



Fortieth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee

**Report on joint collaboration activities between
IICA and CATIE**

San Jose, Costa Rica
18 June 2020

Report on the 2019-2020 Program of Joint Action



May 2020



CONTENT

I. REGULATORY FRAMEWORK FOR THE JOINT ACTIONS	2
II. STATUS OF IICA-CATIE JOINT TECHNICAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES.....	3
III. ADVANCES IN JOINT IICA-CATIE ADMINISTRATIVE AND CORPORATE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES.....	10
IV. SUMMARY OF ASPECTS RELATED TO IABA RESOLUTIONS 507 AND 519	12

The General Bilateral Agreement for Inter-institutional Cooperation between the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and the Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE) was signed by both parties in July 2011 and endorsed by way of Resolution 9-14/XLVIIROJD of September 2014.

The main purpose of the agreement is to establish the general framework for cooperation between IICA and CATIE to implement joint actions in technical areas of interest to both institutions, and to enhance the technical cooperation offered to the Member States, as set forth in the Contract between the Government of the Republic of Costa Rica and IICA on CATIE, Law No. 8028 of 12 October 2000.

A summary of the main joint actions undertaken during the 2019-2020 period is set forth below.

I. REGULATORY FRAMEWORK FOR THE JOINT ACTIONS

The Executive Committee of IICA approved the Institute's new 2018-2022 Medium-term Plan (MTP) at its meeting in July 2018. The Plan establishes the five hemispheric programs that lend uniqueness to IICA's vision; channel the Institute's programmatic actions toward the identification of cooperation actions through the design and implementation of projects; and provide technical advice and assistance to governments and other social and economic stakeholders involved in agricultural and rural life in the Americas.

The programs are detailed as follows:

1. Bioeconomy and Production Development
2. Territorial Development and Family Farming
3. International Trade and Regional Integration
4. Climate Change, Natural Resources and Management of Production Risks
5. Agricultural Health, Safety and Food Quality

Furthermore, two cross-cutting areas of interest have also been defined (innovation and technology; gender and youth), both of which contribute to the five hemispheric programs.

On the other hand, CATIE has developed its own strategic plan, comprising the following areas:

1. **Education:** The academic program includes strategic courses, diplomas, specializations, academic Master's programs, Professional Master's programs and International Doctorate programs in a variety of fields.
2. **Research:** Comprising eight scientific units:

- a. Genetic and agroforestry improvement of coffee and cocoa
 - b. Agrobiodiversity and food security
 - c. Resilient livestock systems
 - d. Forests and biodiversity in productive landscapes
 - e. Climate-resilient and carbon-rich ecosystems
 - f. Resilient watersheds, water security and soils
 - g. The environmental economy and development of green businesses
 - h. Social and gender inclusion
3. **Outreach:** Geared toward technology and knowledge transfer, as well political advocacy at various levels, thereby contributing to poverty reduction and the economic, social and environmental development of the region.
 4. **Commercial farm:** Focusing on three agricultural activities (coffee, sugar cane and forestry) and two livestock production activities (beef and dairy cattle production). The Center also has a forestry seed bank; an international coffee collection of eleven different species that is classified as the most important *Coffea arabica* germplasm bank in the western hemisphere; an international cocoa collection (IC3); and a botanical garden with a genebank of Costa Rica's *pejibaye* or peach-palm fruit (*Bactris gasipaes*), annatto (*Bixa orellana*) and guava (*Psidium* sp.), with close to 160 accessions of exotic fruit trees from various parts of the world, as well as a bank of orthodox seeds that contains an extensive range of genetic material from various crops.

II. STATUS OF IICA-CATIE JOINT TECHNICAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES

The IICA-CATIE joint actions are aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular with those aimed at zero poverty (SDG 1), zero hunger (SDG 2), gender equality (SDG 5), clean water and sanitation (SDG 6), responsible production and consumption (SDG 12), climate action (SDG 13) and life on land (SDG 15).

