

CARICOM

CORECA

**AN AGENDA
FOR COOPERATION IN AGRICULTURE BETWEEN
THE COUNTRIES OF CENTRAL AMERICA
AND THE CARIBBEAN**

**Implementation of the Belize Agreement
between the Ministers of Agriculture of the
Caribbean Community (CARICOM)
and the Regional Council for Agricultural Cooperation
in Central America, Mexico, Panama
and the Dominican Republic (CORECA)**

**San Jose, Costa Rica
September 20, 1997**



INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR COOPERATION ON AGRICULTURE



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THE COUNTRIES OF CENTRAL AMERICA
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**A document prepared by the Working Group
for development of a plan of action for implementation
of the Belize Agreement between the Ministers of Agriculture
of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM)
and the Regional Council for Agricultural Cooperation
in Central America, Mexico, Panama
and the Dominican Republic (CORECA)**

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**AN AGENDA FOR COOPERATION IN AGRICULTURE BETWEEN THE
COUNTRIES OF CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
Implementation of the Belize Agreement between CARICOM and CORECA**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The countries of Central America and the Caribbean have begun to forge cultural, political and economic relations. There have, however, been little cooperation in agriculture.

The Minister of Agriculture of Belize proposed in 1996 a joint meeting of Ministers of Agriculture of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the Regional Council for Agricultural Cooperation in Central America, Mexico, Panama and Dominican Republic (CORECA) in order to explore an agenda for cooperation.

The joint meeting was held on May 26, 1997, in Belize City, Belize, in which the Ministers agreed to seek closer regional cooperation in agriculture and in a Memorandum of Understanding established the themes and areas of cooperation.

They also agreed to establish a Working Group consisting of a representative of the Minister of Agriculture of Belize (Chairman of the SCMA), a representative of the Minister of Agriculture of Honduras (Chairman of CORECA), two representatives of CARICOM and CORECA Secretariat, and IICA (who was asked to lead the Working Group due to its involvement in both regions in the area of agricultural development and its network of offices and technical personnel throughout the regions) to prepare a Work Program.

The Working Group met on August 4 and 5, 1997, and prepared the Work Program as requested by the Ministers, for implementation of the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding.

The Work Program, here included, sets out the agenda for cooperation in agriculture. It consists of series of project proposals for strengthening cooperation in Trade, Agricultural Health and Technology Generation and Transfer between the two subregions. The program also proposed an initiative to facilitate the exchange of youth between the countries of the two subregions and a proposal to reduce language as a barrier to communication and cooperation.

The program is for a period of 4 years (1998-2002) with a total base budget cost of US\$1,200,000 (\$300,000 per year), with the possibility of additional financing from national, regional, international donors and private sector agencies for the development and implementation of specific projects.

1. INTRODUCTION

The countries of Central America, Mexico and Dominican Republic and the Caribbean represent a major geopolitical block within the Western Hemisphere Grouping of nations of the United Nations System. Although the countries have different cultural, economic, linguistic and historical dimensions, they all have been pursuing similar strategies in their economic development.

These include policies to promote sustainable development, open trade policies and deepening of the integration process. The recently established Association of Caribbean States to which all the countries belong, established clear areas of cooperation among the countries which include:

1. Economic integration, including the liberalization of trade, investment, transportation, and other related areas.
2. Discussion on matters of common interest for the purpose of facilitating active and coordinated participation by the region in various multilateral forums.
3. The formulation and implementation of policies and programs for functional cooperation.
4. The preservation of the environment and conservation of the natural resources of the region and especially of the Caribbean Sea.
5. The strengthening of friendly relationships among the governments and peoples, and
6. Consultation, cooperation, and concerted action in such other areas as may be agreed upon.

Although the countries have been forging linkages in the cultural, diplomatic and economic areas, and in tourism, trade and transportation, there has been little cooperation in agricultural development, an area which is of great importance in the economies of all the countries. (Table 1).

In a recent meeting of Foreign Ministers of Central America and the Caribbean held in Costa Rica, cooperation in science and technology was considered of high priority for action especially as it relates to agricultural and agro- industrial research.

In a meeting of the Standing Committee of Ministers of Agriculture of the Caribbean Countries (SCMA/CARICOM) held in the Bahamas in 1996, the Minister of Agriculture of Belize, the Honourable Russell Garcia, proposed a joint meeting of Ministers of Agriculture of the Caribbean (CARICOM) and the Ministers of Agriculture of the Regional Council for Agricultural Cooperation in Central America, Mexico, Panama

and Dominican Republic (CORECA) in order to explore an agenda for cooperation in agriculture.

The joint meeting was held on May 26, 1997 in Belize City, Belize. In the meeting, the Ministers of Agriculture agreed to seek closer cooperation in agriculture between the countries of the two regions and in a Memorandum of Understanding established the themes and areas of cooperation.

The Ministers also agreed to establish a Technical Working Group coordinated by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and including representatives of the Chairmen of the SCMA and CORECA and the CARICOM and CORECA Secretariats. This Technical Working Group is charged to elaborate a program for effecting the cooperation and to provide a report to the SCMA and CORECA by the end of September 1997.

IICA was asked to lead the Working Group in view of its leadership role as the only institution of the Inter-American System dedicated to agriculture with activities in both regions and due to the presence of its network of offices and technical personnel in all the countries... In addition, IICA and the Ministries of Agriculture of the countries are already implementing projects which can form a basis for a program of cooperation.

The Working Group met on August 4 and 5th, 1997, and prepared the Proposal requested by the Ministers, for implementation of the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding.

