



**REPORT OF THE MEETING OF
MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE OF THE
AMERICAS 2011
AND OF THE
SIXTEENTH REGULAR MEETING OF
THE INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF
AGRICULTURE**

**San Jose, Costa Rica
October 19-21, 2011**

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INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION

The theme of the Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas 2011, held in San Jose, Costa Rica, on October 19-21, was “*Sowing innovation to harvest prosperity.*” Delegations from Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, United States of America and Uruguay attended and participated in the meeting. Spain, as Associate country, Italy and Israel, as Permanent Observers, and delegations from 17 international organizations, representatives of educational institutions and special guests also participated.

As part of this hemispheric event, a forum entitled “Innovation for sustainable, competitive and inclusive agriculture” was held, in which the ministers and other representatives of the Member States engaged in a highly productive dialogue.

In addition, the representatives of the Member States approved and signed the San Jose Declaration of Ministers of Agriculture 2011, which focuses on innovation as an essential and strategic tool in making agriculture competitive, sustainable and inclusive.

Within the framework of the Ministerial Meeting, the Sixteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), the governing body of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), was also held. At the IABA meeting, participants addressed strategic issues and made decisions of great importance for the Institute regarding, for example, the implementation of the 2010-2014 Medium-term Plan, partnerships for cooperation and the Program Budget for 2012-2013.

The present document contains a summary of the Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas 2011, the Ministerial Declaration approved by the representatives of the Member States, the minutes of the Sixteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA, and the resolutions approved at the meeting.

INAUGURATION

INAUGURATION

The inauguration of the Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas 2011 began at 17:30 in the “Miguel Blanco Quiros” Auditorium of the Judicial Branch building complex in Costa Rica.

Address by the Director General of IICA

In his address at the opening ceremony of the Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas 2011, Victor M. Villalobos A., Director General of IICA, noted that agriculture would face great challenges in the 21st century, not the least of which would be the need for innovation. Innovation, he stated, transformed lives and was the best business to engage in, but the decision to invest must first be made.

He added that the current global economic outlook was complicated and plagued by imbalances which could have a serious impact on the agricultural sector. However, he noted, in a context characterized by low growth and financial instability, innovation could provide solutions.

Governments must therefore, he said, formulate and apply a State policy in the area of innovation and focus their efforts on transforming their institutions and production systems; international organizations must also support such efforts. For example, by promoting innovation, IICA could help to achieve the goal of food security, slow environmental degradation, mitigate the effects of climate change and reduce the poverty that affects millions of persons in rural areas.

He explained further that the current administration of the Institute understood fully the fundamental role innovation played in increasing productivity and competitiveness, making production models increasingly inclusive, lowering agriculture’s contribution to global warming and helping to ensure food security worldwide.

He noted that IICA was the most important partner the governments of Latin America and the Caribbean could have in their efforts to promote innovation in agriculture, since it had the necessary political support, leadership and technical capacity, as well as an office in each of 34 member countries in the Americas. In concluding, he stated that, by working together, the Institute and its Member States could make agriculture the engine driving economic and social development.

Address by the Minister of Agriculture and Livestock Farming of Costa Rica

In her address, Mrs. Gloria Abraham Peralta, Minister of Agriculture and Livestock Farming of Costa Rica, acknowledged the importance of technological development in the agricultural sector, as well as the need to increase production while considering the well-being of the total human being. IICA, she noted, had been an important partner in the region; a partner whom, thanks to its strategic vision, had proven its ability to resolve the issues affecting development.

She underscored the fact that, in Costa Rica, agriculture was very important both economically and culturally. However, as in the other countries of the Americas, the sector still had objectives to achieve, and these were threatening the capacity of the countries to feed their populations.

Innovation, she noted, constituted a new way to govern, design policies, do business and tackle problems. In every aspect, she said, it was essential to have the support of international organizations in order to obtain feedback and adopt best practices in the area of public policy.

In closing, she urged the countries to invest more in innovation and stated that creativity was a highly valuable asset in the present global context characterized by economic instability.

Address by the President of the Republic of Costa Rica

The President of the Republic of Costa Rica, Mrs. Laura Chinchilla Miranda, gave a warm welcome to the delegations attending the Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas 2011.

She began by stating that one of today's most pressing challenges was how to meet the needs of the 7 billion people in the world, of which 900 million resided in the Americas. She indicated that innovation could play a key role in responding to this challenge, by helping to free our peoples from hunger, poverty and food insecurity, mitigate the effects of climate change and, as a result, generate prosperity and well-being.

She added that innovation would bring about transformations that would increase the sector's ability to contribute to prosperity and well-being. To innovate, she stated, meant to change, explore, create value and re-invent, which was what the agricultural sector needed. She went on to state that innovation would make it possible to continue to expand the agricultural frontier and provide food for the entire population, without putting the environment at risk and sacrificing the health of agricultural workers.

She then stated that we were living in a period characterized by rapid generation of knowledge, which was now available to and being used by more people than ever before. In closing, she stated that it was necessary to sow innovation in the public policies of today if the peoples of the Americas were to harvest prosperity and well-being in the future.

Address by the Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS)

The Secretary General of the OAS, Mr. Jose Miguel Insulza, began his remarks by expressing solidarity with the peoples of Central America in the face of the loss of human lives and the material damage caused by recent heavy rains.

He thanked the government of Costa Rica for its hospitality and for hosting the Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas 2011. He added that the decision to hold such an important meeting was evidence of IICA's interest in working together with governments and international organizations involved in agriculture to ensure that agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean takes centre stage over the next decade.

He acknowledged that greater attention should be paid to agriculture, considering the important contributions it has made to economic growth and social development in the Americas. He called for increased investment in agricultural science and technology, promotion of knowledge generation and the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs), as well as strengthening of the business skills and policies of organizations.

He indicated his belief that the ICTs and biotechnology could provide a foundation for promoting an “agricultural revolution” in which all producers, regardless of the size of their operations, could increase their incomes, and in which both traditional knowledge, as well as the latest knowledge and technologies would be applied with a view to increasing economic-social equity and productivity.

He underscored the need to formulate policies that would give agriculture the attention it deserved, as a sector that generated well-being. He felt that IICA could provide support that would help the countries to strengthen the generation and application of knowledge, innovation, productivity and food security and increase incomes.

Lastly, he referred to the importance of ensuring that any agreements arising from this Ministerial Meeting are presented at the Sixth Summit of the Americas.

Keynote Address by the Deputy Director, Agricultural Development Policy and Statistics, of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Mr. Prabhu Pingali, Deputy Director, Agricultural Development Policy and Statistics, of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, began by stating that innovations developed in Latin America had had important impacts worldwide, such as those that made it possible to significantly increase the productivity of wheat, improve the nutritional content of certain foods and develop drought-resistant varieties.

He added that innovation and investment were the engines driving growth in the agricultural sector and progress in research and development. Next, he called attention to the research centers that existed in Latin America, which had made important contributions. For example, he said, 18,000 tons of wheat seed had been sent from Mexico to India and Pakistan in 1966, and that by 1974 India was self-sufficient in wheat production.

Research and knowledge, he stressed, were the key to bringing about profound transformations. By way of example, he referred to a variety of sweet potato rich in Vitamin A which, in Mozambique, had succeeded in reducing hunger. He also mentioned that the problem of desertification had reached critical levels in Africa, adding that the same had been true in the Sertão area of Brazil. However, Brazil had managed to overcome the problem and countries in Africa could do the same. He then referred to the case of the pampas in Argentina, where, thanks to improvements in soil conditions, this country was now a major soybean exporter.

He indicated that cooperation was as important as the generation of knowledge. For example, thanks to cooperation between Brazilian and African scientists, a biological control program was implemented that had succeeded in eradicating the Cassava Mealybug from the continent in three years. He added that cooperation was important in strengthening the capabilities of peoples, and that Latin America could capitalize on many successful experiences there, such as those reported by the Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (EMBRAPA) and universities that focus on strengthening the development and operation of agribusinesses.

He concluded his remarks by stating that no single institution could effectively tackle all the challenges posed by hunger and poverty. The solution, he felt, was joint efforts. For example, the knowledge generated in organizations in Latin America and the Caribbean could be transferred to institutions in other regions of the world, which could apply it in improving agriculture and nutrition in those regions, especially in Africa.

The inauguration concluded at 19:25 hours.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

**MEETING OF MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE
OF THE AMERICAS 2011
AND
SIXTEENTH REGULAR MEETING OF THE
INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

PREPARATORY SESSION

0.1 *Opening of the Session*

0.1.1 The Sixteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) was called to order at 8:55 hours on October 20, 2011, in the United States/Canada Room at IICA Headquarters.

0.1.2 The session was chaired by Mr. Mariano Ruiz-Funes Macedo, Under Secretary of Agriculture of the Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock Farming, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food of Mexico, as per the order of precedence established in Articles 34 and 35 of the Rules of Procedure of the IABA.

0.2 *Agreements*

0.2.1 *Election of the Chair and Rapporteur of the Meeting*

0.2.1.1 The Chairman, in his capacity as Representative of Mexico, proposed Mrs. Gloria Abraham Peralta, Minister of Agriculture and Livestock Farming of Costa Rica, as Chair of the Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas 2011 and of the Sixteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA. The proposal was approved unanimously and by acclamation.

0.2.1.2 Next, the Representative of Mexico proposed that a member of the Argentine delegation serve as Rapporteur. The proposal was approved unanimously.

0.2.1.3 The officers of the meeting were elected as follows:

Chair: Gloria Abraham Peralta

Rapporteur: Daniela Raposo

Ex officio Secretary: Victor M. Villalobos A.

0.2.2 Agenda of the meeting

0.2.2.1 The agenda of the meeting, contained in document IICA/JIA/Doc. 344 (11), was approved as presented.

0.2.3 Deadline for submitting proposals

0.2.3.1 17:00 hours on Thursday, October 20, was set as the deadline for the submission of draft resolutions.

0.2.4 Duration of the meeting

0.2.4.1 The plenary agreed to hold the closing session on Friday, October 21, at 17:30 hours.

0.2.5 Order of precedence of the Member States

0.2.5.1 In the event of the temporary or permanent absence of the Chair, he/she is to be replaced by the Regular Representatives of the Member States, who serve as *ex officio* Vice Chairs of the meeting, in accordance with Articles 34 and 35 of the Rules of Procedure of the IABA. In such cases, the alphabetical order of the names of the countries in Spanish is followed, beginning with Costa Rica, the country elected to chair the meeting, which means that Dominica would chair the meeting in the absence of the Chair.

0.3 Close of the Session

0.3.1 The first part of the Preparatory Session was adjourned at 9:15 hours.

FIRST PLENARY SESSION

1.1 *Opening of the Session*

1.1.1 The First Plenary Session was called to order at 9:15 hours on October 20, 2011, under the chairmanship of Mrs. Gloria Abraham Peralta, Minister of Agriculture and Livestock Farming of Costa Rica.

1.2 *Forum “Innovation for sustainable, competitive and inclusive agriculture”*

1.2.1 *Innovation in agriculture: a macroeconomic vision*

1.2.1.1 The Chair gave the floor to Mr. Hugo Eduardo Beteta, Director of the Subregional Office of ECLAC in Mexico, to make a presentation on the topic.

1.2.1.2 Mr. Beteta stated that Latin America had long been known for the production of agricultural products such as corn, tomatoes, peppers and cacao, which had continually been improved over time. He also noted that, in the countries of the region, the primary sector had led the way in their recovery from food, energy and financial crises.

1.2.1.3 He added that GDP had been growing at a rate of 4.2% per annum in Latin America and was that this growth was expected to continue, that investment had increased in the region, and that the region possessed advantages, such as sufficient natural resources, which augured well for economic growth despite the existence of risks. The likelihood of such economic growth becoming a reality would be greater if conditions in the productive sector improved, which would require the incorporation of innovation in agriculture and more effective investment in the sector.

1.2.1.4 He then encouraged the countries to apply macroeconomic policies that would generate jobs and have a positive impact on production. He also called on them to develop regulatory frameworks that would help achieve those goals, to develop the institutional framework and provide the funding needed to promote innovation. He concluded by stating that agricultural development

must continue in Latin America and that, for this to happen, the countries must take advantage of the opportunities offered by innovation.

1.2.2 Innovation for agriculture: the new focus of the international centers of the CGIAR

1.2.2.1 The Chair gave the floor to Mr. Elcio Guimaraes, Director of Research for Latin America and the Caribbean at the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), to address the topic “The innovation-research agenda for agriculture.”

1.2.2.2 Mr. Guimaraes explained that the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) was a global consultative group whose objectives were to reduce hunger and poverty, improve human health and nutrition and increase ecosystem resilience.

1.2.2.3 He added that the CGIAR had 15 centers worldwide, four of which were located in Latin America, working to reduce hunger and poverty. He explained that the centers’ specialists had expertise in fields such as crop breeding, animal production, natural resource management, social sciences, research policies, climate change, nutrition and health. Two important results achieved by the CGIAR were: a) each US\$1 invested in the developing world generated US\$9 in food, and b) the rate of return on CGIAR investments in research into crop improvement was 39%.

1.2.2.4 He further mentioned that the CGIAR was implementing a strategy aimed at making its centers more efficient, the goal being to contribute to food security, environmental sustainability and the reduction of poverty. He noted that, even though the CGIAR focused its efforts on Central and Western Asia, many of its programs were beneficial to Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). One was its Climate Change Program, which involved its 15 Centers and 400 partners, the goal of which was to seek answers to the threats posed by climate change, a matter of the utmost importance for the countries of the Americas.

1.2.2.5 He explained that, since 1981, public spending on research and development (R&D) had declined in LAC. The one exception was Brazil, where spending on R&D had actually risen in order to produce more food for domestic consumption and for export. He pointed out that governments in LAC must reverse this trend and provide support for organizations and networks that promote technological innovation in agriculture, enhancing their capabilities in

areas such as biotechnology, biosafety, bio-prospection, knowledge management, intellectual property and climate change.

- 1.2.2.6 Finally, he urged the Representatives of the Member States to make policy decisions that would enable their countries to become the largest producers of food in the world. Also, he encouraged them to attend the next CGIAR meeting to be held in Uruguay in October 2012, and present proposals that would benefit the nations of the hemisphere.
- 1.2.3 Funding investment in agriculture and the need for public policies to meet the challenges
- 1.2.3.1 The Chair gave the floor to Mr. Hector Malarin, Chief of the Environment, Rural Development and Disaster Risks Management Division of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).
- 1.2.3.2 Mr. Malarin began by noting that the countries of LAC must contribute to solving the problem of food security, which had worsened as a result of the steady rise in food prices being experienced since 2008 throughout the region and in other parts of the world. The countries of LAC were in a position to increase food production considerably, given the availability of water and land and the existence of human and institutional capabilities.
- 1.2.3.3 He went on to state that, in order to tap that potential and become a leading region in terms of food production, the countries of LAC must solve three major problems: a) low levels of productivity in the agricultural sector; b) rural poverty, which affected almost 55% of the rural population; and c) climate change, which, along with deforestation, was adding to desertification and increasing the frequency of natural disasters, especially floods and droughts, making it imperative to lessen its impact and prepare agriculture to adapt to changes in climate.
- 1.2.3.4 He mentioned that, over the last 10 to 12 years, the IDB had earmarked more funds to finance agricultural and rural development projects. For example, between 2009 and 2011, funding for such projects had increased fivefold when compared to 2004-2006.
- 1.2.3.5 He explained that since 2007, the IDB, under the leadership of President Luis Moreno, had been implementing a strategy developed as the result of a review of its agricultural policies and intended to achieve three objectives: a) to

support the countries in their efforts to ensure that high prices for food translate into higher incomes for producers; b) to promote public investment in rural infrastructure, agricultural services, irrigation, electrification, agricultural health, land titling and information systems, and c) to promote the modernization of agricultural innovation systems, a measure that had had a significant impact on increasing the incomes of rural families.

- 1.2.3.6 He added that, at the 2012 Board of Governors Meeting, the President of the IDB would be launching a food security platform for the entire region that would be based on three pillars: a) innovation in agriculture, b) rural infrastructure, and c) risk management via agricultural guarantees and insurance. He called attention to the fact that the Food Security Fund had been resurrected in order to complement the resources of the IDB with resources from donors, mostly from the non-borrowing member countries of the IDB.
- 1.2.3.7 Mr. Pedro Antonio Arraes Pereira, President of the Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation, reiterated the importance of public policies and of investing in agriculture, adding that innovation should not be limited to the field of technology.
- 1.2.3.8 He drew attention to the South-South Platform for Cooperation between Brazil and Africa, which was aimed at fostering dialogue on public policies and funding for collaborative projects. This, he said, was an opportunity to promote interaction among researchers and the exchange of experiences between countries of Latin America and Africa.
- 1.2.3.9 He explained that, with collaboration from Brazil, some ten projects had been implemented in seven African countries, each being given US\$80,000 for periods of two years. He went on to say that the type of cooperation being promoted by Brazil in the areas of research and development had had a very positive impact on agriculture in those countries.
- 1.2.3.10 Next he said that EMBRAPA, as a public institution, shared the policies of Brazilian President, Dilma Rousseff, intended to support South-South interaction. He added that it was important to strengthen the partnerships that existed between Brazil and the other countries of Latin America, an effort in which IICA was an important partner.
- 1.2.3.11 In concluding his remarks, he stated that EMBRAPA, through its platforms for South-South cooperation, hoped to encourage the exchange of experiences

with countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, contribute to the development of agriculture, promote research and development and help achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

1.2.4 Message from the Director General of IICA

- 1.2.4.1 The Director General stated that the most important aspect of the Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas 2011 was that it afforded an opportunity to discuss a topic of great interest for agriculture in the Americas: innovation.
- 1.2.4.2 He agreed with Mr. Hector Malarin, of the IDB, regarding the leading role that LAC could play in making food security a reality worldwide, given its wealth of natural resources, the richness of its biodiversity and its favorable climatic conditions.
- 1.2.4.3 With respect to the CGIAR, he explained that on August 26 representatives of IICA and the four CGIAR centers located in the Americas had held a meeting, one result of which was a partnership that would provide the Member States of the Institute with access to the knowledge generated by the centers.
- 1.2.4.4 He mentioned that IICA was honored to form part of the innovation platform created by EMBRAPA and comprising Brazil and the other countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. He also mentioned that, since 2009, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and IICA had prepared three joint reports on the state of and outlook for agriculture in the Americas which had proven to be useful in making decisions.
- 1.2.4.5 He stated that one of IICA's most important roles was to identify technological advances in countries and transfer them to other countries that needed them. He concluded by declaring that no single institution could solve the problems facing agriculture, but that rather, they all had to work together with other organizations, hence the importance of creating institutional partnerships in area such as innovation that could contribute to agricultural development and food security.

1.2.5 Dialogue among the Representatives of the Member States

- 1.2.5.1 The Representative of Dominica underscored the importance of research and development for the agricultural sector both in his country and throughout the hemisphere. For example, in the case of the Caribbean, it was important to continue conducting research that would contribute to eradicating, especially in the eastern part of the region, pests and diseases that cause serious damage to both agriculture and livestock farming, such as Black Sigatoka, the Giant African Snail and the Red Palm Weevil.
- 1.2.5.2 The Representative of Honduras noted that while research and innovation were very important for agriculture, so was investment, which was essential in promoting the generation of income. In addition, he was of the opinion that the wealth of information that existed should be more readily available to producers. He then referred to two regional projects carried out in less than six months in Central America and Mexico which had been highly successful thanks to cooperation from the private sector in identifying potential business opportunities.
- 1.2.5.3 The Representative of Chile stated that, given that innovations helped to improve and add value to products and services, they must filter down small-scale producers, which was not the case in many countries of LAC, including his own. He noted that the needs of consumers had to be taken into account in the innovation process, and that innovation must take place in all the links of production chains. He added that the State must also promote innovation in its institutional framework, especially with regard to management processes. He then announced that Chile, with support from the World Bank, had developed a plan in the area of innovation which was intended to address shortcomings in biotechnology, precision agriculture and the availability of internet service in rural areas. Lastly, he underscored the need to strengthen cooperation at the hemispheric level, especially with Canada and the United States of America.
- 1.2.5.4 The Representative of Argentina explained that, in order to consolidate innovation, it was necessary to adapt and adopt new technologies. However, several concerns needed to be addressed, such as the threat posed by the production of transgenic seeds and the cloning of animals in international trade, as well as the high levels of carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide and methane gas emissions reported in the European Union. He concluded by stating that biotechnology should be promoted, given its potential to increase production and protect the environment.

- 1.2.5.5 The Representative of Panama indicated that many countries had developed technologies that could prove useful to others, such as the successful application of Brazilian technology in the eastern plains of Colombia. He also felt that governmental bureaucracy was hindering the development of technology, and asked that one of the results of the meeting be a clear message regarding the importance of agriculture.
- 1.2.5.6 He then announced that his country was interested in hosting the Seventeenth Regular Meeting of the IABA, in 2013.
- 1.2.5.7 The Representative of Bolivia stated that research should be aimed at more than an increase in production. He noted that, in the eastern part of his country, plants and animals were migrating to higher altitudes, possibly as a result of climate change. He added that trade speculation, both internally and externally, was having a negative impact on the ability of the population to obtain food.
- 1.2.5.8 The Representative of St. Vincent and the Grenadines expressed interest in research and innovation in the field of aquaculture. He asked how the research conducted in the 15 CGIAR centers was financed, and how his country might access the funds for food security projects mentioned by the speaker from the IDB.
- 1.2.5.9 The Representative of Peru noted that each country was different and was entitled to deal with the issues of biotechnology and biosafety as it saw fit. He explained that Peru had very rich biodiversity, had assumed a commitment to be cautious in the use of biotechnological materials, and was exporting gourmet products to clients who valued highly the fact that they were not from transgenic crops. He added that, as a result, Peru had imposed a moratorium on the importation of genetically modified seeds until those technologies and their potential effects could be evaluated more thoroughly. He noted, however, that the moratorium did not affect the importation of agricultural products for human consumption. He requested that the position adopted by Peru be reflected, when appropriate, as an expression of the sovereign right of countries to apply the preventive measures they deemed necessary. He explained that this did not imply that Peru did not recognize the importance of innovation.