The status of the various joint technical cooperation activities is outlined in the following executive summary:

PROJECT	ACTIVITIES/ RESULTS
Joint IICA-CATIE Unit	<p>In December 2019, the Directors General of IICA and CATIE initiated discussions regarding the establishment of a Joint IICA-CATIE Unit, aimed at strengthening the work of both institutions, in keeping with the mandate of Resolution 507 of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA).</p> <p>This resolution instructed both Directors General to devise a strategic proposal to strengthen the synergistic relationship between the</p>

PROJECT	ACTIVITIES/ RESULTS
	<p>institutions that would enhance their respective politico-institutional and research strengths.</p> <p>The Joint Unit would contribute to addressing the technological challenges of the tropical countries in the Americas, in terms of institutional capacities, while promoting the development of the requisite institutional policies and mechanisms to effectively capitalize on new knowledge and technology. Joint actions have been undertaken with a view to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating a platform to mobilize available resources in the tropical region, as well as to develop projects that facilitate the management of funds for development. • Increasing coordination between, and political advocacy of, the agriculture and environmental sectors to strengthen the development of ecosystem services. • Managing knowledge through various remote learning platforms. <p>This latter aspect would provide the institutions with the opportunity to coordinate strategies on multi-strata forestry systems (MSFS), with a view to building the capacities of research institutes, ministries of agriculture, universities, organizations of small producers, as well as of producers and their families.</p>
<p>Food Bank</p>	<p>IICA and CATIE have jointly embarked on the development of a food bank to bolster the food security of vulnerable communities in Costa Rica.</p> <p>The leaders of both institutions visited cultivation areas that will supply the food bank, where crop models with high levels of productivity have been implemented.</p> <p>The Food Bank aims to provide a varied supply of fresh food (cassava, plantain and others) to communities in the districts of Turrialba and Vásquez de Coronado, whose economic situation has been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.</p> <p>The project will utilize diversified agroforestry production models that guarantee production of high-quality food throughout the year. These cultivation areas will also play an important role in facilitating online training for thousands of producers in the use of innovations to enhance resilience and sustainable production.</p> <p>The establishment of the food bank was originally proposed by CATIE, and the development of a food production model to be applied on diversified agroforestry plots is already underway. IICA has</p>

PROJECT	ACTIVITIES/ RESULTS
	<p>already received the approval of the Municipality of Vázquez de Coronado for this initiative.</p> <p>The food bank will also be supported by the cooperation efforts of the PROCAGICA and AGRO-INNOVA projects, of which the European Union (EU) is a partner. Both projects will serve to strengthen food bank operations at the IICA-CATIE experimental and commercial farm.</p> <p>Crops to be cultivated will include white corn, beans, cassava, sweet potato, plantain, squash, banana, highly nutritional fruits (such as soursop, citrus, guava, among others), and the farm will also rear some minor species, such as poultry and tilapia.</p> <p>This food production and diversified production model will be replicated in Central American countries where PROCAGICA and AGRO-INNOVA are currently being implemented, allowing families of small producers to access research and innovations that will assist them in overcoming food and nutritional security problems.</p>
<p>PROCAGICA</p>	<p>CATIE has a sub-delegation agreement with IICA for implementation of actions under the framework of the Central American Program for Integrated Coffee Rust Management (PROCAGICA), which started in 2016 and will continue until 2021.</p> <p>CATIE has been allocated a total of € 1,488,497 (one million four hundred and eighty-eight thousand four hundred and ninety-seven Euros) to undertake these actions.</p> <p>For example, the institution is conducting applied research, field validation, as well as technology transfer and technical assistance aimed at enabling small- and medium-scale coffee producers to adapt to climate variability and climate change in Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama and the Dominican Republic.</p> <p>The Center is also jointly defining and coordinating the planning of these activities in conjunction with PROCAGICA's Regional Executing Unit, IICA delegations in the countries and institutions in the coffee sector.</p> <p>CATIE's efforts in 2019 focused on strengthening research and transfer platforms for controlling coffee leaf rust; enhancing technology transfer systems and extension services material; building the capacity of national extension networks, and on preparing technical documents.</p>

PROJECT	ACTIVITIES/ RESULTS
	<p>Moreover, CATIE trained technical officers and farmers on various issues, such as races of rust, modern management of mechanized shade and the design of agroforestry coffee systems through crop diversification.</p> <p>It also continued planned activities involving applied research, field validation, as well as technology transfer and support to small- and medium-scale coffee farmers.</p>
PROMECAFE	<p>IICA and CATIE, in collaboration with the technical managers of the partner coffee institutions are permanent members of the bodies managing the Regional Cooperative Program for the Technological Development and Modernization of Coffee Farming (PROMECAFE), including its Board of Directors and Technical Committee.</p>
AGRO-INNOVA	<p>The objective of the Adapted Agroforestry Systems for the Central American Dry Corridor (AGRO-INNOVA)¹ project is to bolster the climate resilience and food security of extremely vulnerable households of small-scale producers in Central America.</p> <p>Through innovation, research and extension services in multi-strata agroforestry systems (MSAS), AGRO-INNOVA seeks to improve climate change mitigation and adaptation technologies for small farmers for the production of basic crops and livestock, in a bid to preserve seed biodiversity, increase productivity and improve the food security of extremely vulnerable families in the Central American Dry Corridor (CDC).</p> <p>The project is also geared toward the capacity strengthening of at least 3000 small farmers and 12 organizations in 6 CDC countries, through the design and implementation of MSAS and the use of water harvesting technologies, bioinput production, establishment of greenhouses, improvement in crop nutritional levels, introduction of drought-tolerant varieties, integrated pest and disease management, restoration of degraded soils, biodiversity conservation, use of live fences, establishment of fodder banks, integrated water resource management and decision-making based on the information gathered from the cultivation areas.</p> <p>A training process is also planned for the project and will include theoretical and practical methodologies—delivered face-to-face and online—as well as an innovation hub with a tool to enable technical officers and producers to access project-related innovations and technologies. Given these objectives, the project will aim to achieve</p>

