiatives with the Ministry of the Environment.
- **Honduras: a)** Continue to participate proactively in the National Commission responsible for implementing ECADERT (Central American Strategy for Rural Area-based Development) through joint agreements, b) strengthen the Directorate of Agricultural Science and Technology (DICTA) through the collaborative formulation of its strategic

plan and secure funding for its implementation, c) Coordinate the establishment of the National Commission for Family Agriculture to work collaboratively on the development and identification of appropriate technologies for family farmers, d) in the area of knowledge management, focus on capacity building with DICTA technicians and partner institutions of the FA Commission, on aspects linked to productive development, e) Promote joint meetings between both institutions at least every three months, f) Continue with a coordinated approach to work between CATIE-IICA, as established in the PROCAGICA project.

- **El Salvador:** a) Continue work in the context of the Central American Program for Integrated Coffee Rust Management (PROCAGICA), b) Support the establishment of 50 demonstration parcels and 21 validation parcels (June to August 2018), c) Continue of activities related to the National Coffee Platform, the SAT and the study on coffee rust races, d) Study the effects of climate change on coffee in El Salvador, d) Joint participation in an initiative proposed by IICA, for the articulation and dissemination of national efforts in coffee research: (i) coordinate workshops between organizations that plan to establish/have established demonstration and validation parcels (sharing/agreeing on location, protocols, preliminary and final results); (ii) National Meeting for the dissemination of research results on coffee, e) Still pending is the preparation the Annual CATIE/IICA Work Plan once the Institute's new Medium Term Plan has been approved.
- **Nicaragua:** a) Implement processes to disseminate local knowledge and know-how, b) Training processes and technical strengthening for adaptation to climate change, water and soil management and management of irrigation in agriculture, c) Actions to modernize beef production, and d) Innovations and technology transfer in the cocoa and coffee production chains.

**Academic area:** in all academic initiatives - including formal education in CATIE's Masters' and Doctoral programs, technical training and training for farmers - CATIE is expected to take a leadership role, taking advantage of IICA's virtual communication capabilities, its convening power and its identification of needs in the member countries.

- Design and implementation of distance Masters' courses using CATIE's existing on-site programs, IICA's capabilities in online education and information and communication technologies (ICTs), and opportunities to develop joint Masters and Doctorate courses with universities in the member countries of CATIE and IICA.

**Corporate area:** it is hoped that the Committee will consider all joint corporate matters and channel these toward the relevant corporate bodies who will be responsible for resolving corporate matters of joint interest.

- Of special mention and interest to this Committee is the follow-up on the extension of the CATIE Contract in 2020 (IABA Resolution 507) and all relevant preparatory actions from this moment forward.