- 1.2.5.10 The Representative of Guatemala drew attention to the fact that the food security situation was deteriorating in many countries of the hemisphere. In his opinion, the challenge of technology transfer was to ensure that such technology reached producers and operators of agribusinesses so that they could generate more jobs and income. This was a concern expressed repeatedly by a large number of smallholder organizations invited to offer opinions on processes being promoted by the Central American Agricultural Council (CAC). He felt that the rehabilitation of the institutions responsible for technology transfer and the re-establishment of agricultural extension services were two key steps in that direction.
- 1.2.5.11 The Chair gave the floor to those who had spoken earlier to respond to the questions and comments of the Representatives of the Member States.
- 1.2.5.12 Mr. Hugo Beteta, Director of the Subregional Offices of ECLAC in Mexico, referred to the speculation mentioned by the Representative of Bolivia, adding that the report prepared by IICA, FAO and ECLAC on agriculture and rural life in the Americas in 2011 contained recommendations on how to avoid the formation of speculative bubbles. He warned that inflationary pressures and the volatility of food prices not only affected economic growth, but also contributed to higher interest rates, which, in turn, contributed to inflation.
- 1.2.5.13 Mr. Ruben Echeverria, Director of CIAT, felt that the time was right to reassess the importance of agriculture, but that such an effort would require the combined efforts all the institutions involved in the agricultural sector. He added that one advantage of the Americas as a region was the existence of so many relevant institutions, including IICA, FONTAGRO, FORAGRO, the IDB and others, whose strengths must be tapped. Researchers, he said, could invent or discover, but could not innovate by themselves. What was needed was an institutional process of innovation and transfer in which discoveries and advances were transferred and concrete results were achieved as a result of their application.
- 1.2.5.14 He said that CIAT was aware of the need to work with the private sector, adding that the CGIAR international research centers must work more closely with the national research and innovation systems and, given the fact that they were receiving fewer donations for research, must partner with others to disseminate the results of their work. He mentioned that one of the commitments assumed in the meeting between IICA and the CGIAR centers

was to focus joint efforts on the countries of Central America, noting that a similar effort could be made with the countries of the Caribbean.

- 1.2.5.15 Mr. Hector Malarin, Chief of the Environment, Rural Development and Disaster Risk Management Division of the IDB, referred to the comments made by the Representative of Chile, agreeing that innovation was a long-term process and should be addressed in a State policy. He added that successes in the area of innovation reported by EMBRAPA, the National Agricultural Technology Institute (INTA), the National Forestry, Agricultural and Fisheries Research Institute (INIFAP), as well as other institutions in LAC demonstrated that long-term processes based on coherent State policies were required. He believed that in the future, the public sector would serve as a catalyst for private investment in research and innovation, which would require the existence of coherent public policies.
- 1.2.5.16 He said that it would be necessary to develop mechanisms for transferring forty years of research to smallholders; an effort in which the State should play a key role. He added that public-sector investment and the promotion and adoption of the ICTs would be necessary to enable persons in rural areas to access information for better decision-making. He explained that exchanges of knowledge in on-site and on-line fora facilitated the transfer of research findings from one country to another.
- 1.2.5.17 In response to the query from the Representative of St. Vincent and the Grenadines regarding access to IDB funds for actions in the area of food security, he explained that the member countries of the IDB were given priority in the distribution of resources, which could be used for projects in fields such as technology transfer, ICTs, exchange of knowledge, South-South transfer, etc.
- 1.2.5.18 Mr. Pedro Antonio Arraes Pereira, President of EMBRAPA, suggested to the Representative of Dominica the possibility of drawing up a joint proposal on a strategy for addressing problems related to pests and diseases affecting the Caribbean. He indicated that EMBRAPA had considerable experience in working with the private sector on initiatives related to innovation, which it was willing to share. Regarding the statement made by the Representative of Chile, he added that innovation had helped to improve the quality of life and increase the incomes of the rural population.

- 1.2.5.19 With respect to transgenic materials, he stated that the position of Brazil and EMBRAPA in this matter was well known, and that in his country, research on such materials was considered crucial. He reported the recent approval, in Brazil, of a new variety of transgenic bean, the first developed by a public research institute, and highlighted the fact that the work done by EMBRAPA in the area of genetically modified organisms was based on solid science, although he fully respected the position of the Representative of Peru on such organisms. Regarding the comment made by the Representative of Panama on the application of Brazilian technology in Colombia, he said that EMBRAPA was prepared to share that and other successful experiences with other countries.
- 1.2.5.20 He concluded his remarks by stating that EMBRAPA was aware that the image of research institutes was very important, and that the image of EMBRAPA was enhanced by carrying out actions and achieving results that improved the quality of life for rural and urban populations.
- 1.3 *Close of the Session*
- 1.3.1 The Chair adjourned the First Plenary Session at 12:35 hours.

SPECIAL SESSION

0.4 *Opening of the Session*

0.4.1 The second part of the Preparatory Session, held as a special session, was called to order at 14:15 hours on October 20, 2011, under the chairmanship of Mrs. Gloria Abraham Peralta, Minister of Agriculture and Livestock Farming of Costa Rica.

0.5 *Final preparations*

0.5.1 Procedures for the analysis and approval of draft resolutions

0.5.1.1 The Technical Secretary explained the proposed procedure for the analysis and approval of draft resolutions, which was approved by the plenary.

0.5.2 Right to vote of the Member States

0.5.2.1 The Director General asked the Legal Advisor to explain the rules governing the right to vote in meetings of the IABA.

0.5.2.2 The Legal Advisor explained Article 24 of the Convention on IICA and those provisions of the Rules of Procedure of the IABA that pertained to the right to vote, stating that all the Member States present at the meeting were entitled to vote.

0.6 *The IICA Office in Colombia: Agro Ingreso Seguro Project*

0.6.2 Outline of the situation

0.6.2.1 The Director General asked the Technical Secretary to present details of the situation involving the IICA Office in Colombia.

- 0.6.2.2 The Technical Secretary explained that the former Government of Colombia had signed a contract directly with IICA, in its capacity as a public international organization, to implement in 2007, 2008 and 2009 the irrigation and drainage component of the subsidy program known as Agro Ingreso Seguro (AIS). He added that, based on claims in the press, the authorities of the preceding Government of Colombia had launched investigations into the possible fraudulent use of AIS resources, which were still being conducted by the current government.
- 0.6.2.3 He then explained the measures taken by the preceding and current governments, which included suspension of contracts signed with IICA and questioning the process followed in contracting with the Institute, both of which could imply the imposition of fines totaling several million dollars.
- 0.6.2.4 Therefore, he felt it that it was a matter of the utmost importance that the Member States had as much information as possible on the case, including the possible financial consequences for IICA of the measures adopted by the authorities in Colombia.
- 0.6.2.5 The Technical Secretary noted that IICA had proposed to the Heads of Delegation the formation of an Ad Hoc Temporary Committee, pursuant to Article 52 of the Rules of Procedure of the IABA. Upon concluding his remarks, he thanked the Minister of Agriculture of Colombia for agreeing to have this issued addressed at this meeting, and distributed a brief report on the case to the all the Heads of Delegation.
- 0.6.2.6 Mr. Juan Camilo Restrepo S., Minister of Agriculture of Colombia, stated that he was in agreement with the information provided by the Technical Secretary and with the formation of an ad hoc committee, adding that the Government of Colombia was more than willing to provide any information that the Committee may require. He added, however, that the purpose of the Committee was to compile information, not to negotiate.
- 0.6.2.7 He mentioned that all the control and oversight bodies of the Colombian State and the Judicial Branch were involved in this case, and that the press had been keeping a close eye on developments.
- 0.6.2.8 With respect to questions raised regarding the AIS project mentioned by the Technical Secretary, he referred to a technical audit conducted by the Universidad Nacional de Colombia, and the attempt to seek payment from the

Confianza insurance company, which had bonded IICA's performance under the contract which the Colombian State considered to be in default.

0.6.2.9 He concluded his remarks by stating that the matter was very awkward and distressing because the relationship between Colombia and IICA had existed for a long time, had always been highly professional and was valued by the Government of Colombia, adding that he hoped that the outcome would be favorable for all the parties involved.

0.6.3 Agreement

0.6.3.1 The Ministers and other Heads of Delegation, pursuant to Article 52 of the Rules of Procedure of the IABA, decided:

0.6.3.2 To create an Ad Hoc Temporary Committee comprising representatives of five countries, one from each of IICA's regions. Argentina, Bolivia, Costa Rica, United States of America and Grenada volunteered to participate.

0.6.3.3 The objectives of this Committee would be: (i) to learn more about the matter, including the possibility of interviewing Colombian authorities; and (ii) to recommend decisions to be taken by the Director General, which must be presented to the Special Advisory Committee on Management Issues and approved by the Executive Committee at its next regular meeting. Depending on the urgency of the matter, the Executive Committee could hold a special meeting.

0.6.3.4 IICA would provide the members of the Ad Hoc Committee with any information they might require.

0.6.3.5 The Chair asked the Technical Secretary to convene a meeting of the Representatives of the Member States designated to sit on the Ad Hoc Committee, for the purpose of defining what requirements the members must meet and how the Committee would operate.

0.7 Close of the Session

0.7.1 The second part of the Preparatory Session was adjourned at 15:10 hours.

SECOND PLENARY SESSION

2.1 Opening of the Session

2.1.1 The Second Plenary Session was called to order at 15:50 hours on October 20, 2011, under the chairmanship of Mrs. Gloria Abraham Peralta, Minister of Agriculture and Livestock Farming of Costa Rica.

2.2 Message from the Director General of IICA

2.2.1 The Chair gave the floor to the Director General to deliver a message to those present and those following the meeting via the Internet.

2.2.2 The Director General indicated that two years had elapsed since he was elected to conduct the affairs of the Institute. During that time, the global scenario had changed and, as a result of the crisis in energy and food prices in 2008, the countries had reassessed the importance of their agricultural sectors, and had placed food security at the center of their public policies.

2.2.3 He noted that recovery had been underway in Latin America for those two years, driven by flows of capital, the growth in exports of food and other raw materials, the application of sound policies to counteract the crises, and the rapid expansion of credit. However, the 15 net food importing countries in the region had been hurt by continually rising food prices, which slowed progress in reaching goals in the area of food security. He recognized that the countries of the Americas had great potential to increase food production and better face future challenges, but that this which would require the investment of resources in projects aimed at innovation. He also felt it was necessary to strengthen those mechanisms that would make it possible to strengthen the comparative advantages and overcome structural weaknesses in agriculture at the national and regional levels, and to reaffirm, throughout the region, the commitment to solidarity and cooperation.

- 2.2.4 He added that, to enable IICA to contribute effectively to the efforts of the Member States to revitalize the development of their agricultural sectors, as well as meet the growing demand for cooperation with limited resources, it had been necessary to focus the Institute's actions on the provision of technical cooperation, streamline its structure and secure more and more resources from other sources.
- 2.2.5 He explained that the Institute possessed a road map approved by its Member States: the 2010-2014 Medium-term Plan and the 2010-2020 Strategic Plan, whose strategic objectives were: (i) to make the agricultural sector more productive and competitive; (ii) to increase agriculture's contribution to the development of rural territories and to the well-being of their inhabitants; (iii) to improve the capacity of agriculture to mitigate the effects of climate change and adapt to it, while making better use of natural resources; and (iv) to increase agriculture's contribution to food security.
- 2.2.6 He explained that the Institute had concentrated its technical cooperation efforts on six programs: Innovation for productivity and competitiveness; Agribusiness and commercialization; Agricultural health and food safety; Development of rural territories; Food security; and Natural resource management and climate change, with the latter two cutting across all IICA actions.
- 2.2.7 He then referred to the most important accomplishments of his administration under the motto "A single IICA": a) an MTP considered relevant by our partners and the beneficiaries of the Institute's technical cooperation had been prepared; b) a new and more workable institutional structure and organization had been designed and implemented; c) the technical cooperation programs had been revamped and innovations introduced into their lines of action; d) the General Directorate's Fund, to which the government of the United States had contributed US\$150,000 for the 2012 Call for Proposals, had been launched; e) some 100 scholarships had been made available for students from the member countries to pursue graduate degrees in universities and research centers in Mexico in the areas of agricultural and rural development, thanks to a contribution of US\$3 million per year from the government of Mexico; f) the Visiting Professionals Initiative, which, through visits by high-level specialists, would increase the knowledge of IICA technical personnel, had been launched; g) internal thematic networks comprising Institute specialists and technical personnel, which facilitated the horizontal transfer of knowledge, information and experiences, had been formed; h) an IICA-Country Strategy had been

formulated in each country Office aimed at meeting the needs and priorities of the respective Member State and other key stakeholders in the agricultural sector; i) administrative and decision-making processes were continuously being improved and the system used to evaluate personnel had been made more transparent; and j) better use was being made of the ICTs, thanks in part to the creation of videoconferencing capabilities in practically all the country Offices, and the Institute website, which now centered on the provision of technical information, had been redesigned and was much more user-friendly.

- 2.2.8 The Director General indicated that the tasks that had not yet been carried out were those that would take longer, but that over the past two years, the foundation had been laid for their implementation. He added that institutional change was complex, especially when it was necessary to develop new capabilities and innovate, a process which had been affected by financial constraints. As a result, given the modification of the OAS quota scale, he thanked those countries which, even though they could have reduced their IICA quota, had opted to keep it at the current level, and those that had decided to increase it: Argentina, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay and Uruguay.
- 2.2.9 He explained that the Administration had given very serious thought to the options available to the Institute for overcoming its financial constraints, and to the consequences of what the Member States might decide at this meeting. Even though the Institute had survived for almost two decades despite a continual decline in the purchasing power of its quota resources, the cost had been high. The reality of stagnant quotas with increasing operating costs had weakened the Institute, for example, by making it very difficult to recruit and keep highly qualified personnel and to continue to provide high quality technical cooperation to the Member States.
- 2.2.10 He reminded the participants at the meeting that IICA did not belong to the Director General and the technical personnel who provided technical cooperation, but to the Member States, whose governments should ask what was in store for an institution with such limited resources. He mentioned several actions that had been taken to attract resources, all of which had been insufficient and could not replace the commitment the countries had undertaken in the Convention on IICA. He noted that the time had come for the Member States to make decisions aimed at solving this problem.

2.2.11 He stated emphatically that his commitment to the Member States was unswerving, and that his administration would respect any decision they might reach, regardless of the difficult circumstances that may arise as a result. He stated that he believed in IICA's capacity to be a leading institution in the provision of high-quality technical cooperation.

2.2.12 He concluded by saying that there was much to be done to make a quantitative leap in agricultural and rural development in the hemisphere, which would require the support of the countries. Today, more than ever, the Institute needed to be strengthened if it was to pursue the mission with which the countries had entrusted it: "to support their efforts to develop the agricultural sector and strive for rural well-being."

2.3 Financial and programmatic-budgetary situation 2012-2013

2.3.1 The Secretary of Corporate Services, Mr. Carlos O'Farrill, referred to several characteristics of IICA that made it the partner of choice for the Member States in promoting the development of their agricultural and rural sectors: (i) it constituted a macro knowledge network that promoted the incorporation and management of cutting-edge topics; (ii) it provided flexible, effective and relevant responses to the growing demands of the agricultural sector; (iii) it had a clear focus on the provision of technical cooperation and offered viable alternatives for addressing the challenges and problems of the sector; (iv) it generated multiplier effects with the funds used to deliver technical cooperation in the countries; (v) it managed its financial resources in a disciplined, equitable, rational and transparent manner; (vi) it managed its operations in the most cost-efficient manner to ensure the provision of high-quality cooperation in its member countries, and (vii) it was an institution whose units carried out their actions in strict adherence to the guidelines issued by the governing bodies and the Director General.

2.3.2 Progress in the collection of quotas

2.3.2.1 The Secretary of Corporate Services explained that the Member States contributed to the maintenance of the Institute through annual quotas established by the Board, in accordance with the system for the calculation of quotas of the OAS. He indicated that in 2010 the Institute had received quotas totaling US\$27.9 million, and that US\$1.7 million were pending payment. He added that as at October 17, 2011, a total of US\$22.6 million had been collected, with US\$6.4 million pending payment. He reported that 23 countries were up to date

in the payment of their quotas, nine were in regular status, one was in special status and one was in arrears. Lastly, he mentioned that, in 2003, 44% of the countries were up to date in the payment of their quotas, whereas in 2011 that figure had risen to 68%.

2.3.3 Financial statements for 2009-2010

2.3.3.1 The Secretary of Corporate Services explained that, according to the independent auditors from the firm of Deloitte & Touche S. A., the audit evidence they obtained was sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for their qualified audit opinion: “... *the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of IICA as of December 31, 2010 and 2009, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with the generally accepted accounting principles in the United States of America...*”

2.3.3.2 He added that the external auditors had observed that an actuarial study should be conducted of the Institute’s termination benefit provisions, and that purchase commitments of goods and services should not be recognized as liabilities at the end of the year if they had not been received.

2.3.4 Sixteenth and Seventeenth Reports of the Audit Review Committee (ARC)

2.3.4.1 The Secretary of Corporate Services reported that the Audit Review Committee (ARC), based on the reports of the external auditors, had noted no violations of the rules and procedures governing the operations of the General Directorate and called attention to: (i) the importance of collecting quotas owed to the Institute; (ii) the advisability of providing training to strengthen internal controls; (iii) the importance of installing and operating the SAP system; (iv) the advisability of formulating a proposal for updating and improving the remuneration system; (v) the importance of conducting an actuarial study at Headquarters, and (vi) the importance of continuing to monitor the collection of quotas, and the impact of inflation and other factors.

2.3.5 Proposed 2012-2013 Program Budget

2.3.5.1 The Secretary of Corporate Services indicated that the objectives of the proposed 2012-2013 Program Budget were as follows: (i) to ensure that the Institute remained a viable technical cooperation instrument of the Member States, one that supported their efforts to achieve the sustainable development of

agriculture, promote food security and reduce poverty; (ii) to gradually restore the Institute's financial capacity, as a means of enhancing the cooperation services it provided to its Member States; y (iii) to promote the policy established by the current administration calling for an increase in the Institutional Net Rate (INR), used to cover the incremental costs generated in the administration of externally funded projects.

- 2.3.5.2 He indicated that most of the resources from the Regular Fund had been allocated for the provision of technical cooperation, and that the goal was for 90% of such resources to be earmarked for technical cooperation. He noted that progress was being made in achieving that goal, considering that in 2011 the percentage was 88.8% and would be 89.3% and 89.7% in 2012 and 2013, respectively. He reported that the allocation to the Regular Fund in 2011 was US\$33,398,200, and would be US\$33,789,600 and US\$33,909,000 in 2012 and 2013, respectively.
- 2.3.5.3 He reported that increases in the amounts of the quotas of the Member States resulted from the commitment on the part of Argentina, Belize, El Salvador, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay and Uruguay to contribute an "over-quota" in order to help lessen the gradual loss in the purchasing power of the resources of the Regular Fund, caused by inflation, and that fact that quotas had been frozen since 1995. He added that, due to those two factors, the cumulative loss of purchasing power since then had been 28%, and that in 2010 alone the loss totalled 4.17%.
- 2.3.5.4 He then indicated that: (i) the current economic context posed complex challenges, but also presented cooperation opportunities for the Member States with; (ii) to provide IICA with financial support was the most cost-effective option for the Member States, since the strengths it possessed made it the ideal strategic partner in developing their agricultural sectors and promoting rural well-being; (iii) the Institute provided technical cooperation of the highest quality to its Member States and, were they to cover the costs of such cooperation, those costs would be much higher; (iv) IICA generated important multiplier effects and constituted an investment that guaranteed a high social rate of return; (v) the Institute managed and disseminated knowledge and operated as a macro network that generated public goods; (vi) IICA, despite its financial constraints, had made a major effort to provide effective and relevant responses to the demands of the its Member States; (vii) the Institute was approaching the limit of operational elasticity, making it difficult to provide technical cooperation and live up to its standards of high quality, and (viii) IICA

was a highly specialized organization whose actions were designed to meet technical and administrative needs. He concluded by stating that IICA was the best partner the Member States could have in developing their agricultural sectors and promoting rural well-being.

2.3.6 Report on progress in the study on the policy for recovering costs incurred in administering externally funded projects (TIN)

- 2.3.6.1 The Secretary of Corporate Services explained that, given the financial constraints facing the Institute, the Executive Committee had recommended in July the application of a policy aimed at recovering all costs incurred in the administration of externally funded projects, and had requested that the services of an external consulting firm be retained to validate the policy or to suggest any necessary modifications.
- 2.3.6.2 He reported that the terms of reference for the study had been prepared, and that recommendations had been received from firms in Canada and the United States with experience in the field. He announced that the firm of EAM, Inc./ Mosley & Associates had been selected and had already visited IICA Headquarters and drawn up a four-phase work plan: (i) to hold initial discussions with the Director General and IICA staff to assess the current situation, determine the information that would be required and plan the activities to be carried out; (ii) to conduct an analysis of those factors that had an impact on the current policy, of the generation of direct and indirect costs and of the cost structure of Headquarters and the Offices (five on-site visits and six on-line meetings); (iii) to study the practices and policies of similar organizations, analyze and summarize the information compiled and make proposals for improvement, and (iv) to prepare a report containing the results of the analysis of the current policy, and recommendations on best practices.
- 2.3.6.3 He concluded by stating that the study would be concluded by March 2012, for presentation to the Special Advisory Committee on Management Issues (SACMI) and the Executive Committee. The report would include the findings on the methodology used by IICA, internal and external limitations that could affect the application of the policy, how IICA compared with other cooperation agencies, and recommendations and suggestions on establishing a policy aimed at ensuring the full recovery of all costs incurred in the administration of externally funded projects.