¹ Multi-strata agroforestry systems (MSAS) combine crops or fodder with trees. For purposes of the project, the term also includes silvopastoral systems.

PROJECT	ACTIVITIES/ RESULTS
	<p>three results, by undertaking various strategic actions and activities and generating specific products, including the following:</p> <p>Result 1: Small farmers possess management models for the development and implementation of innovation strategies, through capacity building in agricultural and livestock production, by way of MSAS.</p> <p>CATIE, as the subdelegate of the project is coordinating actions to achieve this result, by creating opportunities for public-private participatory analysis to devise technological strategies for designing and implementing MSAS. CATIE has direct responsibility for implementing the various activities and designated actions.</p> <p>Result 2: Small farmers are implementing innovation models in demonstration plots, by applying MSAS.</p> <p>In coordination with IICA, CATIE is proposing to implement close to 15 demonstration plots per country, for a total of 90 throughout the region. The plots will serve as technological showcases or technical agroforestry schools (TAS), to demonstrate the impact of the innovations that the project is introducing to at least 3000 families, with a view to their adoption.</p> <p>Result 3: Knowledge management strategies are coordinated in MSAS to strengthen the capacities of research institutions, ministries of agriculture, universities, organizations of small producers, as well as producers and their families</p> <p>Through the coordinated efforts of IICA and CATIE, this result will seek to strengthen capacities and knowledge management, by sharing information and exchanging experiences regarding the adoption of innovations that reduce small farmers' vulnerability to environmental, social and economic factors. This will be achieved through the development of a platform or observatory, which will function as an innovation node or hub to systematize and facilitate access to innovations, adapted to the region, and to provide information on the results of research and validations undertaken by the research institutes, ministries of agriculture and universities.</p>
<p>CRIA</p>	<p>IICA is undertaking the Regional Agricultural Research Consortia Program in Guatemala (CRIA), which is funded by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).</p> <p>CATIE has provided support in assessing the agrochains that have been prioritized by this program. It has also provided training for the</p>

PROJECT	ACTIVITIES/ RESULTS
	<p>Education and Training in Agricultural Research program of the Institute of Agricultural Science and Technology (ICTA).</p>
<p>BioPaSOS</p>	<p>IICA is participating in the project on the “Promotion of biodiversity conservation through climate-smart agrosilvopastoral practices in livestock landscapes in three regions of Mexico”, otherwise known as BioPaSOS , which is funded by the International Climate Initiative (IKI) of the Federal Ministry of the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Security (BMU) of Germany.</p> <p>The project is led by CATIE, in coordination with two national counterparts: the National Commission for the Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity (CONABIO) and the Secretariat of Agriculture and Rural Development (SADER).</p> <p>The overall objective of the project is to promote the adoption of climate-smart and biodiversity friendly agrosilvopastoral approaches by producers in three pilot areas (or landscapes) of Mexico.</p> <p>As part of the project, interventions are taking place at the local level, in Campeche, Quintana Roo, Yucatán, Chiapas and Jalisco (municipalities and agricultural producer organizations); at the state level (governments and private sector organizations); and at the national level (government, financial institutions and the scientific community).</p> <p>CATIE and IICA are members of the technical team that has been working with SADER to formulate nationally appropriate mitigation actions (NAMA) for beef cattle in Mexico.</p>
<p>Water Harvesting Project, Nicaragua</p>	<p>Under an agreement with CATIE, the IICA Nicaragua Office has been providing technical support to the project, “Adaption of agriculture to climate change through water harvesting in Nicaragua”. The project is seeking to establish a strategic framework for driving and developing agribusiness. It is also aiming to devise public policy instruments at the municipal level to utilize water harvesting as a climate variability and climate change adaptation measure, with a view to facilitating market access and the development of local agribusiness initiatives, while promoting the adoption of these technologies in communities of the Nicaraguan Dry Corridor.</p>
<p>National Agricultural Research</p>	<p>Advisory services were provided to the National Agricultural Innovation Institute (INIA) to assess research, training and innovation needs in the area of livestock and silvopastoral systems, as well as coffee and cocoa. The Center also provided support in evaluating</p>