Conceptual basis for the proposal

The conceptual base of this proposal is grounded in the recognized need of both regions to optimize the use of their scarce technical, human and financial resources in pursuing their agricultural development and the need for efficient and cost effective mechanisms for the generation and transfer of experiences and relevant technology so as to enhance the competitiveness of their agricultural sectors in the international market place.

The proposal recognizes that the agricultural sector continues to be of fundamental economic importance in the economies of the countries of Central America and the Caribbean as a contributor to employment, rural well being and national income.

The need for the agricultural sector of small economies to be represented in the negotiations of free trade has been recognized, however, for this representation to be meaningful, the countries must be sensitized and informed of the various mandates and mechanisms which will govern international trade flows of the future.

The high cost of technology generation and the limited budgets available to technology generation and transfer institutions of Central America and the Caribbean suggest the need for institutional cooperation to share knowledge and experiences and to engage in joint projects and programs.

The new communication technologies and especially the Internet must be harnessed to provide a new technological base for communication and cooperation. In addition, steps must be taken to assist in alleviating language as a barrier to effective communication.

This initiative will use existing institutional capabilities and experiences in agricultural development in the two subregions in a way that responds to regional needs without duplicating existing efforts but by building on existing strengths and comparative advantages.

General objective

The Proposal has as its general objective to stimulate and consolidate cooperation between the countries of Central America and the Caribbean through the development and implementation of a program of cooperation in agriculture, which facilitates the development of a sustainable modern agricultural sector in the member countries; and enhance their capacity for trade and cooperation.

The specific objectives of the proposal are:

1. To establish a mechanism for achieving reciprocal technical cooperation in agriculture between the countries of Central America and the Caribbean in order to make better use of the technical and human resources available and to assist in the development of national agricultural sectors while strengthening the regional integration process.
2. To establish operational linkages for the exchange of experiences and technical information as well as personnel between Caribbean and Central American institutions in areas relevant to agricultural development.
3. To provide short term in service training in Spanish and in English for professionals and youth through attachment to specific institutions in technical areas or in language schools of countries of Central America and the Caribbean.
4. To facilitate cooperation in restricting the spread of exotic plant and animal pests and diseases which could limit production and restrict trade between the two subregions and with the rest of the world.
5. To facilitate harmonization of legislative procedures and the development of regional standards to facilitate trade in agricultural products.
6. To assist the agricultural sector of the countries in their preparation for participation in the negotiations for entry into the proposed Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA 2005) and in the compliance with the mandates of the World Trade Organization (WTO).
7. To facilitate cooperation between the many institutions, national, regional and international involved in promoting agricultural development in the two subregions,

where there are excellent possibilities for joint efforts and joint initiatives to increase efficiency and reduce possible duplication of efforts. In addition, there are excellent opportunities for the exchange of successful experiences and trade.

The Proposal sets out the proposed program of cooperation in agriculture. It consists of series of project profiles for strengthening cooperation in trade, agricultural health and technology generation and transfer between the two subregions. The program also proposes an initiative to facilitate the exchange of youth between the two subregions and a Proposal to reduce language as a barrier to communication and cooperation.

The Proposal is for a period of 4 years (1998-2002) with a total base budget cost of US\$1,200,000 (\$300,000 per year) to be obtained from national, regional, international donors and private sector agencies for its development and implementation. Additional resources will be necessary for specific projects to be developed from this Proposal.

A detailed Work Plan for 1998 is included.

Expected results

The implementation of the proposal will result in:

1. Better coordination between the countries of Central America and the Caribbean in the negotiations for entry into the proposed Free Trade Areas of the Americas (FTAA) and for ensuring the adequate participation of the agricultural sector of small economies in the process.
2. Facilitation of inter regional trade in agricultural products.
3. Better cooperation among agricultural research and development institutions in the planning, programming and execution of programs.
4. An established institutional mechanism for reciprocal technical cooperation and for the transfer of relevant technology and technological information between the subregions.
5. Improved communication capability among Spanish speaking and English speaking countries thus facilitating the exchange of experiences and relevant technological information.
6. Reduction in the spread of exotic pests and diseases of animals and plants from one subregion to the other.

2. GLOBAL FACTORS AND THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR OF CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

The process of economic globalization has accelerated around the world in recent years which has and will continue to have significant political, economic and social impacts on countries at both the national and regional levels. The culmination of the Uruguay Round negotiations in 1994 and the establishment of the World Trade Organization represent critical achievements in international economic relations which will have significant implications on production, trade and political relations among countries.

Globalization has been both a cause and consequence of several megatrends of which the WTO has been one of the most significant. The process of structural adjustment and economic reform in the 1980's has given way to a new paradigm for development in the global context - sustainable development which incorporates international competitiveness in production and trade, equitable social and economic development and better use and management of natural and environmental resources.

Global trade liberalization has been accompanied also by global and hemispheric initiatives (NAFTA, FTA, etc.) which are being facilitated by the development of new instruments for international negotiations and business and the increased role of technology, particularly in the areas of information and communications. At the same time, the rules governing trade, investment and cooperation are also changing drastically. Tariff barriers are no longer the major hurdles to trade. They are rapidly being reduced or eliminated and replaced by increased reliance on science-based criteria for trade (e.g., SPS measures) as well as increased importance is being placed on technical barriers.