- 2.3.6.4 The Representative of Dominica stated that, thanks to the presentation, he now understood the financial situation of the Institute, especially its undercapitalization. He felt that this was happening because some countries owed quotas to the Institute; one owed some US\$2 million because it had paid no quotas for three or four years in a row. He asked if IICA had attempted to find out why that country had not paid its quota.
- 2.3.6.5 The Secretary of Corporate Services explained that IICA had been in contact with the government of Venezuela on a number of occasions, but that, to date, no progress could be reported. He added that, as part of the organization of the Sixteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA, the Director General of IICA had met with the Venezuelan ambassador to Costa Rica, who offered to speak with authorities from the government regarding this matter.
- 2.3.6.6 The Representative of Honduras congratulated the Institute on the decision to launch the initiative in which the CONACYT of Mexico would make 100 scholarships available, and asked for clarification regarding the methodology to be used in awarding them.
- 2.3.6.7 The Secretary of Corporate Services explained that IICA would ensure an equitable distribution of the scholarships among the Member States. He added that 100 had been set as the minimum number of scholarships in the negotiations with the CONACYT, and that that number could increase in the future. The scholarships applied not only to Master's and Doctoral programs, but also to specializations in technical fields. He noted that the process of selecting recipients of the scholarships would be concluded in 2012, which meant that the program could begin in 2012.
- 2.4 *Responsibilities of the IABA Representative on the Governing Council of CATIE*
- 2.4.1 The Technical Secretary explained that the IABA was also the highest governing body of CATIE and had the right to appoint a representative to the Governing Council of CATIE, with the right to participate and vote in its meetings; and that the Member States expected to designate the IABA representative to the Governing Council of CATIE were: Dominica (2011-2012); United States of America (2013-2014); Chile (2015-2016) and Ecuador (2017-2018).
- 2.4.1 He added that it was extremely important to consolidate the strategic partnership between IICA and CATIE; that the Executive Committee, at its meeting in 2011, approved the IICA-CATIE Program for Joint Action for the period 2011-

2014; and that every effort should be made to ensure that the decisions taken by the Governing Council of CATIE contribute effectively to the implementation of the program for joint action.

2.4.2 He then explained that the Executive Committee, by means of Resolution IICA/CE/Res. 543 (XXXI-O/11), passed at its Thirty-first Regular Meeting, proposed to the IABA the responsibilities that the person appointed to be its representative on the Governing Council of CATIE should assume; that the primary responsibility of the representative was to “ensure that the joint activities between IICA and CATIE were reinforced and expanded and that the technical, administrative and financial mechanisms used to facilitate joint actions were strengthened.” In concluding, he stated that the list of proposed responsibilities had been prepared by a working group of the Executive Committee.

2.5 *Proposal to modify the period for the delivery of working documents for the regular meetings of the IABA*

2.5.1 The Technical Secretary explained that, pursuant to Article 22 of the Rules of Procedure of the IABA, “*The Director General shall send the necessary background documentation to the Member States, IICA Associates and Permanent Observers at least 45 days prior to the opening date of the meeting.*”

2.5.2 He added that the Executive Committee, by means of Resolution IICA/CE/Res. 525 (XXX-0/10), had decided to reduce from 45 to 30 days the period for distributing the working documents for its regular meetings to the countries via electronic media, and tasked the Director General with presenting for the consideration of the IABA, at its Sixteenth Regular Meeting, a draft resolution calling for a similar reduction (45 days to 30 days) in the period for the delivery of working documents for its regular meetings.

2.5.3 He then mentioned several reasons why the IABA should consider the proposal: (i) in the past, the working and informational documents were distributed by courier, which required more time and was very costly; (ii) thanks to ICTs, documents could be distributed more rapidly today; (iii) during the current period of 45 days, documents often had to be updated, making it necessary to redistribute them; and (iv) to reduce the period from 45 to 30 days would afford the Secretariat more time to prepare, study, and translate the documents.

- 2.5.4 Lastly, he referred to the proposal made by the Director General to the effect that working and information documents for the meetings of the IABA that were not confidential be made freely available on the IICA website in an electronic format that ensured that they could not be modified by third parties. Their classification as confidential would be based on the content of the documents.
- 2.5.5 The Representative of Honduras asked the Technical Secretary to further explain the proposal.
- 2.5.6 The Technical Secretary explained that the proposal called for delivering the documents 30 days prior to the regular meetings of the IABA, rather than 45 days, as had been required under Article 22 of the Rules of Procedure of that body. He added that the documents would be distributed using the new ICTs, which would make it possible to save money, send more up-to-date documents and give the Secretariat more time to prepare and translate them. He recalled that the Executive Committee had already reduced from 45 to 30 days the period for the delivery of the documents for its meetings, and had recommended that the IABA do the same.
- 2.5.7 There being no further comments from the Representatives of the Member States, the Chair indicated that the Secretariat would present to the consideration of the plenary a draft resolution containing the Executive Committee proposal, which had been summarized by the Technical Secretary.
- 2.6 *Status of the resolutions of the IABA and the Executive Committee*
- 2.6.1 The Technical Secretary, referring to the report on the implementation of the resolutions approved at the Fifteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA (2009) and the Thirtieth and Thirty-first Meetings of the Executive Committee (2010 and 2011), noted that in previous IABA meetings considerable time was spent in analyzing such reports. He explained that, in order to spend less time on this matter during this meeting of the IABA, (i) the reports had been posted on the IICA Website 45 days earlier; (ii) the reports detailed the status of each of the resolutions approved at the aforementioned meetings, and (iii) consequently, should any Representative have a question or comment on the implementation of those resolutions, he/she could consult the Technical Secretariat on an individual basis.

- 2.6.2 The Chair, after ensuring that the Representatives of the Members States were in agreement with the procedure proposed by the Technical Secretary, called for specific questions. There being no comments or objections, the Chair declared the discussion of this agenda item closed.
- 2.7 Reading and approval of draft resolutions
- 2.7.1 The Rapporteur read aloud the following draft resolutions: “2009 and 2010 Financial Statements of the Institute,” “Report of the External Auditors and Sixteenth and Seventeenth Reports of the Audit Review Committee (ARC),” “Progress in the collection of quotas,” “2012-2013 Program Budget,” “Progress in implementing the IICA 2010-2014 Medium-term Plan,” “Period for delivery of the working documents for the regular meetings of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA),” and “Status of the resolutions of the Fifteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA and the Thirtieth and Thirty-first Meetings of the Executive Committee,” all of which were approved as read.
- 2.8 Close of the session
- 2.8.1 The Second Plenary Session of the Sixteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture was adjourned at 17:30 hours.

THIRD PLENARY SESSION

3.1 *Opening of the session*

- 3.1.1 The Third Plenary Session of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture was called to order at 9:05 hours, under the chairmanship of Mrs. Gloria Abraham Peralta, Minister of Agriculture and Livestock Farming of Costa Rica.

3.2 *Draft resolutions*

- 3.2.1 The Rapporteur read aloud the following draft resolutions: “Full recovery of the costs incurred in administering externally funded projects” and “Responsibilities of the IABA Representative on the Governing Council of the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE),” which were approved as read.

3.3 *IICA’s strategic partnerships*

- 3.3.1 The Chair gave the floor to the Director General of IICA, who referred to the immense challenges facing agriculture and to the responses that could be provided in meeting them as a result of partnerships with other organizations. He stated that the challenges and the uncertainty in agriculture required the formation of new partnerships based on complementary efforts, efficiency and clear rules, in order to avoid a duplication of efforts and unnecessary expense.
- 3.3.2 He stated that IICA had proven to be efficient and responsible in the delivery of technical cooperation, adding that the Institute had promoted the formation of numerous strategic partnerships with the aim of joining forces, creating synergies, making maximum use of resources and sharing technical knowledge.
- 3.3.3 As evidence of such partnerships, he highlighted the signing, in July, of an agreement for cooperation with the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE). He also mentioned the partnership with the

Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) and noted that the first steps had been taken to form a partnership with the directors of four CGIAR international centers: the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT), the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) and the International Potato Center (CIP).

- 3.3.4 He also mentioned the partnerships that existed between IICA and international, hemispheric and regional organizations such as the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the European Union (EU), the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Co-operation (CTA), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the World Trade Organizations (WTO), the World Food Programme (WFP), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the World Bank (WB), the Organization of American States (OAS), the Iberoamerican General Secretariat (SEGIB), the Market Information Organization of the Americas (MIOA), the International Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB), Google, the CGIAR, CATIE, CARDI and the Latin American Trade Network, as well as others.
- 3.3.5 Next he referred to the partnerships established with universities and national organizations such as the Universities of Cordoba, Madrid, California-Berkeley, California-Davis, Nebraska, Michigan, Ohio and Iowa; the Autonomous University of Chapingo and its Graduate School; the National Science and Technology Council (CONACYT) of Mexico and the Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (EMBRAPA), etc. He also mentioned partnerships with countries, including Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Finland, Korea, Japan, Spain, United States, Mexico and Switzerland, and the IICA-ECLAC-FAO partnership, which had produced for the last three years an annual report on the state of and outlook for agriculture and rural life in the Americas.
- 3.3.6 As a highlight of his presentation, and given the presence of Dr. Jose Graziano Da Silva, Director General-elect of FAO at the meeting, the Director General of IICA underscored the importance of the partnership between IICA and FAO, institutions which share the same objectives. He noted that, given the new challenges that existed today, IICA wished to reaffirm its willingness to work with FAO in fulfilling their shared responsibilities in the area of agriculture and food security. In concluding his remarks, the Director General proposed that the two organizations adopt a common agenda aimed at

benefitting agriculture throughout the hemisphere, and that any achievements made as a result of the implementation of that agenda be presented to both organizations.

3.4 *Presentation by the Director General-elect of FAO: "FAO's vision and relations between IICA and FAO"*

3.4.1 The Director General-elect of FAO, Dr. Jose Graziano Da Silva, stated his solidarity with the Central American countries recently ravaged by severe storms and pledged action on the part of his organization to restore the livelihoods of and access to food for those populations at risk in Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras. He noted that work was already underway to assess damage and formulate projects. He then underscored the importance of strengthening institutional capabilities in those countries and focusing on long-term objectives, in an effort to make the region less vulnerable to climatic events, which should not be viewed as chance occurrences.

3.4.2 In the opinion of the Director General-elect of FAO, who will assume his new post in January 2012, his election reflected the hope of developing countries to move forward in alleviating poverty and promoting social growth. He took the opportunity to thank the countries and political and economic integration bodies that had supported his candidacy, trusting that he would have their support in implementing the five pillars of the plan he had proposed as a candidate: (i) the eradication of hunger through responsible and equitable economic growth; (ii) the sustainable production of food and the adoption of sustainable models of consumption that include healthier diets; (iii) the development of an efficient global system of governance for food and food security; (iv) the reform of FAO in pursuit of true decentralization, with delegation of authority to countries and regions and with greater transparency and responsibility; and (v) South-South cooperation, with a view to drawing on successful experiences in developing countries in the area of combating poverty, promoting agriculture (especially family agriculture) and rural development.

3.4.3 He explained that he had held discussions with representatives of the public and private sectors as well as civil society in several countries, and had found them willing to participate in joint efforts aimed at eradicating poverty. He recognized that the joint IICA-FAO-ECLAC reports demonstrated what could be accomplished together and added that, in Central America and the Southern Cone, events had been co-organized to analyze the reports. Nonetheless, he

felt that more needed to be done to create permanent mechanisms for collaboration and complementary actions among these organizations.

- 3.4.4 He proposed that IICA and FAO focus and expand cooperation on issues with the greatest impact on agriculture, such as the continued rise in and volatility of food prices. He added that both organizations had carried out joint actions on issues that were urgent for the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), and that they were examining ways to avoid a duplication of efforts and complement each other's actions in order to make maximum use of the resources available in the Caribbean, including the possibility of sharing office facilities.
- 3.4.5 He agreed with the Director General of IICA, who called for the joint provision of support to the technical secretariats of the Central American Agricultural Council (CAC) and the Southern Agricultural Council (CAS), to integrate their efforts, boost the capabilities of both councils and provide support on critical issues such as climate change.
- 3.4.6 With respect to relations between FAO and IICA, he stated that, even though the cooperation agreement has been signed in the 1970s, any achievements made since then had been the result of the individual efforts of each organization rather than interinstitutional cooperation, which meant that a new approach to joint work was needed. He proposed that a joint program be prepared and presented at meetings of both organizations, beginning with the FAO regional meeting scheduled for April 2012. He invited the Director General of IICA to attend the FAO general meeting to be held in January.
- 3.4.7 He emphasized the fact that a multidisciplinary approach must be adopted in addressing today's challenges, and that for food security to become a reality, more would have to be invested in agriculture and food security programs would have to be implemented. The promotion of family agriculture and a return to the cultivation of traditional crops were complementary actions which, together with others, would help to weather increases in the prices of commodities.
- 3.4.8 He noted that planting, harvesting and consuming food promoted economic growth, but that it was necessary to integrate the actions of civil society and the public and private sectors. He closed by stating that the fact that a representative of Latin America and the Caribbean was now the Director General of FAO constituted an unprecedented opportunity for the region.

3.5 Statement by the Representative of the Dominican Republic

- 3.5.1 The Chair gave the floor to the Representative of the Dominican Republic to deliver a statement from the President of his country, Mr. Leonel Fernandez.
- 3.5.2 He began by offering expressions of solidarity and stating the willingness of his country to provide support for those Central American countries recently hit by severe weather conditions. He then referred to the concerns of President Fernandez, stated during the LXVI U.N. General Session, regarding the impact of speculation on the prices of food and petroleum. He explained that, since 2005, the prices of food and petroleum, as well as petroleum by-products, had risen continuously, and warned that, according to figures provided by FAO, as a result of those increases, 150 million more persons could not meet their basic food needs, bringing the number of people in the world suffering from hunger to 1 billion.
- 3.5.3 He noted that, as a consequence of the economic recession of 2008, food prices fell temporarily, but rose again during the limited recovery experienced in 2010, and that inflation was now on the rise. As an example, he referred to the price of oil, which, in July 2008 hit US\$247 per barrel, and had fallen to US\$37 by the end of that year. He stated that arguments pointing to the growth of the population and the emerging economies, the effects of climate variability and human conflicts as the cause, did not justify those increases. He added that, in addition to those factors, financial speculation with regard to commodity futures contracts played a crucial role and was responsible for 30% to 40% of these increases.
- 3.5.4 In light of this situation, the Dominican Republic recommended that food be used as food and not as merchandise or a financial asset for purposes of speculation, with the goal being to make markets transparent and achieve a level of stability that would benefit consumers. He believed it was necessary to place limits on the amounts of the transactions carried out by players not involved in transactions related to agricultural products, such as insurance companies, investment banks, and to increase the guarantees they must provide, in order to discourage the participation of external players. He stated that he was confident that the countries would adopt these and other measures in overcoming the food security crisis affecting all of humanity. Lastly, he reiterated that the initiative undertaken by President Fernandez was fair and necessary to ensure the survival of the human species.

- 3.6 *Dialogue between the Representative of the Member States and the Director General-elect of FAO*
- 3.6.1 The Representatives of Canada, Honduras, Dominica, Uruguay, Mexico, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Grenada, Argentina, Guyana, Antigua and Barbuda, Suriname, Guatemala, Peru, Costa Rica, United States of America, Trinidad and Tobago, St. Lucia, Haiti and Panama congratulated Mr. Jose Graziano da Silva on his election to the post of Director General of FAO, expressed their approval of the election and pledged their support.
- 3.6.2 The Representative of Barbados expressed the hope that the Caribbean region would benefit from greater cooperation between IICA and FAO. He also expressed the hope that the organizations of the region, including CARDI, would be taken into account and could strengthen their innovation. He added that the agreement signed by IICA and CARDI at the Thirtieth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee, should have called for not only the provision of resources, but also mechanisms for horizontal cooperation and greater coordination, in order to avoid a duplication of efforts. This would make it possible to accomplish more with fewer resources.
- 3.6.3 The Representative de Colombia explained that reprehensible and ill-intentioned speculation in food prices occurred in the futures market because they did not function properly and due to the lack of transparency in the provision of information. He reported that the G-20 had been working on this topic and on the Declaration to be presented to the Heads of State. He urged FAO to improve the systems it operated to store statistics on stockpiles of key foods.
- 3.6.4 The Representative of Honduras expressed concern regarding the volatility of food prices and the way in which the price of such products was negotiated in commodity exchanges, which, he believed, affected both producers and consumers. He endorsed the proposal presented by Colombia, as well as the idea of regulating the futures market for staple foods and making it more transparent, which, he noted, was one of the few markets not subject to regulation.
- 3.6.5 The Representative of Mexico recalled that his county would chair the G-20 in 2012 and seconded the request for support from FAO. He indicated that a proposal had been made forth to incorporate regional organizations such as

IICA into the implementation of the G-20 Plan of Action approved by the ministers.

- 3.6.6 The Representative of Canada congratulated IICA and FAO for attempting to coordinate their actions more effectively and avoid the duplication of efforts. He agreed with the importance of establishing partnerships with other institutions and promoting those in which organizations of the public and private and academic sectors participated.
- 3.6.7 The Representative of Dominica was of the opinion that IICA and FAO should work together if they were going to achieve their common objectives related to agriculture and food security. He recommended enhancement of the synergy that existed between the two institutions, especially in the Caribbean, which would make it possible to improve living conditions in LAC.
- 3.6.8 The Representative of Costa Rica indicated that, in light of the limited resources available in cooperation agencies, it was necessary to strengthen the models for joint action, such as the one that existed among IICA, FAO and ECLAC, and apply it to other topics in which their agenda coincided, such as agricultural health, rural development and innovation.
- 3.6.9 The Representative of Trinidad and Tobago expressed interest in ensuring good relations among IICA, FAO, ECLAC and CARDI, with an eye to promoting the development of agriculture from a more strategic approach and avoiding a duplication of efforts.
- 3.6.10 The Representative of St. Lucia expressed interest in coordinating actions with different organizations, such as FAO, IICA and CIAT, in order to respond to problems such as Black Sigatoka, which was devastating banana plantations in her country. She endorsed the request from the Representative of Barbados calling for IICA and FAO to support CARDI.
- 3.6.11 The Representative of St. Vincent and the Grenadines also underscored the importance of strengthening ties between institutions to address problems such as Black Sigatoka, ensure food security and improve living conditions for the population.
- 3.6.12 The Representative of Grenada explained that his country was also affected by the diseases mentioned by other delegations from the Caribbean, such as the Red Palm Weevil and Black Sigatoka, and the loss of nutmeg plantations in

the wake of hurricanes. He believed that IICA and FAO could support the Caribbean in solving these problems.

- 3.6.13 The Representative of Argentina also congratulated the Director General-elect of FAO, and underscored the importance of integrating the agendas of ECLAC, FAO and IICA. He drew attention to the importance of focusing on key topics such as the price volatility, acknowledged the impact of speculation on markets, and stated that climate change and increased demand contributed to lower food stocks worldwide. Lastly, he mentioned that it was essential to increase production, which would require the acquisition of new technologies and the promotion of innovation.
- 3.6.14 The Representative of Guyana reported that successful projects had been carried out with FAO in his country and expressed the hope that it would continue to receive support from FAO, IICA and CARICOM.
- 3.6.15 The Representative of Haiti endorsed the idea of stronger collaboration between IICA and FAO.
- 3.6.16 The Representative of Antigua and Barbuda congratulated IICA and FAO for the synergy they had created over the years, stating this it was a necessary in the face of scarce resources. He noted that IICA had personnel in the region and that it was important to draw on their experience and expertise in order to avoid the duplication of efforts, and to work in a collaborative manner. He underscored the existence of a wealth of information on research findings, which was not available to producers. He stated that IICA and FAO could help to ensure that such information reached the producers. He stressed the importance of having access to other types of information; for example, data on suppliers of agricultural equipment and tools.
- 3.6.17 The Representative of Uruguay stated that networking among countries was vital in addressing the challenges. However, he highlighted the heterogeneous nature of the hemisphere, where, for example, the volatility of prices was a matter of concern for the countries, but one that affected each differently. He recommended that this heterogeneity be considered in joint IICA-FAO actions, and that technical instruments be developed in keeping with the different realities.
- 3.6.18 The Representative of Panama joined her fellow Representatives in calling for closer ties between IICA and FAO. She agreed with the Director General-

elect on the need to invest more in agriculture, adding that business owners needed to be convinced of the importance of investing in food production as a means of achieving food security.

- 3.6.19 The Representative of Guatemala thanked FAO for its offer of support in response to the emergency situation in his country caused by recent floods. He noted that Guatemala was in third or fourth place in LAC in terms of under-nutrition, and found itself among the ten countries at greatest risk from the effects of climate change. As a result, it was important for his country to continue to receive support from FAO.
- 3.6.20 The Representative of Peru also referred to the benefits of increased coordination between the two institutions. He recommended that FAO and IICA analyze the impact on food production of the incentives offered to promote the production of biofuels, expressing concern regarding the impact these could have on forests, food production and efforts to combat climate change. He added that the impact on price volatility and food reserves should also be analyzed.
- 3.6.21 The Chair asked the Director General-elect of FAO and the Director General of IICA to comment on the observations made by the Representatives of the member countries.
- 3.6.22 Mr. Graziano da Silva stated that the strong support of the countries of the region contributed greatly to his election and again thanked the countries present for their support. He said that the time had come to implement actions and that he would need the support of all in doing so. He mentioned that one of the focuses of his administration would be to prioritize FAO's actions, in order to avoid the implementation of too many specific actions. The priorities would be the topics that the Representatives had mentioned at the present meeting, such as transboundary diseases, food safety, food security and sustainable production. Another focus would be to regionalize and strengthen the partnerships that existed with IICA and ECLAC, and to promote South-South cooperation, underscoring the contributions that EMBRAPA had made in the area of innovation.
- 3.6.23 With respect to food price volatility, he underscored the importance for Mexico, once it assumes its new responsibilities in the G-20, to promote the need for more transparent and better quality information, as France had begun to do. He offered to provide Mexico with support in the area of market

regulation and the quality of information; congratulated the Dominican Republic for its leadership and the position it had adopted vis-à-vis speculation and for suggesting that food not be treated as a commodity; and indicated that he would bear in mind the opinion expressed by the Representative of Uruguay.