PROJECT	ACTIVITIES/ RESULTS
<p>Program (PNIA) in Peru</p>	<p>Phase 2 of the 2020 Caral Competition: Innovations in Small- and Medium-Scale Agriculture in Peru.</p> <p>CATIE awarded 47 scholarships to Peruvians for individual internship programs in Turrialba for periods of one to five months. It also gave scholarships to 43 professionals and producers for group internships for periods of 2 to 4 weeks. Funding for these scholarships was provided by PNIA. The internships were negotiated between CATIE, PNIA, INIA and IICA and the relevant institutions and persons. Recently, a contract was also signed to enable seven INIA employees to undertake internships in various topics, such as agroforestry systems, coffee, cocoa and climate-smart agriculture. Negotiations are now at an advanced stage with respect to an online training program on microorganisms for INIA employees.</p> <p>Additionally, CATIE, IICA and other partners have been collaborating on various activities to support the General Directorate of Livestock of the Ministry of Agriculture and Innovation (MINAGRI), for example, in devising the NAMA for the livestock sector, and to assist the Ministry of the Environment (MINAM) with the preparation of the nationally determined contributions (ND), among other initiatives.</p> <p>Finally, CATIE has been working with IICA and other stakeholders in the national agricultural innovation system on the study, “Innovación agraria al 2050” (Agricultural innovation to 2050).</p>
<p>Management of joint project initiatives</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Technological Innovation for Agriculture and Agroforestry Program (PITAG)</i> is a project funded by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the World Bank, with Haiti’s Ministry of Agriculture as the implementing agency. <p>The project, which is scheduled to begin in the coming months, will aim to increase agricultural productivity and improve natural resource use, by strengthening the capacities of providers of agricultural goods and services in developing and using sustainable agricultural and agroforestry technologies, with a view to transferring know-how and providing technical support to farmers who are beneficiaries of PITAG incentives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation of a concept brief for the project <i>Fostering tree resources in agricultural landscapes for ecosystem services as well as mitigation and adaptation to climate change in Barbados</i>. This project seeks to design and implement a plan to increase forestry resources in Barbadian landscapes; establish a botanical knowledge park with various tree species; to train local experts in

PROJECT	ACTIVITIES/ RESULTS
	<p>the cultivation and management of forestry resources; and to establish commercial greenhouses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concept brief presented to USAID-Mexico: Reduction of deforestation and degradation of publicly owned forestry landscapes through sustainable cooperative ventures and increased access to innovative mixed funding. Partners: IICA, CATIE, SADER, CGG, CI, National Institute of the Social Economy (INAES), National Forestry Committee (CONAFOR), Network for Territorial Management of Sustainable Rural Development (RED GTD México) and state governments.
<p>Knowledge management (publication)</p>	<p>Capitalizing on CATIE’s experience in forestry, both institutions are preparing a manual or catalogue of emblematic forest species of IICA’s 34 member countries – species which the countries’ have designated as their national trees, for various reasons. The catalogue, which will include information on each tree’s genus, species, main uses and ecosystem services, will prove extremely valuable for the development of agroforestry systems and for projects involving watershed management, protection and reforestation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The institutions also jointly hosted various online technical forums.

III. ADVANCES IN JOINT IICA-CATIE ADMINISTRATIVE AND CORPORATE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

The following table provides an overview of the status of various joint administrative and corporate management activities:

PROJECT	ACTIVITIES/ RESULTS
<p>IICA-CATIE-CCSS Tripartite Agreement</p>	<p>Ongoing developments in the project to construct a new hospital in Turrialba have been monitored, through meetings with representatives of the Infrastructure and Technology Division in the Architecture and Engineering Department of the Costa Rican Social Security Fund (CCSS).</p> <p>The most relevant information about the hospital project is as follows: a) the approximate size of the construction area is 100,000 m²; b) the projects represents a USD 188 million investment; c) it is a turnkey construction project, with the cost covering the design, construction, equipment and maintenance; and d) it is categorized as a “peripheral 3” hospital, which will serve a population of 85,767 people, including the indigenous community of the canton.</p>