Investment flows are also being influenced by globalization and regionalization. Besides the increased flow of investment to various countries and regions, the integration of economies and capital markets and electronic commerce are facilitating greater mobility of capital and human skills, relocation of production, savings and investment. The strategies of businesses are an important element in determining investment. Corporate strategies are becoming global and this is reflected in investment flows across countries and regions. Many firms no longer have a national or regional strategy, but aspire to a global presence. In the area of technical cooperation, the reduction of funding from traditional sources, increased competition for finance and information technology is forcing institutions to reengineer and transform their structures and operations to remain relevant, be more efficient and responsive to client needs and to compete for resources.

Regarding agriculture, the Uruguay Round negotiations gave increased recognition of the role of agriculture and its place in trade agreements. The final agreement incorporates a number of highly significant and systematic changes to the trading system for agricultural products. These changes promise to make a significant contribution to the reform of domestic agricultural policies, reductions in barriers to trade, which in turn will lead to improved resource allocation and efficiency gains in the long run. In the context of regional groupings, the agreement provides the framework for the

application of lower common external tariffs by some countries in future regional arrangements.

Perhaps the most important major trend has been the declining role of the sector in the national economy. Agriculture is contributing less to GDP, employment, government revenue and even to meeting domestic food needs. In the agri-food chain, activities beyond the farm gate - storage, processing and distribution are becoming more important as production refocuses to meet consumer needs beyond the national and regional borders. In the new scenario, public and private sector roles are changing rapidly due to policy and institutional reforms and privatization. The private sector, particularly the agri-business sector is expanding its role beyond production in areas of investment, research and the provision of various services. At the same time, the allocation of financial resources to agriculture has rapidly changed and increasing importance is placed on biotechnology and the role of natural resources and the environment in food and fibre production.

3. REGIONAL TRENDS AND THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR OF CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

In Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), several initiatives at the national and regional levels are being taken to deepen and widen the process of regional integration and to integrate the region in the globalization process. The major ones include closer economic integration and trade agreements at both the wider hemispheric and regional levels. Four of the initiatives involve the United States: NAFTA, the Enterprise for the Americas Initiative (EAI), the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI), and the Andean Trade Preference Act (ATPA).

In the last decade there has been several other integration initiatives (not associated with the U.S.) including a substantial number of regional trade blocks, multilateral trade agreements and bilateral trade accords^(*). These include: the Canada-Caribbean Commonwealth Program (CARIBCAN), maintained by Canada to provide duty-free access for commodities produced in 19 Commonwealth countries and territories; the Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM), which has a target for a CARICOM single market and the reduction of the common external tariff from a high of 45% to 20%; a one-way free trade agreement between CARICOM and Venezuela signed in 1993; the Latin American Integration Association (ALADI); the Andean Group (also

^(*) In addition, the U.S. expressed a clear preference for negotiating trade agreements multilaterally with groups of countries. The US. is also willing to negotiate bilaterally, signing "framework agreements" with numerous countries (Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras, Venezuela and Peru). A U.S. - MERCOSUR framework agreement was signed in 1991 and other multilateral agreements are being discussed with the Caribbean Community and Guatemala, Nicaragua and Panama.

known as the Andean Pact); the Central American Common Market (CACM); the Common Market of the South (MERCOSUR); and the recently announced Group of Three (G3).

These agreements together with the recent Summit of the Americas (in which U.S. and 33 other countries endorsed the goal of a hemispheric free trade area by the year 2005) and the implementation of NAFTA indicate that LAC countries view economic integration as essential steps to participate in global competition and to overcoming the constraints posed by small domestic markets by allowing firms to realize the scale economies of expanded markets.

Trade liberalization is being accompanied by market-oriented reforms in almost every LAC country in an effort to improve competitiveness, attract investment, restore growth and participation in world trade. The external debt crisis, the sharp decline in the international prices of the region's principal agricultural exports and high domestic inflation of the early 1980s, as well as recognition of the failure of inward-looking development strategies forced LAC countries to embark on a campaign to deregulate and privatize their economies. The reform process has accelerated in most countries in the last decade. Among the various reforms, the governments' direct intervention in the economy is declining, quantitative restrictions are being eliminated and tariff barriers are being reduced. The role of the private sector, particularly microenterprises has increased and several countries have eliminated policies and institutions that were once used to transfer wealth from the agricultural sector to the industrial sectors.

While domestic growth has been slow in some countries, a few have achieved high growth rates in recent years and economic recovery is underway in most. Capital is returning to the region, attracted by changes in investment rules, more stable political and economic situations and sounder policies. Since 1989, capital inflows have tripled, exports are expanding, but imports are growing even faster and will likely accelerate as integration progresses and economic growth increases. Over the next decade (in the post NAFTA and GATT era), trade is expected to expand further with the creation of a free trade zone and countries expand minimum access.

While economic reforms and trade liberalization offer greater opportunities for economic growth and increased prosperity, the pace at which these are taking place and their impacts have been different among countries in Central America and the Caribbean. Although there has been uneven structural and policy reforms among the countries, in general Central American countries are in a process of transition compared to the Caribbean largely because they have progressed more with domestic market reforms and trade liberalization measures, consolidated and expanded their instruments and mechanisms to facilitate trade, strengthened organization of domestic markets and a relatively increased private sector role.

Nevertheless, there are several weaknesses that continue to affect countries in both regions which are critical constraints to their successful participation in regional and global competitive agricultural markets. These include: (a) declining expenditures for agricultural research and development, particularly in the Caribbean; (b) limited

institutional capacity and preparedness to deal with trade liberalization (trade negotiations, policy analysis, unfair business practices, dumping, etc.); (c) continued concentration of a few products in exports in most countries; (d) lack of proper norms and standards to comply with international standards (ISO 14000 and HACCP systems); (e) lack of international certification (e.g., OIE Certification); (f) weaknesses in transport infrastructure to support trade; (g) insufficient information on trade flows; (h) absence of strong private sector cooperation; (i) and absence of a common agreement among governments of the two subregions to support trade.