- 3.6.24 With respect to relations with IICA, he recalled the efforts and difficulties of the past, but underscored the actions taken in certain areas. He said that the next step was to formalize those relations, and recommended that the initiative to strengthen interinstitutional relations be submitted to the consideration of the FAO Regional Conference, scheduled to be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, as a means of speeding up its implementation.
- 3.6.25 The Director General of IICA reiterated that no single institution could solve the complex problems facing agriculture and stated that it was with this understanding that the Institute was promoting a renewed partnership with FAO. He stated that there was agreement that both institutions would provide support to the Caribbean and strengthen the partnership with CARDI. He believed that partnerships were more the result of joint efforts than of the signing of a document, and that both institutions had pledged to report on the results of the partnership.
- 3.7 *Outlook for agriculture and rural development in the Americas: a perspective on Latin America and the Caribbean 2011-2012*
- 3.7.1 The Acting Chair, Mr. Walter Matthew, Minister of Agriculture and Forests of Dominica, gave the floor to Mr. Rafael Trejos, Director of IICA's Center for Strategic Analysis for Agriculture (CAESPA), to present the topic "Outlook for agriculture and rural development in the Americas: a perspective on Latin America and the Caribbean 2011-2012."
- 3.7.2 The Director of CAESPA explained that his analysis would encompass four aspects: the macroeconomic context, the sectoral context, the rural sector and the ICTs.
- 3.7.3 He explained that, with respect to the *macroeconomic context*, the report revealed that the global economy had shown signs of recovery in 2010, but that international prices had risen and were still high. At the *sectoral* level, growth in agriculture had been positive in a context characterized by rising and volatile prices. The long-term trend would be for real prices to increase.

Agriculture in LAC had weathered the most recent global crises fairly well and was one of the engines driving the recovery of the economies in the region. The outlook was good, but the report identified certain concerns.

- 3.7.4 He noted that the outlook for *livestock farming* was one of great opportunities, but that it was necessary to invest in innovation and encourage the production of livestock in family farming. The region's *fisheries and aquaculture* sector was undergoing transition from a small-scale model to one that was technology intensive, export-oriented and more focused on environmental sustainability.
- 3.7.5 He mentioned that the *forests* of LAC represented 23.6% of all forest cover in the world; that the loss of forest cover was slowing; that the region's share in the global production and marketing of forest products had increased; that the contribution of the forest sector to the GDP of the region had grown steadily; and that the amount of carbon stored in the forest biomass had declined.
- 3.7.6 With respect to *rural well-being*, he mentioned that the crisis in LAC had less of a negative impact than expected in terms of the levels of poverty and rural incomes, and that it had been shown that changes up or down in levels of rural poverty were tied to changes in the agricultural sector and in the economy in general.
- 3.7.7 In closing, Trejos noted that the use of ICTs constituted a new challenge for agriculture, adding that the report addressed the issue of ICTs in the public institutional framework of agriculture, and their role in agricultural production.
- 3.8 *Ministerial dialogue: innovation for sustainable, competitive and inclusive agriculture*
- 3.8.1 The Representative of the United States of America thanked IICA and the government of Costa Rica for organizing the Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas 2011, and the Director of CAESPA for his presentation.
- 3.8.2 The Representative of Peru noted that in his country the process of bringing innovation to small-scale producers was born out of the need to promote agriculture in geographic areas with extreme climatic conditions. The technologies used, especially in the areas of irrigation, made it possible to expand production for the export market, especially of asparagus. He added

that the same had happened, as a result of renewed interest in the gastronomic culture of Peru, which opened up the possibility of generating commercial development capabilities and discovering the potential of native products on national and international markets. Finally, he stated that his country was proceeding cautiously with respect to the use of transgenic seeds owing to the negative impact that these might have on the native products.

- 3.8.3 The Representative of Mexico thanked IICA and the government of Costa Rica for organizing the Meeting of Minister of Agriculture of the Americas. He explained that the development and innovation process in his country was based on the articulation of chains, the transfer of knowledge, extension and financial support from the Secretariat of Agriculture (SAGARPA) fund, CONACYT and from the innovation program run by SAGARPA.
- 3.8.4 The Representative of Panama indicated that, in the case of her country, most innovation took place at the institutional level, with the modernization of the MIDA and establishment of a strategic plan. She drew attention to work done in the area of agricultural health, including accomplishments achieved jointly with regional and international institutions such as IICA, FAO, OIRSA and OIE. She thanked those organizations and offered to share her country's experience in the management and control of pests and diseases and the strengthening of agricultural health services.
- 3.8.5 The Representative of Chile thanked the government of Costa Rica for its hospitality and IICA for organizing the Meeting of Minister of Agriculture of the Americas. He opined that IICA should become more involved in the following topics: (i) foreign trade, (ii) food safety, (iii) energy, (iv) water management and irrigation, (v) productivity of the factors of production, (vi) development of human capital, (vii) climate change, (viii) insurance and other mechanisms for reducing the volatility of prices and (ix) the use of ICTs in agriculture. He congratulated Mexico for granting 100 scholarships for professionals from Latin America and the Caribbean to pursue postgraduate degrees in that country.
- 3.8.6 He also felt that IICA should become an "antenna for the Americas" and provide information on climatologic, economic and social events that affect agriculture in the countries of the region. In concluding his remarks, he invited the ministers to the seminar "Health and Agriculture" to be held in Chile in July 2012.

- 3.8.7 The Representative of Colombia stated that in his country the decision had been made to earmark 10% of the royalties derived from the use of non-renewable sources for the promotion of science and technology, and to invest a portion of those funds in issues related to agriculture and livestock farming. He reported that the government was reorganizing the agricultural technical assistance program and developing a complementary on-line technical assistance program. He asked IICA, CIAT and FAO to provide access to their information centers on ICTs.
- 3.8.8 The Representative of Ecuador thanked IICA and the government of Costa Rica for their hospitality. He acknowledged that the ministries of agriculture must again be given the importance they deserve. He said that innovation should not be focused solely on technical areas, but also on the management and formulation of policies. He agreed with the Representative of Chile and reiterated that IICA and FAO should share their knowledge networks with the countries, especially those related to management indicators and indicators of productivity, in order to make the sector more competitive. To share knowledge and expand information networks is to share innovation and, in the final analysis, to help combat poverty and hunger.
- 3.8.9 The Representative of Canada stated that the world was facing a great challenge in the area of food production, considering that by 2050 the population would be 9.3 billion and that, based on FAO projections, the demand for food would increase by 75%, whereas arable land for agricultural production could only be expanded by 5%.
- 3.8.10 He pointed out that innovation would be a key factor in increasing productivity and production in a context impacted by the effects of climate change. Biotechnology would have to play an important role in mitigating the effects of climate change, creating genetically modified plants that use less water and were more resistant to salinity and excess heat, and in incorporating nitrogen into the soil and lowering the production of greenhouse gases. These options would take on increased importance in countries where the effects of climate change would be the most severe.
- 3.8.11 He indicated that biotechnology was evolving rapidly and was being used in commercial crops in more than 25 countries, 15 of which were developing nations, and that in five countries of LAC, a significant proportion of agricultural production was based on GMOs. He pointed out that it was essential for the countries to develop efficient science-based regulatory

frameworks which were transparent and predictable, in order to protect human health, animal health, the environment and biodiversity. At the same time, the countries must ensure the existence of the conditions required for production to increase and for the global trade in agricultural products to continue to grow, in order to ensure that the flow of food would not be interrupted.

- 3.8.12 He mentioned that Canada was developing its own policy and practical ways to implement production based on the limited use of GMOs, and that only a few products had received approval, most of which were used for non-food industrial purposes. He indicated that Canada was seeking the input of stakeholders at the national level with respect to such technologies, especially for products with the potential to dramatically modify the global trade in agricultural products, especially food. He concluded by stating that it was crucial that the countries work together, and that Canada was interested in working with other countries to find a way for all to benefit from those technologies and discuss the issue of GMOs at the global level.

3.9 *Close of the session*

- 3.9.1 The Third Plenary Session of the Sixteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture was adjourned at 12:50 hours.

FOURTH PLENARY SESSION

4.1 *Opening of the session*

4.1.1 The Fourth Plenary Session of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture was called to order at 14:00 hours on October 21, 2011, under the chairmanship of Mrs. Gloria Abraham Peralta, Minister of Agriculture and Livestock Farming of Costa Rica.

4.2 *Continuation of Ministerial Dialogue*

4.2.1 The Representative of Argentina reported that agricultural production had increased considerably in his country, without putting social and environmental sustainability at risk. He mentioned that the goal of the Strategic Plan – 2020, prepared with support from IICA, FAO and ECLAC and in collaboration universities, agricultural/technical high schools and 23 provincial governments, was for such increases to continue. He also stated that the plan had been agreed upon with institutions in the agrifood and agroindustry sectors and would receive support from INTA.

4.2.2 The Representative of St. Lucia expressed her pleasure at learning of the results of innovation in the countries of Latin America, and suggested that IICA serve as a bridge between that region and the Caribbean so that the results of those efforts could be transferred to benefit producers in the Caribbean.

4.2.3 The Representative of Honduras thanked the government of Costa Rica for its hospitality. He underscored the importance of human development, adding that it should be the basis of any project formulated. He agreed with the Representative of Ecuador that it was necessary to translate into actions any proposals that might emerge from this meeting of ministers, in order to contribute effectively to solving the problems facing the countries, some of which have existed for some time.

- 4.2.4 The Representative of Belize thanked the government of Costa Rica, as host, and IICA for organizing the Meeting. He stated that it was important to take into consideration the value that innovation added to agricultural production. He mentioned that one of the problems facing agriculture in Belize was poor post-harvest practices. He felt that it was important to focus on technologies that would contribute to mitigating and adapting to the effects of climate change. He proposed, as part of the innovation process, that advantage be taken of existing resources and the genetic breeding of traditional varieties, for example of corn, as a means of increasing productivity and, therefore, the incomes of producers and their families. Finally, he called on IICA to continue to provide support in the area of biotechnology.
- 4.3 *Address by Dr. Chelston W. D. Brathwaite, Director Emeritus of IICA*
- 4.3.1 The Chair gave the floor to Dr. Chelston W. D. Brathwaite, former Director General of IICA, who addressed the Representatives.
- 4.3.2 Dr. Brathwaite extended greetings to the participants in the Sixteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA. He then thanked the Representatives of the Member States for the opportunity to stand at the helm of IICA from 2002-2010, and Mr. Victor M. Villalobos A., current Director General, for the invitation to participate in the IABA meeting. He noted that the meeting had been highly informative and had identified key resources for solving problems related to food security, poverty and climate change.
- 4.3.3 He noted that innovation in agriculture would become a reality when more countries invested in policies aimed at creating a culture of technological innovation and entrepreneurship, and in the area of human resource development, when training was provided in fields related to technology, science, agribusiness and entrepreneurship. He underscored the importance of promoting innovation for sustainable, competitive and inclusive agriculture, which could also be promoted even further by drawing on the results obtained by research institutes and universities. He mentioned that this could only become a reality with sound financial support policies and well-trained individuals.
- 4.3.4 He underscored the importance of human resources as the cornerstone of development and congratulated IICA on the scholarship initiative with CONACYT in Mexico, which would provide the countries with the opportunity to train persons and to encourage other institutions to sign similar

agreements. He underscored the role of research and innovation in areas of agriculture related to food and nutrition, such as agricultural health and food safety, and identified the improvement of infrastructure and services as a priority. He concluded by congratulating the IDB for its Food Security Fund and for its initiatives aimed at strengthening technical cooperation partnerships with IICA, CGIAR and FAO.

4.4 *Address by the President of El Salvador*

4.4.1 The Chair invited His Excellency the President of the Republic of El Salvador, Mr. Mauricio Funes, to report to the plenary, via videoconference, on the emergency situation in his country. The Chair also extended a cordial welcome to the Minister of Agriculture of El Salvador, Mr. Guillermo Lopez, and the IICA Representative in El Salvador, Mr. Gerardo Escudero, who were with the President.

4.4.2 The President expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to provide information on the emergency in his country, adding that over a 10-day period some 1600 mm of rain had fallen, whereas the average per year was 1800 mm.

4.4.3 He noted that 10% of the national territory was flooded, 60 thousand persons had been evacuated and huge losses of vegetables, staple grains and coffee had been reported. He added that 400 thousand families who had obtained access to credit for crops had lost their harvest; some had lost even their homes, livestock and tools. He mentioned washed-out bridges and other serious problems caused by damage to infrastructure, some 4,700 families at risk and, regrettably, the loss of 34 lives. He underscored the fact that the agricultural sector had been the hardest hit, and that 70% of the more than 200 municipalities had been affected.

4.4.4 President Funes noted that projects begun recently, such as the “Family Agriculture Plan,” were seriously affected and would not be able to achieve their goals. He expected a steep increase in the prices of food; it was estimated, for example, that the quintal of corn, currently at US\$15 could rise to US\$48 and the quintal of beans from US\$75 to US\$160.

4.4.5 The President wished to make the international community aware of the magnitude of the emergency, which, while not the result of a hurricane or a tropical storm, had caused similar damage. He recalled that El Salvador was one of the most vulnerable countries of the hemisphere and acknowledged

that, thanks to the early warning systems, the loss of life was less than in other catastrophes.

- 4.4.6 In closing, he called on the international community to support his country during the phase of rehabilitation and reconstruction, adding that there was an urgent need for white corn, red beans, seeds and technical assistance. He expressed appreciation for the gesture of support and solidarity received from the government of Guatemala, and thanked the Chair for the opportunity to deliver his message, and the delegations present at the meeting for any support they could provide to El Salvador as it struggled to survive and recover from the emergency.
- 4.4.7 The Chair urged solidarity among the nations of the hemisphere and echoed the words of the President of El Salvador, stating that the country would need all the support the international community could provide as it recovered from the catastrophe.
- 4.4.8 The Representative of Honduras reported that the Central American Agricultural Council (CAC), meeting in special session, had agreed to submit to the consideration of the IABA a draft resolution that: i) expressed the solidarity of the nations of the Americas with those populations affected, and acknowledged the efforts being made by the governments of the countries of Central America to respond to the current emergency; ii) urged the countries of other regions of the Americas to contribute technical and financial resources to efforts underway to respond to the current emergency and to make agriculture in the region less vulnerable to climate variability and change, given the important role the sector played in food security; and iii) entrusted IICA, in coordination with institutions in the Member States and other specialized international organizations, with providing technical support to the Executive Secretariat of the CAC and the ministries of agriculture of Central America in drawing up a program aimed at strengthening capacities in the countries to prevent disasters and adapt to climate change, based on a new paradigm of competitive and sustainable socioeconomic development.
- 4.4.9 The Director General explained that he had already instructed the IICA Representative in El Salvador to provide the government with support in speeding up the process of providing necessary supplies, to contribute to the preparation of an analysis of the magnitude of the emergency and its impact on the price of food and to provide any support needed by the government of El Salvador.

- 4.4.10 The Director General-elect of FAO reassured the President that El Salvador was not and would not be alone, and that, through the FAO network, emergency resources were being mobilized to determine needs and the nature of the assistance that could be provided. He indicated that the recovery process was the most difficult, but ensured the President that FAO would provide the necessary support.
- 4.4.11 The Representative of Guatemala noted that, in his country, the rains of the past ten days had resulted in: i) damage to 48 thousand hectares used mostly for hydrobiology and the production of agricultural exports; ii) US\$62 million in economic losses; iii) 50 thousand families in agricultural areas being affected; and iv) 100 thousand families in non-agricultural areas being affected.
- 4.4.12 The Representative of the Dominican Republic urged the ministers of Central America and the Dominican Republic to authorize OIRSA to use its emergency fund to support El Salvador.
- 4.5 *Draft Resolution “Support for the countries of Central America in rebuilding their agricultural sectors and assisting the populations affected by the 2011 climate emergency”*
- 4.5.1 The Rapporteur read aloud the Draft Resolution “Support for the countries of Central America in rebuilding their agricultural sectors and assisting the populations affected by the 2011 climate emergency,” which was approved as read.
- 4.6 *Date and Site of the Seventeenth Regular Meeting of the IABA*
- 4.6.1 The Chair read aloud the formal offers received from the governments of Panama and Argentina to host the Seventeenth Regular Meeting of the IABA, in 2013. Inasmuch as two Member States had presented formal offers, the Chair asked the Legal Advisor to explain the procedure to be followed in selecting the site of the next Regular Meeting of the IABA.
- 4.6.2 The Legal Advisor referred to Articles 16 and 17 of the Rules of Procedure of the IABA and explained that the site would be selected on the basis of the principle of rotation and geographic distribution, adding that in November 2003 Panama had hosted the Twelfth Regular Meeting of the IABA. He stated that the final decision rested with the Representatives.

- 4.6.3 The Representative of Panama stated that, considering that the principle of rotation was a determining factor in the selection of the site of IABA meetings, she was withdrawing her offer and thanked those who had supported her country's offer to host the Seventeenth Regular Meeting of the IABA.
- 4.6.4 The Representative of Argentina applauded the decision of the government of Panama and added that his country would be honored to receive the members of the IABA in 2013.
- 4.6.5 The Director General thanked Panama and Argentina for their generous offers.
- 4.7 *Presentation of the Ministerial Declaration*
- 4.7.1 During the Ministerial Meeting, the theme of which was "Sowing innovation to harvest prosperity," the countries engaged in a process of consultation, dialogue and consensus-building aimed at producing a political declaration focused on encouraging greater investment in innovation as a means of making agriculture competitive, sustainable and inclusive.
- 4.7.2 In support of this process, the Technical Secretariat of the Meeting, hosted by IICA, facilitated the preparation of the working documents for the dialogue and offered technical as well as logistical support to the Ministers and their Delegates for the conduct of the meeting of the Forum of the Ministerial Delegates of Agriculture.
- 4.7.3 The Chair asked Mrs. Marta E. Villegas, Director of the Executive Secretariat for Agricultural Sectoral Planning of Costa Rica, in her capacity as Chair of the Forum of Ministerial Delegates, to explain the process involved in developing the text of the Ministerial Declaration that had been reached by consensus.
- 4.7.4 Mrs. Villegas explained that the Forum had met on October 18 and 19 at IICA Headquarters, and thanked the Ministerial Delegates for their hard work and commitment to producing the text being presented to the Representatives of the Member States. She also thanked IICA and its personnel for the support that had been provided by the Technical Secretariat and the Unit for the Coordination of the Summits Process.

- 4.7.5 She explained that the objectives of the Declaration were: i) to give political recognition to innovation as a strategic tool in making agriculture competitive, sustainable and inclusive; ii) to define specific commitments; iii) to recommend a similar recognition and commitment from the leaders of the hemisphere through the presentation of the Ministerial Declaration to the Sixth Summit of the Americas, to be held in Cartagena de Indias in April 2012; and iv) to call on IICA and other international institutions to provide the countries with necessary support.
- 4.7.6 She went on to state that the drafting of the text was based on a conceptual document “Innovation for competitive, sustainable and inclusive agriculture” presented during the Executive Committee meeting held in July 2011. This document was discussed fully in each country, among ministers and between the ministers and IICA, with the latter drawing up a preliminary version of the text based on the inputs received from the countries. This version was submitted to the Forum of Ministerial Delegates for review and analysis, so that consensus could be reached via constructive dialogue, as well as the technical and political will to arrive at a shared vision.
- 4.7.7 She added that the procedure followed was similar to that used in the Summits of the Americas, and paid special tribute to Sherry Tross, Executive Secretary of the Summits of the Americas of the OAS for her role in the meeting of the Forum.
- 4.7.8 She thanked the Delegates of the 22 countries present and IICA for the excellent opportunity to share knowledge.
- 4.8 *Report on the status of the proposed text for the Ministerial Declaration*
- 4.8.1 The Chair thanked Mrs. Villegas for her comments and gave the floor to the Technical Secretary to report on the status of the proposed text for the Ministerial Declaration.
- 4.8.2 The Technical Secretary explained that the Delegation of Peru had decided to withdraw the proposal it had presented for consideration a day earlier, but had requested that the following text be included in the Minutes of the meeting:

“The decision of some member countries of IICA to regulate or restrict the use of transgenic materials, believing it to be in their interest based on their

reading and interpretation of the threat posed by the use of such genetic materials to the purity of their biodiversity, is recognized and respected.”

- 4.8.3 The Technical Secretary reported that the Deputy Minister of Bolivia, who had returned to his country, had left a proposal to be included in three paragraphs of the Ministerial Declaration, and that the Representatives of the Caribbean wished to propose changes to the text.
- 4.8.4 The Technical Secretary announced that two versions of the document were being distributed: one dated October 19, which was approved by the Forum of Ministerial Delegates, and a second version, dated October 21, which included the modifications proposed by the Delegations of Bolivia and the CARICOM states.
- 4.9 *Comments and ministerial dialogue on the Declaration*
- 4.9.1 The Representative of Canada thanked the Ministerial Delegates for their work. He indicated that it was his impression that a text had already been agreed upon but, if that were not the case, he reserved the right to suggest changes. He added that some of the modifications proposed presented no problem, but others would require further discussion. He expressed his disagreement with the idea of discussing changes to a text already agreed upon.
- 4.9.2 The Representatives of Brazil, Uruguay, the United States, Argentina, Costa Rica and Mexico endorsed the comments from the Representative of Canada, preferring to keep the proposal agreed upon by the Ministerial Delegates
- 4.9.3 The Representatives of Dominica and Peru, while respecting the opinion of those delegations, felt that the text should not be taken as final, and could be modified if the Representatives so desired. The Representative of Guyana supported this position and felt that the modifications were not major and could be discussed.
- 4.9.4 The Representative of St. Lucia commented that she had worked on the text as a Ministerial Delegate and felt it was as a good document. However, the Representatives of Dominica and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, who had not participated in the Forum and who had concerns regarding the text presented, felt they should have the opportunity to offer comments and adjustments. It

was suggested that, in future, some procedure or mechanism be made available for incorporating changes.