PROJECT	ACTIVITIES/ RESULTS
	<p>IICA gave the approval for the installation of vent pipes for the discharge of rainwater and wastewater on a strip of land on the Institute's property.</p> <p>Having already satisfied environmental requirements and received approval regarding the use of water, the project's construction plans and technical specifications are currently being reviewed (10% progress).</p> <p>The construction contract has been awarded to the company Van der Laet y Jiménez and work is scheduled to begin in mid-2020. IICA and CATIE have received the supporting documentation regarding these developments, in accordance with the provisions of the Technical Annex to the agreement.</p>
<p>CATIE's drinking water supply</p>	<p>Managers of the project to construct the new hospital have requested that the Ministry of Environment and Energy (MINA E) grant the CCSS a concession to use four liters of water per second from the Bajo del Chino spring that has historically supplied CATIE with water. This will entail designing a new tank and installing two new pumps.</p> <p>MINA E granted a concession of 2.5 liters per second. The CCSS is now appealing this decision and its engineers have submitted a technical report with recommendations outlining the work that will take place over the short-term.</p> <p>CATIE will need to develop an integrated water management plan to include water harvesting and the use of rainwater for bathrooms and sanitation services throughout the campus. Similarly, it will have to invest in the renovation of storage tanks.</p>
<p>Survey plan and land-related matters</p>	<p>The survey plan for the property adjoining the Turrialba municipal landfill was updated, to resolve an issue regarding overlapping boundaries. This was the culmination of extensive study and analysis by the land surveying firm, INTOPO, which had detected that a 20,600 m² area of the property owned by the Turrialba Municipality had been included in IICA's survey plan.</p> <p>This required several site visits and the completion of various procedures with the Municipal Council and the Mayor of the Turrialba Municipality, who thanked IICA for returning the land to the municipality, as it has been earmarked for a waste recycling environmental project.</p> <p>Several projects were also undertaken on the farms, to resolve land boundary disputes with neighbors and to protect various properties, including the La Lola farm.</p>

PROJECT	ACTIVITIES/ RESULTS
	<p>IICA began activities to assist CATIE in modernizing its SAP accounting systems. Although this initiative is in the early stages, the expectation is that greater progress will be made in 2020.</p>
<p>Outstanding actions</p>	<p>The IICA-CATIE Bilateral Agreement established the creation of the Coordination and Monitoring Committee (CMC), which will be supported by two permanent working groups in close collaboration. One will focus on technical cooperation matters and the other on administrative, regulatory and financial aspects.</p> <p>The general framework for cooperation between both institutions is an integrated program for joint action in technical and administrative areas. A new program will have to be developed for the 2020-2025 period.</p>

IV. SUMMARY OF ASPECTS RELATED TO IABA RESOLUTIONS 507 AND 519

1. The “Strategic Proposal for the Future of CATIE” was presented at the IICA Executive Committee Meeting in July 2019, pursuant to the mandate of IABA Resolution 507. The proposal included 16 recommendations, one of which was eliminated and three were approved. The Committee requested that two recommendations related to issues of governance and the management of property be reviewed, for subsequent submission to and resolution by the IABA.
2. The IABA reviewed the “Strategic Proposal for the Future of CATIE”, particularly those matters dealt with in the two recommendations that had not been approved by the Executive Committee:
 - a. Complementary actions to generate more income for CATIE from the assets it owns or holds in usufruct.
 - b. Simplification of the governance structure of CATIE, by modifying the structure and functions of the Board of Directors and eliminating the Governing Council.
3. The IABA approved Resolution 519, which established a “Special Committee” to study, analyze and make recommendations at the next Executive Committee meeting, in particular with respect to two fundamental issues:
 - a. Measures to make the land belonging to IICA and CATIE more productive.
 - b. The feasibility of incorporating CATIE as a division of IICA, as a means of enabling more efficient and economical integration and coordination, in addressing the needs of the Member States.
4. The Special Committee established pursuant to IABA Resolution 519 is comprised of Costa Rica, Ecuador, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico and the United States of America.

5. The first meeting of the Committee was held virtually on 12 February 2020, to begin activities and to share information about the two aspects mentioned above, and about the timeline for preparation of the recommendations for submission to the next Executive Committee Meeting (June 2020). In terms of the proposal to make the IICA and CATIE lands more productive, a diagnostic graph was presented, outlining certain considerations that would affect this approach, in particular in terms of the properties in Turrialba. The meeting also raised certain technical and legal aspects that should be considered to analyze the feasibility of “incorporating” CATIE as a division of IICA.
6. On 12 February 2020, a representative of SADER in Mexico was appointed as the coordinator of the Special Committee, and the Directors General of IICA and CATIE named a coordinator who will serve as a technical liaison and will provide support for the Committee.
7. The Committee has already prepared a general proposal, which is now being reviewed and awaiting recommendations, prior to preparation of the final version that will be presented to the next Executive Committee meeting.