Table 1

Selected Socio-Economic Indicators for Central American and Caribbean Countries

Countries	Population	Per Capita	% Rural	Ag. Prod	Index of	Arable	Ag. Exports
	(millions)	Income	Population	as % of	Food Prod.	Land	as % of
	1994	1995 (US\$)	(1995)	GDP 1994	1995 (1989-91=100)	('000 Ha.) 1994	Tot. Exports 1992
Mexico	88.43	4,180	25.0	5.3	112	23,150	4.6
Guatemala	10.32	1,200	58.6	24.5	103	1,350	38.4
El Salvador	5.64	1,360	52.1	14.0	114	565	40.6
Honduras	5.50	600	52.2	24.0	103	1,690	64.5
Nicaragua	4.01	340	27.4	33.3	107	1,100	77.5
Costa Rica	3.35	2,400	51.2	16.6	112	285	49.5
Panama	2.58	2,580	44.8	7.6	106	500	11.7
Dominican Republic	7.77	1,330	35.4	17.7	100	1,015	2.8
Haiti	7.04	230	68.8	37.4	93	560	30.1
Jamaica	2.499	1,697	39.8	9.2	114	155	15.7
Trinidad & Tobago	1.257	3,847	33.7	2.2	107	75	4.6
Guyana	0.746	704	64.1	37.0	149	480	59.1
Suriname	0.408	788	53.1	16.4	94	57	12.5
Bahamas	0.273	12,048	33.1	2.9	94	6	n.a.
Barbados	0.264	6,578	53.8	5.1	70	16	5.9
Belize	0.211	2,642	52.5	19.8	135	45	31.8
St. Lucia	0.143	3,596	52.1	9.9	97	n.a.	22.8
St. Vincent & Grenadines	0.107	2,390	n.a.	15.3	88	4	58.3
Grenada	0.097	2,810	58.3	10.2	100	5	43.2
Dominica	0.074	2,825	n.a.	19.5	95	7	63.9
Antigua & Barbuda	0.064	7,702	60.4	3.7	93	8	n.a.
St. Kitts & Nevis	0.043	4,982	54.2	6.2	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.

Source: Caribbean Development Bank - Social and Economic Indicators, 1994
ECLAC Report, 1996

4. OPPORTUNITIES FOR COOPERATION

The similarity between the countries of Central America and the Caribbean geographically and in their approaches to agricultural development provide many opportunities for cooperation. These opportunities are particularly evident with respect to their participation in the process towards trade liberalization and participation in the global economy.

There are seven specific potential areas for cooperation with respect to trade. These are:

- 1) Supporting trade through support for the agribusiness sector.
- 2) Supporting the World Trade Organization plus process.
- 3) Supporting Domestic Policy Reforms that facilitate trade.
- 4) Supporting the FTAA 2005 process.
- 5) Strengthening the trade negotiation capacity of the countries.
- 6) Supporting the development of institutional capacity to administer trade agreements.
- 7) Expanding and sharing information on markets.

In the area of animal health and plant protection there are also some key areas for cooperation, including:

- 1) The harmonization of norms and procedures for phytozoosanitary inspection and certification.
- 2) Limiting the spread of exotic pests and diseases between the regions.
- 3) Sharing of information on the use and experiences in the use of agrochemical and veterinary products.

In the area of technology generation and transfer, there are a number of institutions in the regions working in this subject but there is limited joint action or joint initiatives. There are many opportunities for cooperation in the development and application of critical technologies for agricultural development (Appendix 4).

The proposal also seeks to facilitate the exchange of youth between the two subregions and to reduce language as a barrier to communication and cooperation.

Detailed project profiles for these areas are given below:

5. PROPOSALS FOR COOPERATION

5.1 Cooperation in trade and competitiveness

The new era of trade liberalization as evidenced by the mandates of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the proposals for the FTAA 2005 create a new situation for the agricultural sector of Central America and the Caribbean countries.

This situation is characterized by the need for new strategies to define the relations between production for international markets and local markets as regards competitiveness and the definition of sectoral policies which are consonant with the conditions established in international trade agreements.

The countries will need information for negotiations and for the formulation of sectoral policies, training and advisory services for the effective management of the new international trade agreements and strategies for including the private sector participation in the negotiation and implementation of the new agreements.

The objective of the initiatives in the area of trade and competitiveness is to assist the agricultural sector of Central American and Caribbean countries to participate in the global market by supporting the agricultural sector to satisfy the WTO Mandates and the future mandates of the FTAA 2005 process and by facilitating Central American-Caribbean trade in agricultural products.

5.1.2 The specific objectives are:

1. To improve the capacity of the countries to negotiate in the FTAA process by studies and diagnoses of the competitiveness of the agricultural sector.
2. To improve the capacity of the countries for analysis and evaluation of trade policies which affect the agricultural sector.
3. To improve the competitiveness of the agricultural enterprises.
4. To strengthen the support services in animal health and plant protection in support of trade.
5. To strengthen linkages between the public sector agencies and institutions and the private sector.

6. Strengthen and support the participation of the countries in regional and international organization that have to do with trade, and animal and plant pests and diseases as they affect trade.

5.1.3 Cooperation in international negotiations

The majority of the countries of Central America and the Caribbean are small economies where agriculture is of great importance and therefore they must ensure that the interests and concerns of the agricultural sector of small developing countries is taken into account in the hemispheric wide negotiations. Cooperation of the countries in these negotiations will ensure not only that the small economies are represented but also that the structural economic features, policy orientations and political perspectives of the negotiation process is discussed and understood among the countries and that the agricultural sector is appropriately represented.