- 4.9.5 The Representative of Guyana supported the position adopted by Dominica and noted that only three or four words were involved, not paragraphs, and that their incorporation would not create serious problems
- 4.9.6 The Representative of Canada stated that it was necessary to reach consensus and that, precisely because it was the Ministers and Heads of Delegation who had the right to propose modifications, his delegation had suggested earlier that day that a working session be held to address such matters. That meeting, however, never took place. He felt that it was inappropriate to leave the discussion of a matter of this nature until it was nearly time for the scheduled close of the meeting.
- 4.9.7 The Chair asked the Technical Secretary to read aloud the text of the document of the Ministerial Declaration that included the modifications proposed by the Delegations of Bolivia and the countries of the Caribbean.
- 4.9.8 The Technical Secretary read the original version and the adjusted version of the sections of the document in which changes were proposed.
- 4.9.9 A proposal was made to replace “well-being” with “a better quality of life” in paragraph 2 of the Declaration. The Representatives of Argentina, Barbados and the United States referred to the proposal and agreed that such a modification would not alter the sense of the text. The modification was accepted and “well-being” was replaced with “a better quality of life.”
- 4.9.10 The countries of the Caribbean suggested that the word “regional” be added to the first line of paragraph 11 to read as follows: “the support of regional and international bodies,” and that, at the end of the paragraph, the text “...and built on horizontal cooperation” be included.
- 4.9.11 The Representative of Canada requested clarification from the proponents of the suggested changes, while the Representative of Colombia argued that the original text was more suitable since the term “horizontal cooperation” was likely to create confusion. The Representative of St. Vincent and the Grenadines explained the need to include the regional technical cooperation agencies in light of their importance and because innovation was strengthened through horizontal cooperation.

- 4.9.12 The Representative of Argentina proposed the text “built on the basis of different types of cooperation.”
- 4.9.13 The Representative of Costa Rica agreed that recognition should be given to regional organizations, but felt that the incorporation of the term “horizontal cooperation” would limit the type of cooperation that could be provided. This position was endorsed by Dominica and the United States.
- 4.9.14 The Technical Secretary stated that, based on the proposals presented, the texts were as follows: “the support of regional and international bodies” and “built on the basis of different types of cooperation.” These modifications were approved by the Representatives.
- 4.9.15 The Technical Secretary read aloud the modification to paragraph 17 proposed by the Representative of Bolivia, who had requested that the words “in accordance with the policies of each country” be added after the words “communication technologies.”
- 4.9.16 The Representatives of Brazil, Uruguay, Barbados and Argentina felt that this modification was not necessary as it was already implied in the Declaration that the countries, as sovereign States, acted on the basis of their own policies.
- 4.9.17 The Representative of Peru felt that it was important to incorporate the proposed text in order to provide clarity and avoid confusion for those who equated biotechnology with transgenics, a procedure with which some government are not in agreement. The Representative of Honduras suggested that the text proposed be placed in the heading of the section on commitments. However, the Representative of Peru preferred that it be placed within the paragraph. The Representatives of Canada, Chile and Uruguay supported the position of Peru. Finally, it was decided that the proposed modification be incorporated into the third line of paragraph 17 as follows “communication technologies, in accordance with the policies of each country.”
- 4.9.18 The Technical Secretary informed the plenary that the Representative of Bolivia had proposed that the words “in accordance with the policies of each country” be added at the end of paragraph 24. The Representative of Chile stated that there was no need for this addition, a statement that was seconded by the United States. Although the Representative of Peru insisted that the proposal be accepted, a decision was taken to keep the original text.

- 4.9.19 In reference to paragraph 25, the Technical Secretary noted that two modifications had been proposed for inclusion at the end of the paragraph; the first, proposed by the Representative of Bolivia, was to include the text “in accordance with the policies of each country,” and the second, proposed by the Representatives of the Caribbean, was to include the text “and competition for food.” The proposal from Bolivia was considered repetitive and was rejected.
- 4.9.20 The Representative of Canada requested clarification regarding the text proposed by the Representatives of the Caribbean as the link between agroenergy and competition for food was not clear.
- 4.9.21 The Representative of St. Vincent and the Grenadines referred to the proposed modification while the Representative of Dominica asked the representative of CARICOM to explain further. The Representative of CARICOM explained that, inasmuch as agro-energy was linked to biofuels, their production competed with green energy and with food production.
- 4.9.22 The Representative of Colombia felt that such a generalization was inappropriate. The Representative of Costa Rica offered an alternative text that referred instead to clean energies. The Representative of Canada argued that this constituted a substantial addition on which it would be difficult to reach consensus.
- 4.9.23 The Representatives of Argentina and Guyana were not in agreement with the modifications proposed, given the differences between their countries, and felt that these would lead to a much broader debate.
- 4.9.24 The Representative of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, on behalf of the Representatives of the Caribbean and in the interest of ensuring consensus, decided to withdraw the proposed modification to paragraph 25. The Representative of Costa Rica decided to do likewise.
- 4.10 *Reading and approval of draft resolutions*
- 4.10.1 The Rapporteur read aloud the following draft resolutions: “Date and Site of the Seventeenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture;” “Strengthening IICA’s Strategic Partnerships;” and “Vote of Thanks to the Government of Costa Rica,” which were approved as read.

- 4.10.2 The Rapporteur read aloud the operative paragraphs of Draft Resolution No. 12 “Joint Actions between IICA and FAO.”
- 4.10.3 The Director General-elect of FAO proposed that operative paragraph 3, dealing with the commitment assumed by Mr. Graziano da Silva to strengthen FAO’s cooperation with the countries of the Americas, be eliminated as this would imply special treatment for those countries. The draft resolution, with the modification proposed, was approved.
- 4.11 *Adoption and signing of the San Jose Declaration of Ministers of Agriculture 2011*
- 4.11.1 The Chair invited the Representatives of the countries to sign four copies of the Declaration, in the four official languages of the Institute, as evidence of their agreement with the content of the declaration. The Representatives of the 30 countries present signed the Declaration at 19:00 hours on October 21, 2012.
- 4.12 *Close of the session*
- 4.12.1 The Fourth Plenary Session of the Sixteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture was adjourned at 19:30 hours.

CLOSING SESSION

5.1 *Opening of the session*

5.1.1 The Closing Session of the Sixteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture was called to order at 19:40 under the chairmanship of Mrs. Gloria Abraham Peralta, Minister of Agriculture and Livestock Farming of Costa Rica.

5.2 *Remarks from the Director General of IICA*

5.2.1 The Director General of IICA highlighted the results achieved as a result of the joint efforts of all present at the meeting, including an inauguration with an innovative vision, a productive technical forum, the strengthening of the Institute, renewed partnerships with FAO and other organizations and a Ministerial Declaration prioritizing innovation and solidarity.

5.2.2 Finally, he thanked Costa Rica and the Chair for the excellent manner in which she had conducted the meeting.

5.3 *Remarks from the Chair of the IABA*

5.3.1 The Chair of the IABA expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to host the Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas 2011 and the Sixteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture in Costa Rica. She thanked the Representatives of the Member States for their presence and for their active participation, which had led to fruitful discussions and had provided important inputs for the Ministerial Declaration issued at the close of meeting.

5.3.2 She noted that the meeting had provided an opportunity for exchanges with authorities of the cooperation agencies which provided the ministers with support in managing public policy to make agriculture more prosperous and equitable and to enable the sector to contribute to development and well-being

in the countries. She drew particular attention to the interaction that had taken place among the Director General-elect of FAO, the Director General of IICA and representatives of other international organizations, which would be beneficial for the national agendas of all the participating countries.

- 5.3.3 She concluded by noting that the theme of the meeting, “Sowing innovation to harvest prosperity”, had been quite appropriate, since positive results had been reaped. Finally, she thanked the Director General, the Technical Secretary of the IABA and all the logistical and technical support personnel of IICA.
- 5.4 *Close of the session*
- 5.4.1 The Closing Session was adjourned at 19:50 hours on October 21, 2011.

SAN JOSE DECLARATION



MEETING OF MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE OF THE AMERICAS 2011

“Sowing innovation to harvest prosperity”

SAN JOSE DECLARATION OF MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE 2011

1. We, the Ministers and Secretaries of Agriculture of the Americas, gathered together in San Jose, Costa Rica, October 19-21, 2011, with the objective of engaging in dialogue and undertaking commitments in order to advance towards achieving food security, rural well-being and the development of a competitive, sustainable and inclusive agrifood sector, and in harmony with the challenges and thematic areas indicated for the Sixth Summit of the Americas, *“Connecting the Americas: Partners for Prosperity”*, Colombia 2012.
2. Agreeing that agricultural innovation is a catalyst for growth and positive change, and further, to foster innovation it is vital to increase and intensify production and productivity, improve incomes, reduce poverty and inequality, decrease the environmental impacts of the agrifood sector, respond to natural disasters, increase access to new technologies, adapt to climate change and, consequently, achieve food security and a better quality of life for all our citizens.
3. Recognizing that innovation in the agrifood sector should include: better practices and new technologies, wholesome and safe products, better infrastructure to support production and marketing, technology transfer, sharing knowledge and building relationships through value chains, training and extension services, access to credit, and a science-based legal and policy framework.
4. Being aware that to meet today’s challenges and preparing for the future, requires the promotion of innovation in the agrifood sector throughout our hemisphere, in

order to achieve food security and sustainability of natural resources, taking into account the rising demand, climate change, high input costs, and resource constraint.

Do hereby declare that:

5. The agrifood sector and rural development play a fundamental role in the overall development of all the countries of this hemisphere to achieve the economic and social growth of the inhabitants of the Americas.
6. Effective access to innovation and technology transfer is a key element to achieve a sustainable, competitive and inclusive agrifood sector.
7. Innovation will assist the agrifood sector to address economic and environmental challenges and offer tools for converting the sector into an axis for economic and social development.
8. Adoption of public policies and transparent regulatory systems to promote and support innovation in the agrifood sector is fundamental to achieving the development and use of innovative agricultural technologies and practices and the objectives of competitiveness and economic growth, with social integration, in each of our countries.
9. The use of science-based technical regulations and sanitary and phytosanitary measures, while not unduly restricting national and international trade, is key to enabling countries to benefit from innovative agricultural technologies.
10. The regional, hemispheric and global initiatives with respect to innovation are an excellent complement to the efforts that each of our countries is deploying and will therefore be the priority areas for joint action.
11. The support of regional and international bodies for technical cooperation and agrifood development funding is essential to achieve the common objectives that the countries have established for strengthening national innovation systems, built on different types of cooperation.
12. The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) serves a leadership role in supporting innovation for the competitive and sustainable development of the agrifood sector in the Americas and for improving rural life through the provision of technical cooperation, the dissemination and leveraging of

its specialized knowledge and its networks of experts, implementing projects, and working with its Member States.

For these reasons, we urge:

13. The Member States, the international funding and cooperation agencies, and public and private sector organizations, to strengthen the institutional frameworks and increase investment and financing of agrifood innovation systems in a sustainable and predictable manner, with measurable results.
14. The international organizations which operate within the hemisphere, the national agencies for international cooperation, the national governments, the research centres and regional agrifood research and innovation mechanisms, to cooperate mutually on behalf of the countries and to develop a regional strategy to promote innovation, transfer and access to these technologies.

We commit to:

15. Promoting, with the assistance of the public and private sector, a greater role for research and the development and transfer of knowledge for the agrifood sector in national innovation systems, as well as the access to technology and capacity building for small scale producers.
16. Adopting public innovation policies in the agrifood sector, strengthening the creation and improvement of public and private organizations with responsibility in this area and encouraging their effective and committed participation.
17. Developing national strategies for the development, dissemination and use of innovation, including agrobiotechnology, nanotechnology and information and communication technologies, in accordance with the policies of each country, that support and guide all efforts geared at improving competitiveness of the agrifood sector value chain, preserving natural resources and promoting social integration, value added at country of origin and the full development of its productive capacity.
18. Promoting innovations by strengthening science-based risk assessments, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, and technical regulations as key elements for allowing countries to benefit from better access to markets of agri-food products.
19. Establishing favorable conditions and mechanisms for promoting a culture of innovation based on strategic alliances for collaborative work among public and


private organizations, at both national and international levels, in order to develop, transfer and implement innovative practices and technologies, oriented towards agricultural productivity and sustainability of the agrifood sector.

20. Strengthening the monitoring and early-warning systems on food security and improve the availability of timely and reliable market information to foster market transparency and identify commercial opportunities for agrifood products.
21. Supporting the work of the Market Information Organization of the Americas (MIOA) to promote greater collaboration between the Member States on innovative means to collect, process, analyse and disseminate information relative to markets and agrifood commodities fostering greater market transparency and efficiencies.
22. Promoting sustainable direct investment in the generation of new knowledge and the strengthening of extension systems to ensure its transmission through innovative methodologies.
23. Supporting technological and institutional innovations that: (i) facilitate greater integration of the agrifood sector – including small scale producers–in the value chains, (ii) strengthen the links between the traditional agrifood sectors with the “intensive knowledge” sectors, (iii) strengthen the technological base to undertake competitive activities, and (iv) facilitate rural social integration.
24. Fostering innovation, including land and water management technologies, biotechnology and all other factors that contribute to the resilience of agrifood production systems in the face of adverse climate events.
25. Stimulating innovation in different types of agroenergy that contribute to the diversification of the energy matrix and the reduction of negative environmental impacts.
26. Promoting innovation in climate risk management and fostering national, regional and hemispheric initiatives as well as facilitating the identification and dissemination of best practices that reduce the vulnerability of the agrifood sector and of the rural milieu.
27. Investing in the improvement of appropriate capacities and skills of our human resources to foster research and innovation as well as promote agrifood entrepreneurship.

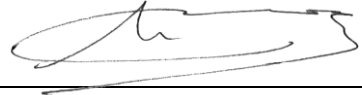
28. Continuing support of IICA in its capacity of working jointly with member countries, to help foster innovation in the agrifood sector consistent with this Declaration.

Signed in the City of San Jose, Costa Rica, on the twenty-first day of October, two thousand and eleven.

Antigua and Barbuda
Hilson Baptiste



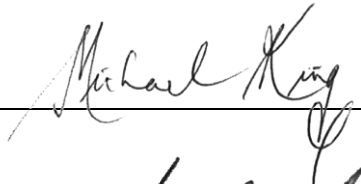
Argentina
Lorenzo Basso




Bahamas
Lawrence Cartwright



Barbados
David Estwick

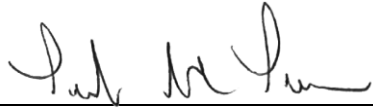


Belize
Gabino Canto



Bolivia
V́ctor Hugo V́squez

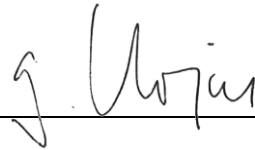
Brazil
Pedro Pereira



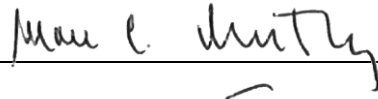
Canada
Blair Comber



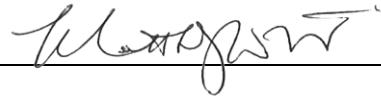
Chile
Gustavo Rojas



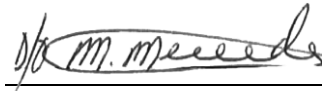
Colombia
Juan Camilo Restrepo



Dominica
Matthew Walter



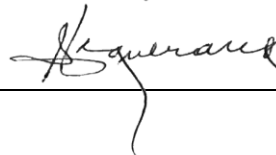
Dominican Republic
Leandro Mercedes



Ecuador
Iván Wong



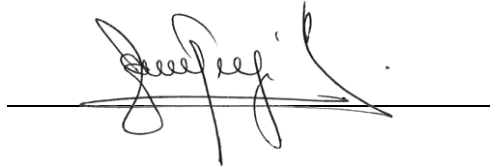
El Salvador
Sebastián Vaquerano



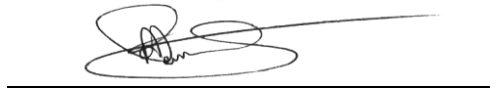
Grenada
Michael Lett



Guatemala
Alfredo Trejo



Guyana
Aditya Persaud



Haiti
Colette Blanchet

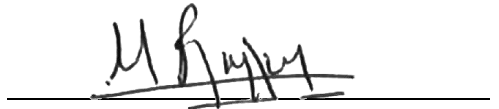


Honduras
Juan Carlos Ordóñez




Jamaica

Mexico
Mariano Ruiz



Nicaragua

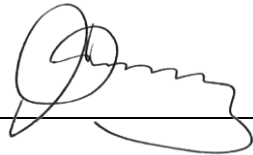
Panama
Emilio Kieswetter



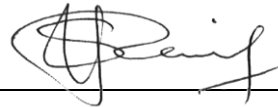
Paraguay
Pánfilo Ortiz



Peru
Miguel Caillaux



Saint Lucia
Sunita Daniel

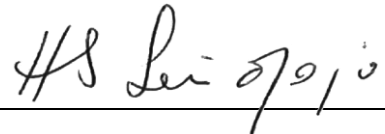


Saint Kitts and Nevis
Cedric Liburd

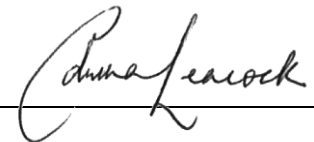
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Montgomery Daniel



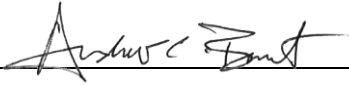
Suriname
HendrikSetrowidjojo



Trinidad and Tobago
Edwina Leacock



United States of America
Andrew Burst



Uruguay
Carlos Paolino



Venezuela



Gloria Abraham
Minister of Agriculture and Livestock Farming of Costa Rica and
Chair of the Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas 2011

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTIONS

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IICA/JIA/Res. 466 (XVI-O/11)
20 October 2011
Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 466

PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING THE IICA 2010-2014 MEDIUM-TERM PLAN

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (IABA), at its Sixteenth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

The presentation made by the Director General on the activities carried out by the Institute in 2010-2011 to implement the 2010-2014 Medium-term Plan (MTP),

CONSIDERING:

That, by express delegation from the IABA in Resolution IICA/JIA/Res. 446 (XV-O/09), the Executive Committee, by means of Resolution IICA/CE/Res. 519 (XXX-O/10) adopted at its Thirtieth Regular Meeting, approved the 2010-2014 MTP as the guiding framework for the Institute's cooperation activities and for the process for transforming and modernizing it during that period;

That at its Thirty-first Regular Meeting, the Executive Committee, by means of Resolution IICA/CE/Res. 534 (XXXI-O/11), approved the 2010 IICA Annual Report, which describes progress and achievements in the process for transforming and modernizing the Institute, as well as the results of the cooperation provided by the Institute to promote the competitive, sustainable and inclusive development of agriculture in the Americas; and

That, in each Member State, the IICA Representative presented to the national authorities, international organizations and stakeholders in the agricultural sector the technical cooperation strategy for the respective country (IICA Country Strategy) as well as a progress report on the cooperation activities carried out by the Institute in 2010-2011,

RESOLVES:

To accept with satisfaction the reports presented by the Director General and the IICA Representatives in the Member States on activities already carried out and those underway as well as results achieved to date in implementing the 2010-2014 MTP.

IICA/JIA/Res. 467 (XVI-O/11)
21 October 2011
Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 467

**SUPPORT FOR THE COUNTRIES OF CENTRAL AMERICA IN REBUILDING
THEIR AGRICULTURAL SECTORS AND ASSISTING THE POPULATION
AFFECTED BY THE 2011 CLIMATE EMERGENCY**

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

HAVING SEEN:

Agreements 5 and 6 of the Special Meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Central American Agricultural Council (CAC), held in San Jose, Costa Rica, on October 19, 2011,

CONSIDERING:

That the countries of Central America are increasingly affected by adverse climate and cyclical conditions that result in loss of human life and severe damage to agricultural production and infrastructure in rural areas where 45.5% of the total regional population lives;

That there is a need to garner collective support from the other countries of the region and the international technical and financial cooperation community for the efforts being made by the governments and rural population to deal successfully with the emergency and to strengthen national and regional risk prevention capacities and the region's ability to adapt its agriculture to climate variability and change; and

That the countries of the hemisphere, with cooperation from IICA and other international organizations, have shown sensitivity in the face of similar emergency situations and their collective support has been a major factor in efforts to restore

agricultural activity, rehabilitate the affected population and contribute to strengthening capacities to respond to future emergencies,

RESOLVES:

1. To express solidarity with the affected population on behalf of the nations of the Americas, and to recognize the efforts being made by the governments of the countries of Central America to respond to the current emergency.
2. To urge the countries in other regions of the Americas to pledge technical and financial support for ongoing efforts to address the current emergency and to reduce the vulnerability of the region's agriculture to variability and climate change, given its relationship to food security.
3. To task IICA with providing, in coordination with institutions of the Member States and specialized international organizations, technical support for the Executive Secretariat of the CAC and the Ministries of Agriculture of Central America in the preparation of a program aimed at strengthening capacities in the affected countries in the area of disaster prevention and adaptation to climate change, based on a new paradigm of competitive and sustainable socioeconomic development.