5.1.4 Exchange of information

There are excellent opportunities for exchange of information through the new technologically based market-information systems which operate in the regions. Of importance are the Agro Info System and other systems (SANINET) managed by IICA and other international institutions. In addition, the implementation of the new technological platform in IICA can be successfully used for the interchange of information. These systems will be particularly important in facilitating inter-regional trade.

5.1.5 Studies and analyses

There are several studies which are necessary to facilitate these processes. These include:

1. The importance and potential impact of the FTAA process on the agricultural sector of Central America and the Caribbean.
2. The methodologies of operation of the Working Groups of the FTAA process.
3. Investigations of niche markets.
4. Technological innovation in support of new products.
5. Risk analysis of pests and diseases as factors in inter regional and international trade.
6. Studies on transportation needs for trade in agricultural products between Central America and the Caribbean.

5.1.6 Inter-institutional linkages

There is need for better institutional linkages between the institutions dedicated to trade issues in the two subregions including national, regional and international organizations.

5.1.7 Training

The range of issues which are involved in the negotiations of the FTAA suggest the need for a comprehensive training program for officials of the private and the public sector on such issues as:

- a) Negotiation of trade agreements
- b) Market access
- c) Rules of origin
- d) Standards and technical barriers to trade
- e) Sanitary and phytosanitary measures
- f) Subsidies, "Antidumping" and countervailing duties
- g) Safeguards
- h) Intellectual property rights (topic for a second stage)
- i) Competition policy
- j) Dispute settlement

A draft proposal for the first workshop to inform and update the agricultural sector of Central American and Caribbean countries on the present status, process and implications of the FTAA 2005 proposals and their implications for the agricultural sector, is included in the Work Program for 1998.

5.1.8 Cooperation with the private sector

The implementation of the proposal should facilitate the cooperation between the public and private sector as it relates to the process of negotiation and management of the international commercial agreements.

5.2 Cooperation in technology generation and transfer

Recent analysis of agriculture in the countries of Central America and the Caribbean indicate that there is a wide base of appropriate technologies for promoting production and conserving the natural resources. However, frequently, the technologies are not adopted and in some cases they have not given the economic return expected from their application. There is need for a reevaluation of the application of agricultural technology especially as it relates to thematic information, application of biotechnology and Informatics, the management of intellectual property rights and the market led approach to the development and application of technology. The initiatives in this area of cooperation are designed to stimulate and consolidate horizontal exchange of agri-

business related technology between Central America and Caribbean countries in order to promote increased capacity and efficiency in the development and utilization of technology as it relates to agricultural competitiveness, sustainability and trade.

5.2.1 Specific objectives

1. Develop linkage mechanisms and cooperation agreements for horizontal cooperation between the countries in order to facilitate the exchange of proven technologies, experience and knowledge through a wide range of channels and methods.
2. To stimulate participation of public and private sector, regional and national institutions to provide services and collaborate in research and capacity building.
3. Facilitate linkages between the regional cooperation networks e.g. PROCICARIBE, PROCIANDINO, PROCISUR and SICTA.

5.2.2 The areas for cooperation include:

- a. **The exchange of information and experiences in technology generation and transfer**

There are a wide range of experiences and information that can be successfully transferred between the regions. A list of potential areas is presented in Appendix 1.

- b. **Joint training initiatives**

Joint training initiatives in support of sustainable agricultural development especially in the following areas should be developed:

- ◇ Applied Biotechnologies
- ◇ Genetic Resources Management
- ◇ Water Resources Management
- ◇ Integrated Pest Management
- ◇ Risk Assessment and Environmental Impact Assessment
- ◇ Agroindustry for small and medium scale enterprises
- ◇ Standards and specifications
- ◇ Post-harvest technology
- ◇ Management of Agricultural Research and Development

c. Studies of the agricultural sector

Studies of the agricultural sector research and development institutions to prepare an inventory of research and development programs as these relate to new scenarios for sustainable agricultural development are warranted. In addition, an analysis of criteria for priority setting for resource allocation in research in the institutions of the regions could contribute to move cost effective delivery of research results.

d. Harmonization of norms and procedures

Harmonization of norms and procedures as they relate to seed technology, intellectual property rights, release of bio-engineered materials, control and use of pesticides and use of genetic resources should be the basis for cooperation. In addition, common policies on the management of biodiversity and fragile ecosystem will be encouraged.

e. Inter institutional cooperation

There are a number of existing institutions in the two Regions which, through collaboration, could implement many aspects of the areas of cooperation. These institutions include, in the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Subregion, the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI), the University of the West Indies (UWI), the Caribbean Food and Nutrition Institute (CFNI), the Caribbean Export Development Agency (Caribbean Export) and in the Central American Subregion, the Tropical Agricultural Research and Training Centre (CATIE), the Regional Agricultural School for the Humid Tropics (EARTH), the Pan-American School of Agriculture (ZAMORANO) and the Honduran Agricultural Research Institute (FHIA) among others. In addition, there are a number of international agencies operating in the two subregions which have a mandate to support agricultural development, for example, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the International Centre for Improvement of Wheat and Maize in the Tropics (CIMMYT), the International Centre for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) and the Regional International Organization for Agricultural Health (OIRSA) which will be encouraged to facilitate collaboration between the two subregions. Specific initiatives will include:

- i. Facilitate meetings of schools of agriculture of the two subregions to coordinate curricula and programs and for bench marking.
- ii. Exchange of students and scholars, between the subregions.