IICA/JIA/Res. 468 (XVI-O/11)

20 October 2011

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 468

**2009 AND 2010 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE INSTITUTE,
REPORT OF THE EXTERNAL AUDITORS AND SIXTEENTH AND
SEVENTEENTH REPORTS OF THE AUDIT REVIEW COMMITTEE (ARC)**

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (IABA), at its Sixteenth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Documents IICA/JIA/Doc. 346 (11) “2009 and 2010 Financial Statements of the Institute and Report of the External Auditors” and IICA/JIA/Doc. 347 (11) “Sixteenth (2010) and Seventeenth (2011) Reports of the Audit Review Committee (ARC),”

CONSIDERING:

That, at its Thirtieth and Thirty-first Regular Meetings, the Executive Committee, in compliance with Articles 3.c and 4.d of its Rules of Procedure, reviewed the financial statements of the Institute for 2009 and 2010, respectively, as well as the reports of the external auditors for those years;

That in those reports, the external auditors attest to the appropriate management of the Institute’s financial resources by the General Directorate of the Institute, in conformity with the rules and regulations of IICA;

That, in its sixteenth and seventeenth reports, the Audit Review Committee (ARC) states that it reviewed the reports of the external auditors, found the work accomplished to be satisfactory and in accordance with the Institute’s rules and regulations and generally accepted auditing standards;

That, at its Thirtieth and Thirty-first Regular Meetings, the Executive Committee approved Resolutions IICA/CE/Res. 520 (XXX-O/10) and IICA/CE/Res. 535 (XXXI-O/11), respectively, in which it recommended submitting for the consideration of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture the financial statements of the Institute for 2009 and 2010 and the reports of the external auditors for those years; and

That, at its Thirtieth and Thirty-first Regular Meetings, the Executive Committee approved Resolutions IICA/CE/Res. 521 (XXX-O/10) and IICA/CE/Res. 536 (XXXI-O/11) in which the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Reports of the Audit Review Committee (ARC), respectively, were approved,

RESOLVES:

1. To approve the 2009 and 2010 Financial Statements of the Institute and the Reports of the External Auditors.
2. To accept the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Reports of the Audit Review Committee (ARC) contained in document IICA/JIA/Doc. 347 (11).
3. To convey to the members of the Audit Review Committee (ARC) the satisfaction and appreciation of the Member States of IICA for the valuable work accomplished.

IICA/JIA/Res. 469 (XVI-O/11)

20 October 2011

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 469

PROGRESS IN THE COLLECTION OF QUOTAS

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (IABA), at its Sixteenth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/JIA/Doc. 348 (11), "Report on the collection of quotas,"

CONSIDERING:

That the financing of the Institute and the implementation of its technical cooperation programs and projects will be possible if the Member States remain current in the payment of their annual quotas;

That, at its Thirteenth Regular Meeting, the IABA, by means of Resolution IICA/JIA/Res. 414 (XIII-O/05), adopted the "Revised Measures for Collecting Quotas Owed to the Institute;"

That the goodwill and support of the Ministers of Agriculture and other authorities in the Member States as well as the measures adopted and the efforts of the General Directorate, have ensured greater stability in the collection of quotas; and

That, as a result, the satisfactory delivery of the technical cooperation services outlined in the 2010-2011 Program Budget has been made possible,

RESOLVES:

1. To thank the Minister of Agriculture, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and other high-level government officials in IICA's Member States for their efforts to ensure the timely payment of their annual quotas to the Institute.
2. To maintain in effect the measures established by the Executive Committee and the IABA to encourage Member States to make their annual quota payments in a timely manner and to pay arrears for previous years.
3. To instruct the Director General to continue efforts to collect Member State quotas for the current year and those owed for previous years and to keep the Member States informed of progress in the collection of such quotas.
4. To strengthen the commitment of the Member States to remain current in the payment of their annual quotas, especially those that have reached agreement with the Institute on plans to pay quotas owed for previous years.

IICA/JIA/Res. 470 (XVI-O/11)
20 October 2011
Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 470

2012-2013 PROGRAM BUDGET

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (IABA), at its Sixteenth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/JIA/Doc. 349 (11), “Proposed 2012-2013 Program Budget,”

CONSIDERING:

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

- In Article 8.b, that a function of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) is “to approve the biennial Program Budget and to determine the annual quotas of the Member States;” and
- In Article 23, that “the Member States shall contribute to the maintenance of the Institute through annual quotas established by the Board, in accordance with the system for calculating quotas of the Organization of American States;”

That the Director General submitted the proposed 2012-2013 Program Budget for the consideration of the Executive Committee at its Thirty-first Regular Meeting, in a format consistent with the structure and content established in the rules currently in effect;

That Document IICA/JIA/Doc. 349 (11), “2012-2013 Program Budget” includes the agreements outlined in Resolution IICA/CE/Res. 540 (XXXI-O/11) of the Thirty-first Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee; and

That over-quotas totaling US\$338,400 in 2012 and US\$458,200 in 2013, to be contributed by Argentina, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay and Uruguay, have been incorporated into the proposal; and that Belize offered support for the proposal made by the General Directorate at the Thirty-first Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee,

RESOLVES:

1. To approve the amounts of US\$33,789,600 for 2012 and US\$33,909,400 for 2013 from the Regular Fund as the allocation for the 2012-2013 Program Budget of the Institute, to be financed with quota contributions from the Member States in the amount of US\$27,689,600 in 2012 and US\$27,809,400 in 2013, according to the amounts indicated in the quota scale attached hereto as “Annex A,” including assigned quotas and over-quotas; and with miscellaneous income in the amount of US\$6,100,000 per year, comprising US\$3,500,000 in income estimated to be generated annually and US\$2,600,000 per year from the Miscellaneous Income Fund.
2. To approve the use of the resources of the 2012-2013 Program Budget in accordance with the allocations for each of the chapters, line items and priorities detailed in Document IICA/JIA/Doc. 349 (11) “Proposed 2012-2013 Program Budget.” The summary of allocations by Chapter is attached as “Annex B” to this resolution.
3. To thank the authorities of Argentina, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay and Uruguay for the voluntary contributions of over-quota resources they will make in 2012 and 2013, which will provide additional funding for the implementation of priority actions under IICA technical cooperation in the Americas.
4. To authorize the Director General to make transfers among chapters of the Program Budget, provided that total transfers do not increase or reduce the chapters by more than ten per cent and do not significantly affect the priorities approved.

5. To authorize the Director General to make the necessary adjustments in the allocation of resources approved in this resolution, should the combined income for each of the fiscal years 2012 and 2013 fall below estimated levels. The Director General shall inform the Executive Committee and the IABA of this situation.

6. To instruct the Director General to deposit to the Working Sub-fund of the Regular Fund, any contribution of Regular Funds received in excess of the total amount approved for the 2012-2013 biennium, as well as any unspent, uncommitted balances.

ANNEX A

Statue of Member State Quotas, Contributions of Over-quotas and Miscellaneous Income. 2012-2013 (US\$)

MEMBER STATES	2012		2012			2013				VARIATIONS			
	OAS ¹		IICA			IICA				2012-2011		2013-2012	
	%	%	ASSESSED QUOTA	OVER- QUOTA	TOTAL QUOTAS	%	ASSESSED QUOTA	OVER- QUOTA	TOTAL QUOTAS	US\$	%	US\$	%
			US\$ ³	US\$ ³	US\$ ³		US\$ ³	US\$ ³	US\$ ³				
Antigua and Barbuda	0.022	0.022	6.100	0	6.100	0.022	6.100	0	6.100	48	0.8%	0	0.0%
Argentina	2.408	2.408	662.400	220.900	883.300	2.408	662.400	220.900	883.300	-4	0.0%	0	0.0%
Bahamas	0.062	0.062	17.100	0	17.100	0.062	17.100	0	17.100	-4.082	-19.3%	0	0.0%
Barbados	0.045	0.045	12.400	0	12.400	0.045	12.400	0	12.400	-4.105	-24.9%	0	0.0%
Belize	0.022	0.022	6.100	0	6.100	0.022	6.100	0	6.100	48	0.8%	0	0.0%
Bolivia	0.049	0.049	13.500	0	13.500	0.049	13.500	0	13.500	846	6.7%	0	0.0%
Brazil	9.941	9.941	2.734.600	0	2.734.600	9.941	2.734.600	0	2.734.600	546.835	25.0%	0	0.0%
Canada	11.972	11.972	3.293.300	0	3.293.300	11.972	3.293.300	0	3.293.300	-492.169	-13.0%	0	0.0%
Chile	1.189	1.189	327.100	0	327.100	1.189	327.100	0	327.100	31.932	10.8%	0	0.0%
Colombia	1.049	1.049	288.600	0	288.600	1.049	288.600	0	288.600	57.802	25.0%	0	0.0%
Costa Rica	0.221	0.221	60.800	0	60.800	0.221	60.800	0	60.800	9.359	18.2%	0	0.0%
Dominica	0.022	0.022	6.100	0	6.100	0.022	6.100	0	6.100	48	0.8%	0	0.0%
Dominican Republic	0.257	0.257	70.700	0	70.700	0.257	70.700	0	70.700	14.032	24.8%	0	0.0%
Ecuador	0.258	0.258	71.000	0	71.000	0.258	71.000	0	71.000	14.057	24.7%	0	0.0%
El Salvador	0.114	0.114	31.400	1.500	32.900	0.114	31.400	3.000	34.400	4.016	13.9%	1.500	4.6%
Grenada	0.022	0.022	6.100	0	6.100	0.022	6.100	0	6.100	48	0.8%	0	0.0%
Guatemala	0.168	0.168	46.200	5.200	51.400	0.168	46.200	5.200	51.400	-41	-0.1%	0	0.0%
Guyana	0.022	0.022	6.100	0	6.100	0.022	6.100	0	6.100	48	0.8%	0	0.0%
Haiti	0.034	0.034	9.400	0	9.400	0.034	9.400	0	9.400	-2.979	-24.1%	0	0.0%
Honduras	0.051	0.051	14.000	0	14.000	0.051	14.000	0	14.000	1.621	13.1%	0	0.0%
Jamaica	0.093	0.093	25.600	0	25.600	0.093	25.600	0	25.600	-8.236	-24.3%	0	0.0%
Mexico	8.281	8.281	2.278.000	105.300	2.383.300	8.281	2.278.000	217.300	2.495.300	143.818	6.4%	112.000	4.7%
Nicaragua	0.034	0.034	9.400	0	9.400	0.034	9.400	0	9.400	-2.979	-24.1%	0	0.0%
Panama	0.158	0.158	43.500	2.000	45.500	0.158	43.500	4.100	47.600	661	1.5%	2.100	4.6%
Paraguay	0.093	0.093	25.600	1.200	26.800	0.093	25.600	2.500	28.100	-7.311	-21.4%	1.300	4.9%
Peru	0.688	0.688	189.300	0	189.300	0.688	189.300	0	189.300	37.177	24.4%	0	0.0%
Saint Kitts and Nevis	0.022	0.022	6.100	0	6.100	0.022	6.100	0	6.100	48	0.8%	0	0.0%
Saint Lucia	0.022	0.022	6.100	0	6.100	0.022	6.100	0	6.100	48	0.8%	0	0.0%
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	0.022	0.022	6.100	0	6.100	0.022	6.100	0	6.100	48	0.8%	0	0.0%
Suriname	0.034	0.034	9.400	0	9.400	0.034	9.400	0	9.400	-2.979	-24.1%	0	0.0%
Trinidad and Tobago	0.180	0.180	49.500	0	49.500	0.180	49.500	0	49.500	7.687	18.4%	0	0.0%
United States of America	59.470	59.470	16.359.400	0	16.359.400	59.470	16.359.400	0	16.359.400	-12	0.0%	0	0.0%
Uruguay	0.214	0.214	58.900	2.300	61.200	0.214	58.900	5.200	64.100	11.409	22.9%	2.900	4.7%
Venezuela	2.186	2.186	601.300	0	601.300	2.186	601.300	0	601.300	34.621	6.1%	0	0.0%
SUB TOTAL	99,425	99,425	27,351.200	338.400	27,689.600	99,425	27,351.200	458.200	27,809.400	391,361	1,4%	119,800	0,4%
Cuba	0.575	0.575	158.200	0	158.200	0.575	158.200	0	158.200	-52.241	-24.8%	0	0.0%
TOTAL QUOTA	100,000	100,000	27,509.400	338.400	27,847.800	100,000	27,509.400	458.200	27,967.600	339,120	1,2%	119,800	0,4%
MISCELLANEOUS INCOME²					8,100,000				6,100,000	0	0,0%	0	0,0%
TOTAL REGULAR FUND⁴					33,789,600				33,809,400	391,361	1,2%	119,800	0,4%

1/ As per OAS Resolution AG/RES. 2696 (XLI-O/11) of June 7, 2011.

2/ In 2012 and 2013, miscellaneous income will comprise US\$3,500,000 to be generated and US\$2,600,000 from the Miscellaneous Income Fund.

3/ Rounded off to the nearest one hundred.

4/ The total of the Regular Fund does not include Cuba.

ANNEX B
Allocation of the Regular Fund by Chapter. 2012-2013
(US\$)

CHAPTER	2012				2013			
	QUOTAS	MISC.	REGULAR FUND		QUOTAS	MISC.	REGULAR FUND	
			US\$	%			US\$	%
CHAPTER I: Direct Technical Cooperation Services	24.362.234	5.801.991	30.164.225	89,3%	24.629.768	5.801.991	30.431.760	89,7%
Innovation for Productivity and Competitiveness Program	7.607.832	1.156.074	8.763.906	29,1%	7.695.438	1.152.409	8.847.847	29,1%
Agricultural Health and Food Safety Program	5.870.616	1.685.138	7.555.754	25,0%	5.886.932	1.669.396	7.556.328	24,8%
Agribusiness and Commercialization Program	5.791.516	1.656.830	7.448.346	24,7%	5.865.341	1.668.759	7.534.100	24,8%
Agriculture, Territories and Rural Well-being Program	5.092.270	1.303.950	6.396.220	21,2%	5.182.057	1.311.427	6.493.484	21,3%
CHAPTER II: Management Costs	1.702.312	67.738	1.770.050	5,2%	1.741.578	67.738	1.809.316	5,3%
Office of the Director General	702.407	17.500	719.907	40,7%	714.222	17.500	731.722	40,4%
Secretariat of Corporate Services	999.905	50.238	1.050.143	59,3%	1.027.355	50.238	1.077.593	59,6%
CHAPTER III: General Cost and Provisions	1.224.681	20.000	1.244.681	3,7%	1.224.681	20.000	1.244.681	3,7%
Governing Bodies	400.000	0	400.000	32,1%	400.000	0	400.000	32,1%
Insurance	391.531	0	391.531	31,5%	391.531	0	391.531	31,5%
Pensions Former Directors	287.650	0	287.650	23,1%	287.650	0	287.650	23,1%
Contribution to the OAS Administrative Tribunal	25.000	0	25.000	2,0%	25.000	0	25.000	2,0%
Contribution to the Administration of the Retirement and Pension Fund	25.000	0	25.000	2,0%	25.000	0	25.000	2,0%
External Audit	95.500	0	95.500	7,7%	95.500	0	95.500	7,7%
Emergency Assistance Program for Staff	0	20.000	20.000	1,6%	0	20.000	20.000	1,6%
CHAPTER IV: Renewal of Infrastructure and Equipment	400.373	210.271	610.644	1,8%	213.373	210.271	423.644	1,2%
TOTAL	27.689.600	6.100.000	33.789.600	100,0%	27.809.400	6.100.000	33.909.400	100,0%

IICA/JIA/Res. 471 (XVI-O/11)

21 October 2011

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 471**FULL RECOVERY OF COSTS INCURRED IN ADMINISTERING
EXTERNALLY FUNDED PROJECTS**

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (IABA), at its Sixteenth Regular Meeting,

CONSIDERING:

That the Executive Committee, in Resolution IICA/CE/Res. 541 (XXXI-0/11), asked the Director General:

“(i) To retain the services of an external consulting firm for the purpose of preparing a study that will provide criteria for defining a policy aimed at recovering the costs the Institute incurs in administering externally funded projects (INR); and (ii) to present at the next Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), the study and its results, together with the Director General’s recommendations, and if this study is not ready, an up-to-date progress report, which includes the preliminary results to date and the Director General’s observations;”

That the Executive Committee also resolved: *“In the event that this matter is not resolved at the IABA’s next Regular Meeting, present the final study, together with the Director General’s recommendations and the observations of the Special Advisory Committee on Management Issues, for the consideration of the next Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee”*; and

That the report presented by the Director General on the status of the study on the recovery of costs incurred in administering externally funded projects describes the progress made in implementing Resolution IICA/CE/Res. 541 (XXXI-0/11),

RESOLVES:

1. To accept the report on the progress to date with the study of the costs incurred in administering externally funded projects.
2. To ask the Director General to present the full report and final conclusions to the Thirty-second Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee, with any observations that the Special Advisory Committee on Management Issues may make at its Regular Meeting in 2012.

IICA/JIA/Res. 472 (XVI-O/11)

21 October 2011

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 472**PERIOD FOR DELIVERY OF WORKING DOCUMENTS FOR THE REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

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

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/JIA/Doc. 350 (11), “Proposed Amendment to Article 22 of the Rules of Procedure of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture,”

CONSIDERING:

That Article 22 of the Rules of Procedure of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture states that “*The Director General shall send the necessary background documentation to the Member States, IICA Associates and Permanent Observers at least 45 days prior to the opening date of the meeting;*”

That the Executive Committee, by means of Resolution IICA/CE/Res. 525 (XXX-0/10), decided to reduce the deadline for distributing the working documents for its regular meetings to the countries via electronic media from 45 days to 30 days, in order to afford the Secretariat more time to prepare, study, and translate them;

That the Executive Committee, in the same resolution, tasked the Director General with presenting for the consideration of the IABA, at its Sixteenth Regular Meeting a draft resolution amending Article 22 of the Rules of Procedure of the IABA in the same way that Article 29 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee was amended by that resolution; and

That the Director General has recommended that the working and information documents for the meetings of the IABA that are not confidential be made freely available on the IICA website in an electronic format that ensures that they cannot be modified by third parties,

RESOLVES:

1. To amend the last sentence of Article 22 of the Rules of Procedure of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture, to read as follows:

“The Director General shall send the working documents by electronic media to the Member States, IICA Associates and Permanent Observers, for analysis, at least 30 days prior to the opening date of the meeting.”

2. To accept the proposal made by the Director General that in future: (i) the working and information documents for the meetings of the IABA that are not confidential be made freely available, for review and consultation on the IICA website; and, (ii) those documents be posted on the IICA website in a format that ensures that they cannot be modified by third parties.

IICA/JIA/Res. 473 (XVI-O/11)

21 October 2011

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 473**RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE IABA TO THE
GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE TROPICAL AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH AND HIGHER EDUCATION CENTER (CATIE)**

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (IABA), at its Sixteenth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/JIA/Doc. 351 (11) “Responsibilities of the Representative of the IABA to the Governing Council of the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE),”

CONSIDERING:

That, in accordance with the Law establishing CATIE, the IABA is that Center’s highest governing body and has the right to appoint a representative to the Governing Council of CATIE, with the right to participate and vote in its meetings;

That, in accordance with IABA Resolution IICA/JIA/Res. 461 (XV-O/09), Member States that will designate the IABA representative to the Governing Council of CATIE are: Dominica (2011-2012); United States of America (2013-2014); Chile (2015-2016) and Ecuador (2017-2018);

That (i) IICA contributes roughly US\$ 1,000,000 per year to CATIE from the quotas it receives from the Member States; (ii) that this Center is also the usufructuary of IICA’s farms in Turrialba and “La Lola” in Siquirres; and (iii) that CATIE and IICA jointly administer the Orton Memorial Library;

That the Executive Committee, at its Thirty-first Regular Meeting, adopted Resolution IICA/CE/Res. 550 (XXXI-O/11), in which it accepted the IICA-CATIE Program for Joint Action for the period 2011-2014;

That the Executive Committee, by means of Resolution IICA/CE/Res. 532 (XXX-O/10), passed at its Thirtieth Regular Meeting, proposed to the IABA, in carrying out its mandate, the IABA's representative to the Governing Council of CATIE ensure that the joint activities between IICA and CATIE are reinforced and that the technical, administrative and financial mechanisms used to facilitate joint actions are strengthened; and

That the Executive Committee, by means of Resolution IICA/CE/Res. 543 (XXXI-O/11), passed at its Thirty-first Regular Meeting, proposed to the IABA the responsibilities that the person appointed by its representative on the Governing Council of CATIE should assume,

RESOLVES:

1. To approve the responsibilities to be carried out by the person appointed by the IABA's representative on the Governing Council of CATIE, established in the Annex to the present resolution.
2. To task the Director General of IICA with providing the Member State that appoints the person to represent the IABA on the Governing Council of CATIE with the information, legal advice and logistical and technical support required to carry out the responsibilities specified in the present resolution.

Annex
Responsibilities of the IABA Representative
on the Governing Council of CATIE

1. To develop a working knowledge of the Contract between the Government of Costa Rica and IICA on CATIE, as amended by Costa Rica Law 8028 of October 12, 2000, and the Joint Cooperation Agreement between IICA and CATIE of July 13, 2011.
2. To coordinate with the Director General of IICA and with the Member States to establish the IABA's position on matters dealt with by the Governing Council of CATIE, especially with respect to any decisions taken to expand the IICA-CATIE Program for Joint Action and strengthen the mechanisms for implementing joint activities.
3. To keep abreast of the commitments assumed and the agreements and resolutions adopted by both the IABA and the Executive Committee of IICA that have an impact on relations between IICA and CATIE, and, in particular, any that have to do with the joint activities implemented on behalf of the Member States.
4. To confer with the Member States and the Director General of IICA about any matters on the agenda of the Governing Council of CATIE that might relate to IICA, or its assets, in particular any such matters which require a vote of the Council.
5. To provide follow-up to the implementation of the IICA-CATIE Program for Joint Action by: (i) requesting a special report from CATIE on the Program; (ii) keeping abreast of developments related to its implementation; (iii) proposing initiatives designed to strengthen the mechanisms for joint action; and, (iv) supporting efforts to overcome any limitations that affect the execution of the Program for Joint Action.
6. To submit an annual report on the Representative's activities to both the Executive Committee and the Director General of IICA.