- iii. Exchange of professors and scientists between institutions of the subregions.
- iv. Implementation of joint research projects between institutions of the two subregions.
- v. Participation of professionals from the two subregions in scientific meetings, seminars and workshops of the regions.
- vi. Identification of centers of excellence in research and training and their areas of specialization.
- vii. Preparation of a directory of the programs of institutions of training, education and research in the two subregions.
- viii. Participation of Representatives of one institution in technical meetings of another to facilitate cooperation of actions and the development of joint initiatives.
- ix. Participation in joint training initiatives.
- x. Seeking cooperation through accreditation of courses.

In addition, there are a number of professional scientific associations and scientific research networks where cooperation should be encouraged. A list of institutions, association and networks for cooperation are presented in Appendix 2.

5.3. Cooperation in agricultural health

Globalization and increase in international trade provide both opportunities and challenges with respect to the application of phytosanitary and sanitary measures. These measures must protect domestic production from the introduction and spread of pests and diseases but must not unnecessarily impede trade. The objective of the initiatives in this area is to strengthening the agricultural health services of Central America and Caribbean so that they can comply with their obligations under the WTO/SPS agreement.

5.3.1 The specific objectives are:

1. To facilitate the exchange of information on import and export negotiations in relation to phytosanitary and zoosanitary procedures and standards
2. To cooperate in the development of a surveillance and alert system on outbreaks of pests and diseases.
3. To cooperate in the diagnosis, prevention and control of phytozoosanitary problems of common interest.

4. To facilitate harmonization of risk analysis, quarantine and certification procedures.
5. Cooperate in diffusion of rules, procedures and mechanisms of the World Trade Organization and the proposed FTAA 2005 and support for FTAA/SPS Working Group.
6. Promote participation in international organizations (OIE, IPPC, CODEX ALIMENTARIUS).
7. Support for updating of rules and regulations.
8. Develop and implement joint training initiatives designed to increase awareness of plant and animal pests and disease status of the countries of the region and to facilitate the exchange of successful experiences.

Specific areas for cooperation

Specific areas for cooperation in this area include the following:

5.3.2. Joint initiatives

- a. Prevention and control of pink mealybug and *Thrips palmi* in Central America with assistance from the Caribbean.
- b. Development of a cattle screw worm program for Jamaica and other infested Caribbean countries with assistance from Mexico.
- c. Training in animal and plant health risk analysis in the Caribbean with assistance of Central America.
- d. Development and implementation of autofinancing schemes for the operation of the agricultural health official services in Central America and the Caribbean.
- e. Development and implementation of accreditation programs for private professionals participation in official agricultural health certifications in Central America and the Caribbean.
- f. Strengthening of laboratory services in Central America and the Caribbean.
- g. Strengthening of agricultural import inspection and quarantine services in Central America and the Caribbean.

- h. Training of Central American technicians in identification of pink mealybug.
 - ◊ Training course in Central America
 - ◊ In-service training in the Caribbean
- i. Workshop in Costa Rica with selected officers from the Caribbean to discuss schemes for autofinancing the operations of the agricultural health official services.
- j. Workshop in Mexico with selected officers from Central America and the Caribbean to discuss schemes for accreditation of private professionals to execute official certifications.
- k. Workshop in a port of entry in the United States with selected officers from Central America and the Caribbean to discuss the agricultural inspection and quarantine procedures.

5.3.3 Studies of financing agricultural health programs

Development models for cost recovery and user fees in agricultural health programs for small economies.

5.3.4 Cooperation in international negotiations

Training of personnel in WTO rules and FTAA commitments in order to contribute to negotiations.

5.3.5 Information exchange

- a. Information on sanitary and phytosanitary import regulations of Central America and the Caribbean.
- b. Surveillance and alert of pest and diseases in Central America and the Caribbean.
- c. Information on approved agrochemical and veterinary products in Central America and the Caribbean.

5.3.6 Harmonization of norms and procedures

- ◇ Update norms and procedures in the countries so that they can be harmonized.
- ◇ Develop and implement model regulations throughout the region as a basis for harmonization in line with international standards.

5.3.7 Inter institutional cooperation

- a. Cooperation of CARICOM and IICA with FAO for revitalization and strengthening of the Caribbean Plant Protection Commission (CPPC) .
- b. Cooperation among the International Office of Epizootics (OIE) member States to facilitate the dissemination of information on international standards and disease distribution to non OIE Member States (Appendix 3).

5.4 Improve cooperation through reducing language as a barrier to communication

The recent tendency toward the globalization of markets, the formation of the Association of Caribbean States, the proposed free trade area of the Americas, all suggest the need for greater communication between the countries of the Caribbean and Central America. The difference in language has traditionally been a barrier to communication between the two subregions.

The general objective of this initiative is to alleviate language as a barrier to technical cooperation in agriculture between the countries of Central America and the Caribbean.

The specific objectives are:

- a) To train technicians and professionals from Caribbean in Spanish and from Central America in English. At a later stage, to add French and Portuguese training.
- b) To translate texts, documents, papers and relevant documents into the language in which it is needed.
- c) To provide financing for simultaneous interpretation services for meetings, seminars and colloquia held on agricultural subjects of relevance to Central America and the Caribbean.

5.4.1 Exchange of experiences

One of the main elements of the proposed program is the exchange of experiences in agriculture between countries of Central America and the Caribbean.

This process, however, is limited and in some cases inhibited by the fact that while the countries of Central America are mainly Spanish-speaking, those of the Caribbean are mainly English-speaking. In addition, Portuguese, French and Dutch are used in some countries of the region.