IICA/JIA/Res. 474 (XVI-O/11)

21 October 2011

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 474

**STATUS OF THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE FIFTEENTH REGULAR
MEETING OF THE INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (IABA)
AND OF THE THIRTIETH AND THIRTY-FIRST REGULAR
MEETINGS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (IABA), at its Sixteenth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Documents: (i) IICA/JIA/Doc. 352 (11) “Report on the Status of the Resolutions of the Fifteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture”; and (ii) Document IICA/JIA/Doc. 353 (11) “Report on the Status of the Resolutions of the Thirtieth and Thirty-first Regular Meetings of the Executive Committee.”

CONSIDERING:

That the above-mentioned reports demonstrate that the General Directorate has complied with the resolutions adopted by the IABA at its Fifteenth Regular Meeting, and satisfactorily carried out the tasks required to comply with the resolutions adopted at the Thirtieth and Thirty-first Regular Meetings of the Institute’s Executive Committee,

RESOLVES:

To accept the reports: (i) “Status of the Resolutions of the Fifteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture”; and, (ii) “Status of the Resolutions of the Thirtieth and Thirty-first Regular Meetings of the Executive Committee.”

IICA/JIA/Res. 475 (XVI-O/11)

21 October 2011

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 475**DATE AND SITE OF THE SEVENTEENTH REGULAR MEETING
OF THE INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (IABA)**

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (IABA), at its Sixteenth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/JIA/Doc.354 (11), “Date and Site of the Seventeenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture,”

CONSIDERING:

That, in accordance with Article 16 of the Rules of Procedure of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA): (i) regular meetings of the IABA shall be held every two years, preferably in the second half of the second year of the Institute's biennium; and (ii) at each regular meeting of the Board, a tentative date and place for the next meeting shall be determined, in accordance with written offers addressed by the governments of the Member States to the Director General;

That, pursuant to Article 9 of the Convention on IICA and Article 17 of the Rules of Procedure of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), the Board shall deliberate on offers of a site in accordance with the principles of rotation and geographic distribution;

That, by written communication, the Governments of Argentina and Panama have offered their respective countries as the site of the Seventeenth Regular Meeting of the IABA; and

That, based on the principles of rotation and geographic distribution, the delegation of Panama generously withdrew its government's offer,

RESOLVES:

1. To express deep appreciation to the Governments of Panama and Argentina for their generous offer which were a demonstration of their exceptional interest in the affairs of the Institute.
2. To accept, based on the principle of rotation and geographic distribution, the generous offer made by the Government of Argentina to serve as host for the Seventeenth Regular Meeting of the IABA.
3. To provide, based on the provisions of the Convention and the Rules of Procedure of the IABA, that the Seventeenth Regular Meeting of the IABA shall be held in Argentina in the second half of 2013.

IICA/JIA/Res. 476 (XVI-O/11)

21 October 2011

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 476**STRENGTHENING IICA'S STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS**

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (IABA), at its Sixteenth Regular Meeting,

HAVING HEARD:

The presentation made by the Director General and the dialogue held within the framework of the Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas on the importance of strengthening IICA's strategic partnerships to support the efforts of Member States to progress with their agricultural and rural development,

CONSIDERING:

That, in order to accomplish its mission and support the Member States' efforts to advance towards competitive, sustainable and inclusive agriculture, IICA must expand the technical cooperation services it provides and make them more effective;

That, given the need to increase IICA's capacity to strengthen and expand the technical cooperation programs and projects it carries out at the national, regional and hemispheric levels, it is especially important that the Institute promote new partnerships and strengthen existing ones with international, national and multilateral technical and financial organizations and institutions that operate at the global, hemispheric and regional levels;

That, in this context, it is important that international, multilateral and regional financial institutions consider IICA as the partner of choice for implementing the programs and projects funded by such institutions to promote the development of agriculture in the Americas; and

That at its Thirty-first Regular Meeting, the Executive Committee, by means of Resolution IICA/CE/Res. 548 (XXXI-O/11), requested that the Director General propose to the ministers of agriculture participating in the Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas 2011 that they support the strengthening of IICA's partnerships,

RESOLVES:

1. To support the efforts being made by the Director General to consolidate strategic partnerships with national and international organizations and institutions.
2. To urge Member States, when they deem it advisable, to support and promote IICA as the executing agency for agricultural and rural development programs and projects with institutions with which it has established partnerships.

IICA/JIA/Res. 477 (XVI-O/11)

21 October 2011

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 477**JOINT ACTIONS BETWEEN IICA AND FAO**

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (IABA), at its Sixteenth Regular Meeting,

HAVING HEARD:

The presentation made by the Directors General of FAO and IICA on guidelines they propose for strengthening joint action between IICA and FAO in aid of the countries of the Americas,

CONSIDERING:

That the Executive Committee, by means of Resolution IICA/CE/Res.531(XXX-O/10) resolved: (i) to establish that the strategy to be adopted for strengthening ties between the two institutions should be to develop mechanisms to deepen and broaden the coverage of joint actions, and (ii) to instruct the Director General to continue efforts to develop new and more effective links with FAO, to strengthen and expand the coverage and scope of joint actions in the common areas established in the agreements currently in effect, and any others that the two parties may agree upon in the future;

That, in his presentation to the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), Dr. Jose Graziano Da Silva, Director General-elect of FAO informed the Member States of IICA that, upon assuming office as Director General of that organization in January 2012, he will work with the Director General of IICA to prepare a strategy and a program for joint action between IICA and FAO in aid of the nations of the Americas, and

That Dr. Jose Graziano Da Silva also pledged to strengthen cooperation between FAO and the nations of the Americas during his term in office,

RESOLVES:

1. To congratulate Dr. Jose Graziano Da Silva on his election as Director General of FAO, and wish him every success in office.
2. To thank Dr. Jose Graziano Da Silva for his commitment to strengthening joint actions with IICA during his future term in office and to consolidating the mechanisms for programming, implementing, monitoring and evaluating such joint actions.
3. To ask the Director General of IICA to present the Strategy and IICA-FAO Joint Action Program to the Executive Committee at its Thirty-second Regular Meeting, to be held in 2012 .
4. To urge Member States: (i) to have their representatives to the FAO governing bodies support the strengthening of joint actions with IICA and (ii) to the extent possible, to encourage and support the design and implementation of joint technical cooperation actions between IICA and FAO in their respective countries as well as in regional integration mechanisms.

IICA/JIA/Res. 478 (XVI-O/11)

21 October 2011

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 478**VOTE OF THANKS TO THE GOVERNMENT OF COSTA RICA**

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (IABA), at its Sixteenth Regular Meeting,

CONSIDERING:

That, thanks to the hospitality of the government of the Republic of Costa Rica, the Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas 2011 and the Sixteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA were held in San Jose, Costa Rica, from October 19-21, 2011,

RESOLVES:

1. To extend its gracious thanks to Her Excellency Mrs. Gloria Abraham Peralta for her distinguished and enlightened participation in and support for the Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas 2011 and the Sixteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA, which are of paramount importance for agriculture in the Americas.
2. To express appreciation to Her Excellency Mrs. Gloria Abraham Peralta for her willingness to engage in constructive dialogue with her colleagues and for the very efficient manner in which she chaired the Meeting.
3. To thank the staff of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship and other public and private institutions in Costa Rica for their cordial welcome and generous support, which were determining factors in the success of the Meeting.

SIGNING OF THE REPORT

SIGNING OF THE REPORT OF THE SIXTEENTH REGULAR MEETING OF THE INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

Pursuant to Article 85 of the Rules of Procedure of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), the Report of the Sixteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA is hereby signed in Spanish, French, English and Portuguese, the official languages of that meeting, at 19:40 hrs on the twentieth day of October of the year two thousand and eleven.

This report will be edited by the Secretariat and changes adopted during the Closing Session will also be included before its publication in the Official Documents Series, all versions being equally authentic and valid.

The Secretary shall file the original texts in the archives of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, and the General Directorate shall send copies of the official version of this report to the Governments of the Member States, the Permanent Observers of the Institute and other participants in the meeting.

San Jose, Costa Rica



Victor M. Villalobos
Director General of IICA
Ex-officio Secretary of the Meeting of
Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas
2011 and of the Sixteenth Regular
Meeting of the IABA



Gloria Abraham
Minister of Agriculture and Livestock
Farming of Costa Rica and Chair of the
Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture of
the Americas 2011 and of the Sixteenth
Regular Meeting of the IABA

SPEECHES

**ADDRESS BY HER EXCELLENCY MRS. LAURA CHINCHILLA
MIRANDA, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF COSTA RICA,
AT THE INAUGURAL SESSION OF THE MEETING OF
MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE OF THE AMERICAS 2011, AND
OF THE SIXTEENTH REGULAR MEETING OF THE IABA**

Good afternoon.

Mr. Victor Villalobos, Director General of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture; Madam Minister of Agriculture and Livestock Farming of Costa Rica; Ministers of Agriculture of other countries of the Americas; dear friends.

Allow me to begin by congratulating the Director General of IICA for organizing the Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas 2011. On behalf of the government and people of Costa Rica, I want to welcome you to this land of peace and democracy, whose national soul is firmly rooted in the land and closely tied to nature.

Even though we are extremely pleased to welcome you to this Meeting, we are also concerned about the serious challenges facing humanity today and the great responsibility all of us share in meeting them.

We must provide effective responses to these challenges, one of the most pressing of which is the need to guarantee the supply of food for the 7 billion inhabitants of the planet, of which more than 900 million live in the Americas. We are also faced with challenges such as ensuring the well-being of our rural areas, where some 130 million Latin Americans, often the poorest and most excluded segments of the population, live.

Another challenge is to overcome the effects of climate change, which is increasingly impacting our countries and, in particular, our farmers. As a matter of fact, within the last few days, some of the countries of Central America have been hard hit by severe weather that has destroyed infrastructure, wiped out crops and taken the lives of some 90 persons. We wish to express our solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Central America and we call on them to continue to work with us to develop a global agenda that is environmentally responsible.

All these challenges have important implications for agriculture, a fact clearly understood by this forum, which will attempt to coordinate actions at the regional level that will

make the agricultural sector more competitive and socially and environmentally sustainable, and a sector in which innovation will play an essential role in increasing productivity and prosperity.

We have decided on this occasion to focus our discussions on innovation, a topic of great interest at the present time. We must look to human inventiveness to find ways to free our peoples from hunger, poverty and food insecurity and from the effects of climate change. We applaud the choice of the theme for this meeting, which calls on us to sow innovation in our public policies so that the peoples of our region can harvest prosperity and well-being.

The Americas is a region of great paradox and striking contrasts. From Alaska to the tip of South America, development has not been equal in all countries, and within our countries social, economic and technological divides exist. While certain sectors suffer from chronic hunger, in some of our countries, overweight and obesity in children and adults is becoming a serious health problem.

The wealth of nature that we are enjoying due to an abundance of water, fertile soils and biological diversity, is accompanied by over-exploitation of our natural resources, threatening their continued existence and putting environmental sustainability and food security at risk. Thanks to its soils, the Americas is one of the largest producers and exporters of food in the world, but yet, it has not been possible to bring well-being and prosperity to all those who work the land.

We must ask ourselves: How can we solve these paradoxes? How can we do even more despite our differences? How can we ensure that the progress enjoyed today by some reaches many more? How can we tackle the challenges posed by climate change, which, undeservedly so, is affecting our region more than others.

All these paradoxes are becoming challenges that we can meet, provided we have the political will required to keep moving forward, and we are wise enough to use those tools that are available to us today thanks to science, technology and innovation.

Talent, inventiveness and innovation have always been the most outstanding traits of human evolution, but especially so in the more recent past. Innovation applied to agriculture leads to transformations that will expand the possibilities of the sector. To innovate means to change, explore, create value and re-invent, which is exactly what the agricultural sectors of our nations need. Only through innovation will we be able to continue to expand our agricultural frontiers, which will enable us to feed the entire

population without threatening the environment and sacrificing the health of agricultural workers.

Not only are we living in one of the greatest eras in terms of knowledge generation, but also one in which that knowledge has been made accessible to more people than ever before in history. This is why we must promote the application of instruments that not only encourage innovation, but also foster its dissemination. While it is necessary to promote the use of tools that protect the fruits of our intellect and foster research, we must also make that knowledge accessible to as broad an audience as possible.

Mindful of these challenges, Costa Rica has adopted a number of decisions aimed at making our agricultural sector competitive and sustainable. Our goal is to become one of the first carbon neutral countries in the world, and our agricultural sector has already undertaken important steps in that direction. The production processes of some of our coffee and rice marketing companies have already been certified as carbon neutral.

We also want our agricultural sector to be intelligent. We therefore promote the formation of partnerships with the public, private and academic sectors, which can facilitate the incorporation of technologies that will lead to improvements in animal and plant genetics, the sound use of resources such as soil and water, and the nutritional value of basic foods.

Like Costa Rica, all the countries represented here can report successful experiences. We know that the fertility associated with the Americas refers not only to what the land can yield, but also to the fruits of the intellect of its people. This is why we are convinced that the theme of this Meeting, innovation, is one area that can significantly advance the developmental agenda of our countries.

We trust that this Meeting, which we are inaugurating today, will yield a bountiful harvest, and that there will be a fertile exchange of ideas and experiences that will result in more support for our producers and our rural areas, and contribute to the well-being of our nations.

Thank you very much.

**ADDRESS BY MR. JOSE MIGUEL INSULZA, SECRETARY
GENERAL OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES,
AT THE INAUGURAL SESSION OF THE MEETING OF
MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE OF THE AMERICAS 2011, AND
OF THE SIXTEENTH REGULAR MEETING OF THE IABA**

Good evening,

Mrs. Gloria Abraham Peralta, Minister of Agriculture and Livestock Farming of Costa Rica; Mr. Victor Villalobos Arambula, Director General of IICA; ministers; members of the diplomatic corps; heads of international organizations; authorities; ladies and gentlemen.

Allow me to begin by apologizing for being late; inclement weather prevented me from arriving as scheduled. This incident affords me an opportunity to express my heartfelt solidarity with the peoples and government of the countries of Central America, severely affected by the torrential rains of recent days. I deeply regret the human and material losses they have suffered as a result of the heavy rains, which, unfortunately, have been falling more frequently in recent years.

I wish to thank IICA and the government of Costa Rica for their decision to host the Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas 2011, which, in my judgment, is the most important one to be held in recent years. It is an honor to again be in Costa Rica and participate, albeit a little bit late, in the inauguration of this event, made all the more important by the selection of its key theme, innovation, and because it is a demonstration of IICA's determination to foster dialogue on policies in areas of great concern to us.

Much has been said recently regarding the possibility that, given the economic situation in many of our countries, this could be the decade for Latin America and the Caribbean to stand out. I think that, rather than continuing to talk about whether it is or is not, it is more important for us to decide what we must do to ensure it will be and on which areas we should focus our attention. I am firmly convinced that one of those areas is agriculture. I am certain that it is one of the topics that will be addressed at the next Summit of the Americas, to be held next year in Cartagena, Colombia. Why? Because agriculture contributes more to the economies and well-being of the Americas than many

other sectors. Indeed, the Americas, as a region, is a net supplier of food to the world, which increasingly demands more and better quality food. Fortunately, our region has the resources, experience in production and export capacity required to meet that demand, and to become the region that contributes the most to food security worldwide.

Contributing to this is the availability of natural resources within exists in the Americas. Of the nine mega-diverse countries in the world, seven are Latin American. The biodiversity with which the region has been endowed, if exploited in a sustainable manner, can be a determining factor in meeting the challenges posed by food security and climate change. However, nowadays, it is not enough to have an abundance of natural resources because the capacity to produce food in the amounts and of the quality required depends not only on that abundance, but also increasingly on knowledge, technology and innovation.

That is why the decision to convene this Meeting of Ministers to address the topic of innovation in agriculture was so important. Our region, with a few exceptions, is far behind in the area of innovation. For example, in 2006, investment in research and development in agriculture in LAC was only 1.14% of the gross value of agricultural production. Therefore, it is urgent to invest more in agricultural science and technology because we are witnessing the beginning of a new agricultural revolution based on knowledge and innovation by which the practice of agriculture will be re-defined, new products will be created and new business opportunities will emerge. All this will lead to greater wealth - we cannot afford to be left out. Therefore, it is urgent to take advantage of the new information and communication technologies, biotechnology and nanotechnology, which have multiple applications in the agrifood sector.

Another important challenge we must face is how to ensure that agriculture brings greater benefits to those who live and work in rural areas, where poverty levels exceed those for the rest of the population, posing great challenges for governments and organizations such as IICA. We know that agriculture in the Americas is highly heterogeneous. In addition to modern and export-driven agriculture there is small-scale rural farming, which finds it difficult to gain access to markets, loans and technology. Nonetheless, with the necessary support, the productivity of those small rural farmers can be improved, transferring to them innovations and modern know-how, while respecting their traditional knowledge.

The support that organizations such as IICA can provide to countries in meeting all these challenges is fundamental, especially in terms of efforts to develop innovations that will make food security and sustainable and inclusive agriculture a reality and help mitigate the effects of climate change in the Americas.

One of the greatest concerns today is how to produce enough food to feed a growing world population. Innovation, the theme of this meeting, is one of the best alternatives. As I mentioned earlier, it is very important to ensure that the results of this Ministerial Meeting be submitted as input for the Sixth Summit of the Americas, the theme of which is “Connecting the Americas: Partners for Prosperity.” I hope that this Meeting will yield results that will help us to strengthen the generation of knowledge and innovation in agriculture that will enable us to feed all our populations and even contribute to achieving food security worldwide.

Certainly, there is much more that needs to be done and agriculture in the Americas is not keeping pace with developments. However, I am certain that, with sound policies and renewed efforts to introduce innovation into agriculture, we will soon occupy our rightful place in terms of food production. For this reason, I am delighted that the decision was made to organize this event. I wish you every success and look forward to examining the recommendations that will certainly emerge from it, with a view to presenting them as input for the Sixth Summit of the Americas, scheduled for next year.

Thank you very much.

ADDRESS BY THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK FARMING OF COSTA RICA, GLORIA ABRAHAM PERALTA, AT THE INAUGURAL SESSION OF THE MEETING OF MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE OF THE AMERICAS 2011, AND OF THE SIXTEENTH REGULAR MEETING OF THE IABA

Friends:

As a daughter of a country founded on peace, democracy, tolerance and dialogue, which threw down its arms and abandoned its military barracks, opting instead to rely on picks, shovels and books as it strove to move forward and achieve progress based on education and health, I wish to extend, on behalf of the people of Costa Rica, a most cordial welcome to the ministers and secretaries of agriculture of the Americas and their delegations. I also wish to welcome all those guests and representatives of international organizations, with special greetings for those men and women of the agricultural sector throughout the hemisphere who, every day, work to build societies characterized by prosperity and dignity.

A visionary, the former president of Costa Rica, Jose Figueres Ferrer, once asked his fellow citizens a question that is still applicable today with regard to socio-economic development: ¿What is the good of tractors if there are no violins?

Given the challenges of a world immersed in a grave economic crisis, and a region rampant with crime, his question takes on even greater importance today. Tractors and violins is an excellent discussion point with respect to the need to strengthen our production capabilities, but without overlooking the human being as a whole, who is certain of his goals and proud of his origins. Today the question could be: What good are tractors if there are no violins and computers?

And another great Costa Rican, Jorge Manuel Dengo Obregon, understood perfectly Figueres' visionary spirit and devoted himself, throughout the second half of the 20th century, to modernizing the technological infrastructure in Costa Rica, an arduous task that required not only hammers and tractors, but also the application of the political concept of human development without discrimination?

Dengo brought electricity and telecommunications to the farthest corners of rural Costa Rica, a land of farmers and livestock ranchers, where solidarity was a way of life.

For all these reasons, the fact that the Meeting of Ministers of the Americas is being held here and that we are home to the headquarters of IICA, a beloved institution that supports us throughout the hemisphere, holds a special meaning for all Costa Ricans. In 1942, 69 years ago, in the throes of World War II, IICA was founded in Turrialba, a place many of you know and which today is the site of CATIE, a tropical agriculture research and higher learning center of international renown.

The origins of IICA can be traced back to a visionary and strategic decision made by its founders, who saw the Americas as an alternative region for food production, given the devastation caused by the war in Europe. Almost seven decades have passed, during which we have witnessed the evolution of an organization that was created to provide support in the agrifood sector, to governments facing very different realities, which integration and globalization have gradually brought together.

Joint action has proven to be the solution to the problems of development; the results of the “green revolution” would have never spread throughout the world without the involvement of international organizations such as IICA.

We can state unequivocally that not all the wealth of the Americas have been used up in the production of food; there is also the natural and cultural wealth of its territories.

In my country, agriculture, and above all the people who live and work in the sector, is very important to us. It reminds us of our roots, our values and our development, which, since the early years of our independence, was based on the belief that the wealth of a nation has little value if prosperity is not generated for the majority.

In Costa Rica, the agrifood sector accounts for 15% of GDP. We are a net exporter of food and have been very successful in the production and export of tropical products, but we have to import certain grains and oilseeds. We are fully integrated into the international market, so much so that whatever happens in the sector at the global level has an immediate impact on my country.

We are living in complex times. To govern is no easy task and civil society, in all its manifestations, demands a role in decision-making.

We now know that it is not enough to simply produce food on a massive scale to solve problems such as rural poverty, country-to-city migration, the deterioration of natural

resources, and food security itself, which depends not only on the availability of, but also access to food.

We have also learned that there are many factors that can threaten the food security of a country, ranging from a sudden hike in the prices of agricultural products or the inputs required to produce them, to disasters which, increasingly, are being caused by variations in climate.