These differences in language create considerable difficulty in attempts to effect reciprocal technical cooperation where the experiences of one country can be beneficially transferred to another with similar circumstances thus reducing the tendency to reinvent the wheel.

5.4.2 Joint training initiatives

1. The provision of annual intensive courses in Spanish and English for participants from national agricultural systems of the countries to achieve proficiency in reading and oral communication permitting simple conversation.
2. Establishment of a country exchange program by making arrangements for some of the persons exposed to the language training to spend up to one year in a Central American or Caribbean country in some field of interest to the countries. This activity may be facilitated by seeking scholarships from the member countries interested and capable of financing such an interchange.
3. Translation of selected texts, books and papers in specific subject areas requested by countries.
4. Provisions of simultaneous interpretation services at meetings, seminars and workshops for participants from the countries when involved in joint meetings.

5.5 Youth exchange program between Central America and the Caribbean

The changes in the economies of our countries linked to the implementation of a neoliberal model, the globalization of markets and competitiveness have affected the most vulnerable sectors of our societies, especially young people who need to be organized, trained and given the opportunity to acquire a broader vision of the world around them. In light of the trends described, organizing exchanges of young leaders from rural areas in the two subregions could become a key strategy for achieving a better understanding and integration of the regions in the future.

The objective of this program is to strengthen technical cooperation between Central America and the Caribbean through exchanges of young people from rural areas participating in agricultural programs in the two subregions.

The specific objectives are:

1. To exchange experiences regarding agricultural and agroindustrial development in the two regions.
2. To promote cultural integration through youth exchanges.
3. To increase knowledge of the socioeconomic characteristics of the regions.
4. To learn/practice the language of the host country.

5.5.1 Exchanges of experiences

One of the main strategies proposed for increasing young people's understanding of the profound changes that are taking place as the century draws to a close is exchanges of young leaders from rural areas in the two subregions.

However, exchanges of this kind have been limited by:

- the failure to identify leaders among the rural youth of Central America and the Caribbean.
- the lack of sustainable exchange programs between the two subregions.

5.5.2 Strategies for executing the program

1. Facilitate the exchange of experiences of at least 10 young leaders from rural areas in Central America and 10 from the Caribbean, so that over a period of six months they can participate in agricultural development programs, learn/practice the language and get to know the culture of the host country.
2. Facilitate exchanges of experiences between agronomy schools and faculties and related institutions so that at least 10 students from Central America and 10 from the Caribbean can complete a semester of their respective study programs as exchange students and thereby enrich their education, get to know a new culture and learn/practice a new language.

3. Facilitate the exchange of experiences between institutions involved in the organization and promotion of young people, such as the Program of 4-S/4-H Clubs, government youth programs, green hearts program and cooperatives.
4. Establish a data base containing information on the main rural youth programs that exist and then set up an electronic network for the exchange of information and experiences.

6. LINKAGES WITH ONGOING INITIATIVES

The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) has a number of ongoing initiatives in the two subregions which can provide the basis for this cooperation. A list of these initiatives is provided at Appendix 5.

7. MANAGEMENT, IMPLEMENTATION AND FINANCING MECHANISMS

The Program should be managed by a Program Management Committee (PMC) which should have the following terms of reference.

7.1 Terms of reference of the PMC

1. To provide technical and institutional leadership in the evolution and implementation of this proposal.
2. To prepare an annual work program for implementation
3. To identify the financial and operational mechanisms for implementation of the Work Program
4. To review results obtained and prepare an annual report for the Ministers of Agriculture of CARICOM and CORECA
5. To meet as required but at least twice a year
6. To seek external financing in cooperation with national, regional and international agencies for financing implementation of projects of the Work Plan
7. To disseminate information relative to the Proposal

8. To provide supervision, monitoring and follow up, and evaluation of the impact of the implementation of the Proposal on agricultural development in the region

It is recommended that the current Working Group be assigned this responsibility.

The Program Management Committee (PMC) should therefore come into existence on the approval of this Proposal. The Committee will define the rules of procedure for its proper functioning.

7.2 Implementation

7.2.1 IICA, having been given the leadership role for this initiative agrees as follows:

- a) IICA's technical cooperation agencies in the countries will serve as the national points of contact for the development and implementation of this proposal especially as it relates to the identification of needs and areas for horizontal technical cooperation.
- b) The Directors of IICA Regional Centers in Central America and the Caribbean, as members of the Management Committee will coordinate the national initiative for presentation to the Committee.
- c) IICA specialists in areas related to the work of the project will cooperate with the Project Management Committee, through their Representatives and Directors of Regional Centers, in assisting the work proposed.

7.2.2 The CARICOM and CORECA Secretariats will provide logistic and other support to the joint meetings of Ministers of Agriculture and any other meeting proposed for the management of the Proposal.

7.3 Financing mechanisms

1. This initiative should be financed by governments of the countries, international, regional and national institutions and the private sector. The base budget represents the "seed money" of this initiative. There is a need to distribute the document widely to attract external financing and to prepare and expand specific project proposals to finance initiatives which are not covered by this base budget.
2. The agreements which have been signed by IICA with Mexico and Brazil separately in support of the countries of the Caribbean and Central America should provide support for for this initiative.