A recent report from the International Monetary Fund indicates that, even though it faces risks, the economy of Latin America is well positioned, in large part due to the favorable outlook for the principal exports from the region, thanks to the high prices being paid for raw materials.

However, we are also aware of a number of challenges that we have to overcome.

The joint ECLAC-FAO-IICA reports have called for closing the technology gaps and increasing yields in food production, so that Latin America and the Caribbean can take greater advantage of the available natural and human resources and contribute to the generation of wealth and opportunities.

A couple of weeks ago, Michael Porter reflected on what we have been doing wrong over the last 20 years, citing a limited vision in the creation of economic value as the principal problem.

His new approach of “creating shared values” is based on the synergies generated between economic value and social value, which is one step beyond philanthropy or corporate social responsibility. It calls on us to put our house in order, to make better use of natural resources and energy, to depend less on logistics, to reintegrate the value chain and to re-think the needs of consumers and markets.

I mention all of this because, inasmuch as innovation is the theme of this Ministerial Meeting, I cannot ignore the fact that what Porter said really calls for revisiting the way we have been governing, designing policies and doing business.

All of us here today are aware of the limitations we face in our jobs under a traditional sectoral approach. We also need institutional innovations, mostly in the design and implementation of State policies intended to promote competitiveness, science and technology, the development of territories and the agro-environmental agenda, including actions to counteract climate change, all of which necessarily redefine the way we have been working. I call on international cooperation organizations such as IICA, FAO,

ECLAC, the IDB and the World Bank to intensify their support and provide us with feedback on best practices in the area of public policies.

It seems to me therefore, that the topic of innovation is relevant, and looking ahead to the future, is more than justified. Prosperity for our peoples will depend to a great extent on the strengthening of national innovation systems, which will require sufficient investment and the adoption of public policies that are comprehensive, timely and sustainable.

We must incorporate new tools to modernize agriculture. Practical applications of information technologies, such as the use of digital maps, early-warning systems and cell phones to transmit basic information, are a few of the types being used in our countries. Prejudices aside, the value of conventional or modern biotechnology, if regulated and used in an ethical manner, should be given due consideration.

All the above requires basing development on innovation and investment which, historically, has been very low in LAC, averaging only 0.6% of GDP. Only four countries: Mexico, Brazil, Argentina and Colombia, account for 80% of all the resources earmarked in this region for investment in agricultural research. If we take as a reference a country such as South Korea, which 50 years ago was a poor country, we see that it invests more in S&T than all of LAC combined.

We are living in times of crisis. Our fiscal problems, the volatility of international markets and our growing vulnerability to climatic events are examples of what is affecting us and retarding our development. We must work with what we have. That will require great creativity and responsibility in the use of resources, and the strengthening of partnerships with the production sectors, academia, and international cooperation agencies. I am certain that many share these concerns and that our international partners will assist us to achieve our goal.

Our shared vision of the challenges we face, and the importance of innovation in ensuring a future with greater well-being, should be clearly stated in a Ministerial Declaration that reflects that spirit.

My country, as host of this Meeting, prepared a draft Declaration as a basis for discussion. The representatives of our countries worked, yesterday and this morning, on the content of the declaration, which we hope reflects consensus on everything we have in common. However, I am certain that the feedback we will receive from our guests on Thursday and Friday will add much to the text of the ministerial declaration.

Madam President, dear colleagues:

Innovation can help us to solve many immediate problems, but the most important contribution it can make is to strengthen our capacity to grow in the medium and long terms.

It puts us in a better position to compete in this globalized world and enables us to provide our societies with solutions, encouraging and rewarding their efforts.

The countries of the hemisphere must focus their efforts on all of this. The Americas must be well prepared to weather future storms, whether they are the result of natural or economic forces.

We need a new green revolution.

If we sow the seeds of innovation today, we will harvest prosperity and well-being for our peoples, with tractors, violins and computers.

Thank you very much and, again, welcome to Costa Rica.

**ADDRESS BY DR. VICTOR M. VILLALOBOS, DIRECTOR
GENERAL OF IICA, AT THE INAUGURATION OF THE
MEETING OF MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE OF THE
AMERICAS 2011, AND OF THE SIXTEENTH REGULAR
MEETING OF THE IABA**

Thank you, Madam Laura Chinchilla, President of the Republic of Costa Rica.

Robinson Peña is a Chilean producer of organic raspberries. His company, Organic Fruits Chile, today produces 1,800 tons of fruit, which represents more than 6.3 million dollars in earnings per year. He came from a humble family, worked as a harvester, did not attend university and does not speak English.

Despite all that, Robinson was able to espouse

- a vision of innovation,
- garner the support of the INIA in Chile and
- adopt an attitude of social.

Compromise that revolutionized the manner in which the fruit was being produced in the Coihueco region.

Benjamin Riensche is a U.S. producer of maize and soy, who was hard hit by the price volatility that is now endangering the world's capacity to feed itself.

His income has plummeted and the cost of the seeds, fertilizers and machinery that he needs are constantly on the rise.

His story is a wake-up call regarding the fragility of the world's food supply. "¿What could be happening to cause prices to rise and fall so significantly in such a short time?" Riensche wonders.

Honorable Ministers and Delegates from the thirty-four nations of the Americas, Distinguished Representatives of Associate Countries and Permanent Observers, Distinguished Secretary of the Organization of American States,

Distinguished Representatives of International Organizations,
Members of the Diplomatic Corps Accredited to Costa Rica,
Authorities of the Costa Rican Government,
Distinguished Directors Emeritus of IICA,
Friends all,

I extend to you a warm welcome to the Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas 2011, which, under the theme “Sowing Innovation to Harvest Prosperity,” will provide a new platform for analysis and decision-making among the sector leaders.

My heartfelt thanks to President Chinchilla and to the people of Costa Rica for their hospitality.

The video that was shown at the beginning of this Meeting clearly indicates the enormous challenges facing agriculture in the XXI Century. But it is also a message of hope in the capacity, at both the human and resource levels, which we the countries of the Americas possess to emerge from this crisis.

Last January, President Barack Obama declared before the U.S. Congress: *“In the United States, innovation does not only change our way of living, it is the way in which we make our living.”*

At the heart of President Obama’s words is an idea which I wish to share with you all: innovation is transforming our lives and, at the same time, it is the best business for us to get involved in.

Developing agriculture to enable it to deal successfully with the challenges it faces demands tremendous effort with respect to innovation and, like any other business, it requires significant investment.

The importance of investing now in innovation, in order to reap prosperity in the future for everyone, implies that there is no better comparative advantage than to develop the knowledge that will be needed to make agriculture function better.

Innovation has been the basic engine of economic growth. The use of new technologies always creates new markets, expands production and generates new demand. Two years ago, when I took over the reins of IICA, we were discussing the effects of the agricultural crisis on food prices and basic commodities and we were convinced of the enormous potential that agricultural activities offer for lasting, sustainable and inclusive growth.

Now that there is some indication of another looming economic storm, finding a new way of producing will make agriculture a buffer to the current crises and those that will undoubtedly arise in the future.

Economic imbalances are obviously affecting the sector, but both theory and reality prove that when low growth is coupled with financial instability, the solution must come through innovation on the part of individuals, with constant support from governments.

We all wish for more employment, more investment and increased production. For this we need significant innovation in agriculture. This new productive paradigm must take into account renewable energies, new types of food, global markets, as well as information and communication technologies.

The State plays a fundamental role as facilitator for the conditions that allow the human genius to flourish. Its actions are required to promote national innovation systems. The key is to transform this theme into a matter of State and to place Government at the service of transforming institutions and the productive system.

International organizations, be they financial or cooperation-related, must support this national effort and take it beyond national borders, so that, through joint action at the regional or hemispheric level, we can find responses to the common, but important, questions. The national institutions also have success stories that they can share with other countries.

An example of what I have just mentioned is the presence among us in the forum tomorrow of representatives of ECLAC, the World Bank, the IDB, CGIAR and EMBRAPA.

Of equal significance will be the presence next Friday of the first Latin American to head the FAO, the Director-General-elect, Dr. Graziano Da Silva.

We need to take advantage of the impetus that the price instability has given to agriculture, while strengthening awareness of the importance of our sector to food security.

Only three months ago, and for the first time in history, the Ministers of Agriculture of the Group of 20 met and agreed upon a Plan of Action with respect to price volatility in agriculture, to be submitted to the Governments of the Group itself.

In our Institute there are five members of the G-20. This situation presents a historic window of opportunity to make IICA the hemispheric link for these initiatives.

The Institute is the only one of its kind with the capacities required to be the most important partner for innovation in agriculture within the hemisphere; and it can fully comply with this task, if its members are prepared to strengthen it.

IICA also has the political backing, which is what you all represent. We must now move from thought to action.

IICA belongs to the countries and plays a strategic role in the Americas.

IICA offers the technical leadership required to create new productive paradigms for innovation.

IICA can assist in finding the answers to far-reaching issues: to guarantee food security for this generation and the ones to come; to preserve the home of humanity, mitigating environmental degradation and climate change; and reducing the poverty that is affecting millions of persons in the rural territories.

The new model proposes a change of vision: development of agriculture must transform agriculture into the axis of economic and social development.

Madam Chair, Madam Minister, other Ministers and Heads of Delegation:

The IICA administration that I head understands the role that innovation plays in generating greater productivity and competitiveness, in achieving production models that are increasingly inclusive, in assisting agriculture to mitigate the effects of global warming, in dealing with the current climatic changes and in contributing more to food security worldwide.

This hemisphere has the potential to do all this and only requires the imagination that leads to creativity. Public and private-sector resources are needed to give wings to these innovative initiatives. And believe me when I say that the best partner you will find to make this common dream a reality is IICA.

I will have further opportunities to describe to you the successes that we have achieved and the goals that are still to be met. Suffice it to say that the commitments made by the Director General of the Institute and its staff remain firm.

Let us make IICA a cutting-edge institution with the capacity to respond to the new challenges facing agriculture and rural well-being in the Americas. Let us embark together upon the road to innovation “at a time when the formula - research, development and knowledge creation – is becoming the common currency, and perhaps the only formula to drive true economic development.”

We want many more farmers to declare as Robinson did:

"Providing work for others and exporting to the rest of the world gives me immense pleasure and pride in my achievements.”

We want Benjamin to be confident in his decision to invest in producing food.

With your collaboration, we want to sow innovation to harvest prosperity.

Thank you very much and best of luck in your deliberations.

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Mr. Director General of IICA
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Ladies and Gentlemen

It is a great pleasure for me to be here in Costa Rica. It is a great honor to me to be invited to give this talk.

I had a whole Power Point presentation, but given the lateness of the evening, I am going to skip that. I have my Power Points with me and I'll try to condense them into as short a period as I can.

But the message I want to leave you with today is Latin American innovation, Latin American investments in agriculture in the past were very, very, important, not just for Latin America, not just to help Latin America get over hunger and poverty and improve overall income levels and become emerging economies, but because Latin American innovations had a global impact. They spread across the world and helped millions of people around the world get over hunger and poverty.

The message I am giving you today is Latin America is still very important in that process of global transfer of technology. Latin America can still invest enormously in its own innovations and help the rest the world in their fight against hunger and poverty.

So, what I would like to do is first of all is to take you back to the 1960s. To a time when around the world there were massive hunger and massive poverty. A time when many people thought Asia would never be able to feed itself. A time when much of this region was also under hunger and poverty. And that was the time when the green revolution took place. It was a time when Norman Borlaug, working with scientists in Mexico, was

able to create the modern high-yielding wheat varieties that were able to suddenly triple and quadruple wheat yields on very small farms.

Those varieties developed by Norman Borlaug at CIMMYT in Mexico were then sent around the world. The first shipment went to India and Pakistan. Eighteen thousand tons of seed went from Mexico to India and Pakistan in 1966. By 1974, India was self-sufficient in food. India was self-sufficient in wheat and in rice. The wheat revolution of India should be credited to the innovations that took place in Mexico. And I think that is something Mexico and Latin America ought to be really proud of.

But it was not just in India. If you look of what has happened over the past four decades, we've seen that agriculture productivity growth rates have grown around the world, with the exception of Sub-Saharan Africa. In all of the continents, growth rates have more than kept up with population growth rates. And productivity growth has been the primary driver of the overall economic growth that is taking place across the developing world.

And investments in R&D were one of the fundamental factors that made it happen. But along with that, investments in roads, in transport infrastructure, in irrigation infrastructure, investments in markets and in better policy environments made that productivity growth possible.

And that is a lesson we've learned through the green revolution. But it is a lesson that is really relevant for us as we look ahead.

When we think about the contributions of Latin America to the global agriculture system, it's not just wheat. Think about the contributions in maize, think about the contributions in sweet potato, think about the contributions in cassava, but also think about the contributions in terms of agronomy, land management, education, etc. And there are enormous numbers of contributions from this region.

Let me just give you a sample of some of the highlights, the high achievements, that we've seen coming out of this region. In Mexico, there is a landrace of maize called Tuxpeño. The Tuxpeño landrace was bred into tropical maize varieties and, today, 150 maize varieties around the world have Tuxpeño germ plasm in them. Over 100 maize varieties in Africa have Tuxpeño germ plasm in them. And what Tuxpeño has done is to provide tropical maize varieties with resistance to a variety of viruses and diseases.

Tuxpeño has also allowed tropical maizes to improve their tolerance to drought, and further work has been done at CIMMYT in the last several years. Today, drought-tolerant maize varieties are spreading rapidly across Sub-Saharan Africa. In Southern Africa,

drought-tolerant maize varieties are now adding around a hundred kg of yield per hectare per year. That may seem very small to you, but if you are a farmer whose average yield is one ton per hectare, that is an enormous gain that you'll see on an annual basis. And that is a tremendous change that you are seeing.

Think about another example: quality protein maize (qpm). Quality protein maize came from this region and improvements in quality protein maize, adding high yield to it, adding disease and insect resistance to it and releasing it in Africa have now resulted in countries like Ethiopia being able to manage protein malnutrition, and to move above the bar in terms of overall nutrition levels.

But qpm has also become a boon for the livestock industry, because it has become much cheaper as a livestock feed than protein-enhanced livestock feed. And all the way from China to India to Africa, we are beginning to see the use of qpm as a major source of livestock feed.

Let me go away from maize and wheat and talk about sweet potatoes for a moment. Sweet potatoes originated here in this region, but they've become the most important staple crop in Ruanda, in Burundi, in Uganda, etc. The productivity growth of sweet potatoes in Africa depends a lot on the R&D work done on sweet potatoes right here in Latin America, because the resistance that you need for pests and diseases has to come from landraces in this region. The knowledge regarding sweet potato improvement has to come from the science that is taking place in this region.

Take one example. One example is the orange-fleshed sweet potato; the sweet potato that is orange in color, the sweet potato that has a higher level of vitamin A in it. Bio-fortification has allowed the science community to enhance the bioavailability of vitamin A in the orange-fleshed sweet potato. And orange-fleshed sweet potato trials are now being conducted in several locations around the world. In Mozambique, feeding trials with orange-fleshed sweet potatoes have shown that, in children who are vitamin A deficient, the incidence of vitamin A deficiency dropped by 20% to 30% because of adding orange-fleshed sweet potato to their diet on a daily basis.

So the innovation that is coming from this region is helping very poor, very hungry, people in Sub-Saharan Africa.

But when we talk about innovation we should not be just thinking about it as seed or as any other product. Quite often an innovation can be quite different. Take the example of a bug: the cassava mealybug.

The cassava mealybug spread all across Africa and completely destroyed the cassava crop. It was one of the most serious pest problems for cassava in Africa. Cassava is not a native species for Africa. Cassava comes from South America, from Brazil, and so African scientists, along with Brazilian scientists, were able to identify the predator populations that can kill the cassava mealybug. They took this predator population, these bugs, and created a biological control innovation, and within a period of three years the cassava mealybug was completely removed from continental Africa. That was an enormous innovation that took place in a South-South collaborative manner between Africa and Latin America.

Whenever I am travelling in Africa, people tell me African soils are very poor. African soils have very low soil fertility, have very little organic matter content and are very highly susceptible to erosion. And then I think to myself, and say to myself: people used to say that about the Cerrados in Brazil, just 20 years ago. They said the Cerrados in Brazil would not be able to grow anything. Today the Cerrados in Brazil are the breadbasket of the country. That is the area from which Brazil exports a large part of its agriculture produce. What did Brazil do in the Cerrados? They worked on soil acidity by adding lime, by adding varieties that are resistant to acid soils. They worked on low organic matter content by adding residues to the soil through conservation tillage, etc. And then they worked on adding nitrogen fixing legumes in this soil. And through all of this, through the massive investments that took place, they were able to turn the Cerrados into very fertile lands. Argentina did the same thing in the Pampas through zero tillage systems, and the Pampas today are massive producers of soybeans and Argentina is a major soybean exporter because of the way they turned the Pampas around.

The example of the Cerrados, the example of the Pampas and knowledge that is being generated is knowledge that is highly, highly relevant to the savannas of Africa. If we can get this knowledge from here to Africa, we will be creating an enormous change in productivity.

Let me take a minute to talk about R&D capacity, and capacity building. When we look at the African continent, one of the issues that we are extremely concerned about is the very low level of R&D capacity, and the fact that we need to find models for rapidly building up R&D capacity, and just basic science capacity, agricultural science capacity in the region. Latin America provides enormously successful examples that we could build upon and we could capitalize on.

Look at EMBRAPA and the way EMBRAPA has become a world leader in tropical agriculture R&D, and the way the Brazilian government has made agriculture R&D a top priority for themselves, and innovation a top priority for the country as a whole. If we

can figure out a way to use the expertise that comes out of building such R&D capacity and to transfer that knowledge to other parts of the world, especially to Sub-Saharan Africa, it could be enormously profitable for all sides.

Think about university education. EARTH University right here in Costa Rica, and Zamorano University in Honduras are major examples of how one can provide education that is not just relevant from a theory point of view, but an education that marries theory with experiential learning, with on the ground, on the job learning, connected very closely with agribusiness and agribusiness learning that takes place.

By this marriage between classroom theory and learning on the ground, these universities have been able to change the type of graduates that come out. They have been able to generate graduates that are extremely relevant to the type of job markets we have today, and they are very well connected in the new value chains that are coming up all the across the developing world today.

And that is the type of model that one should be looking at promoting as we look at improving education systems in Sub-Saharan Africa. I know that the EARTH University is already working very closely with Drew Forum, which is a major effort that is going on for strengthening African agriculture universities.

Ladies and gentlemen, let me take a couple of minutes to tell you that the Foundation, the Gates Foundation, looked at many of these examples, many of these historical examples of successes in innovation, successes in promoting smallholder productivity growth, and then the way in which smallholder productivity growth created an engine for overall economic growth. As we looked at these experiences, we became convinced that agriculture and agriculture productivity growth was a fundamental way in which we could tackle hunger and poverty. Therefore, over the last five to six years, we have had a very strong agriculture program in the Foundation. This program has been focused very closely on the poorest of the poor; primarily in Sub-Saharan Africa, but also in South Asia.

Our focus has been to look at ways in which we can bring innovation to rapidly enhance agriculture productivity growth. But we cannot do this alone. The problem is too massive for any one organization to do it alone. But we can do it together; we can address the problem of acute hunger and acute poverty together. And we can try to build partnerships that cut across geographies and allow us to learn from one geography to another. If there are ways in which the experience and the expertise and the knowledge that is in this region can be used to help the lives of farmers in Sub-Saharan Africa, I think that could be something that will have enormously beneficial effects in Sub-

Saharan Africa. And it is something that we would be very much interested to see happening, and we'll always be looking for partnerships like that.

Thank you very much.

ANNEXES

ANNEX 1: AGENDA
(IICA/EC/Doc.343(11))

1. Schedule of the Meeting

1.1 Provisional Schedule *IICA/JIA/Doc.344(11)*

2. Report to the Member States

2.1 Message from the Director General *(No document)*

3. Innovation for Agriculture in the Americas

3.1 Forum: Innovation for Sustainable,
Competitive and Inclusive Agriculture

3.2 The Outlook for Agriculture and Rural
Development in the Americas: A Perspective
on Latin America and the Caribbean 2011 *IICA/JIA/Doc.345(11)*

3.3 Ministerial Dialogue: Innovation for
Sustainable, Competitive and Inclusive
agriculture *(No document)*

4. Institutional and Technical Cooperation Policy

4.1 IICA's Strategic Alliances *(No document)*

4.2 FAO's Vision and IICA-FAO Relations *(No document)*

5. Budgetary and Financial Matters

5.1 IICA's Financial Statements for 2009 and 2010
and Reports of the External Auditors *IICA/JIA/Doc.346(11)*

- 5.2 Sixteenth and Seventeenth Reports of the Audit Review Committee (ARC) *IICA/JIA/Doc.347(11)*
- 5.3 Report on the Collection of Quotas *IICA/JIA/Doc.348(11)*
- 5.4 2012-2013 Program-Budget *IICA/JIA/Doc.349(11)*
- 5.5 Report on the Status of the Study on Recovery of Indirect Costs related to Externally-funded Projects *(No document)*

6. Rules, Procedures and other Administrative Matters

- 6.1 Proposed Amendments to Article 22 of the Rules of Procedure of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture *IICA/JIA/Doc.350(11)*

7. Matters Pertaining to the Governing Bodies of IICA

- 7.1 Responsibilities of the IABA Representative on the Governing Council of CATIE *IICA/JIA/Doc.351(11)*
- 7.2 Report on the Status of the Resolutions of the Fifteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA *IICA/JIA/Doc.352(11)*
- 7.3 Report on the Status of the Resolutions of the Thirtieth and Thirty-first Regular Meetings of the Executive Committee *IICA/JIA/Doc.353(11)*
- 7.4 Date and Site of the Seventeenth Regular Meeting of the IABA *IICA/JIA/Doc.354(11)*

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