7.3.1 Estimated project costs

Item		y1	y2*	y3*	y4* *	TOTAL
1. Trade and Competitiveness		75.000				
	54.640					
a) Workshop on the implications of the FTAA-2005 proposals for the agricultural sector of Central America and the Caribbean	20.360					
b) Training programs to prepare professional teams for participation in the negotiations of FTAA and the implementation of World Trade Organization Mandates both from the trade and agricultural health perspectives						
2. Generation and Transfer of Technology		60.000				
3. Agricultural Health		60.000				
4. Youth Exchange Program		30.000				
a) 10 youths from the Caribbean and Central America in exchange program						
5) Language Training, Communications and Translation Services		15.000				
6) Management and Coordination		20.000				
7) Inter Institutional Cooperation		40.000				
TOTAL		\$300.000	\$300.000	\$300.000	\$300.000	\$1,200.000

* Details to be determined in the preparation of the annual plan of operation for each year.

8. WORK PROGRAM FOR 1998

8.1 Budget of Work Program

1.	Trade and competitiveness		75,000
	a) Workshop on the implications of the FTAA-2005 proposals for the agricultural sector of Central America and the Caribbean	54.640	
	b) Training programs to prepare professional teams for participation in the negotiations of FTAA and the implementation of World Trade Organization Mandates both from the trade and agricultural health perspectives	20.360	
1.	Generation and Transfer of Technology		60,000
2.	Agricultural Health		60,000
3.	Youth Exchange Program		30,000
	a) Youths from the Caribbean and Central America in exchange program		
4.	Language Training, Communications and Translation Services		15,000
5.	Management and Coordination		20,000
6.	Inter Institutional Cooperation		40,000
	TOTAL		300,000

8.2 Details of Work Program 1998

8.2.1 Trade and competitiveness

a)	Workshop on the implications of the FTAA-2005 proposals for the agricultural sector of Central America and the Caribbean	54.640	
b)	Training programs to prepare professional teams for participation in the negotiations of FTAA and the implementation of World Trade Organization Mandates both from the trade and agricultural health perspectives	20.360	
			US \$ 75,000

8.2.2 Generation and transfer of technology

Activity/category	Sub-project	Responsible partners	Estimated cost
a) Meetings 1998 b) Newsletters - To improve information on technological needs.	PROCICARIBE /SICTA 1. 5 officials from Caribbean to PCCMCA meeting 2. 3 for CARIFRUIT from CA 3. PROCICARIBE/SICTA reciprocal 4. Orientation to hill side farming 5. Zamorano/FHIA 6. Training rec. UWI/CARDI 7. Network reciprocal	CARDI-IICA Technology development institutions	\$39.400 1. \$ 5.000 2. \$ 3.600 3. \$ 2.400 4. \$ 8.000 5/6 \$14.400 7. \$6.000
c) Documents -To promote access to technology	-Case studies on technology diffusion -Proceedings and manuals on activities -Bilingual translation of documents	(eg Honduras, Secretary for Agriculture Secretaria de Agricultura & Ganaderia and Livestock PPK Haiti)	\$3.000
d) Preparation of documents -To support research in technology development	Biodiversity (improve planting material) -Assessment for trade enhancement	Universities, Working groups, Private enterprises	\$2.000
e) Training and exchange visits to enhance and skills instrumentation and new technologies	-Orientation training -Demonstrations Producers: 1. Fine cacao producers technology 2. IPM Training 3. Producers organization	Technology promoting institutions (CARDI,SICTA)	\$15.600 1. \$3.600 2. \$4.000 3. \$8.000
TOTAL			\$60.000

8.2.3 Agricultural health

	US\$
1. Preparation of trade and SPS measures promotional material	5,000
2. Expand CARAPHIN News to Spanish speaking countries and SANINET from the Andean Region, Caribbean and Central American countries	5,000
3. Training course in pink <i>mealybug</i> in Central America 12 participants	15,000.00
4. Workshop in Costa Rica for auto-financing schemes 10 participants	15,000.00
5. Workshop in USA for agricultural inspection CA/Caribbean 12 participants	20,000.00
SUBTOTAL	\$60,000

8.2.3.1 Others: Programs of cooperation subject to the availability of funds

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Prevention and control of pink <i>mealybug</i> and <i>thrips palmi</i> in Central America. 3 years ■ Training and harmonization in animal and plant health risk analysis in the Caribbean, 14 countries, 1 year ■ Development and implementation of autofinancing schemes for the operation of agricultural health services in CA/Caribbean. 1 year ■ Development and implementation of accreditation programs. CA/Caribbean. 1 year ■ Strengthening of laboratory services CA/Caribbean, (training) 1 year. (equipment) ■ Strengthening agricultural import inspection and quarantine services CA/Caribbean (training, equipment) ■ Development of a cattle screw worm program in Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago. 2 year program 	<p>Project to be prepared</p> <p>Project to be prepared</p> <p>Project to be prepared</p>
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8.2.3.2 Development of an information system

<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Import-export regulations CA/Caribbean■ Surveillance and alert CA/Caribbean■ Agrochemical and veterinary products. CA/Caribbean (equipment, training) 2 years	Project to be prepared
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8.2.3.3 Fostering inter-institutional cooperation

<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Cooperation of CARICOM and IICA with FAO for revitalization and strengthening of the Caribbean Plant Protection Commission (CPPC). (4 years)	
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8.2.3.4 Youth exchange program

<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Exchange Program developed to send youth leaders from Central America to the Caribbean and youth leaders from the Caribbean to Central America	\$30,000
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8.2.3.5 Language training, communications and translation services

<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Initiate program of language training, translation of documents and provision of translation services at joint meetings	\$15,000
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8.2.3.6 Management and coordination

<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Second meeting of Working Group to prepare program for 1999, and evaluate implementation of 1998 Work Plan	\$20,000
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8.2.3.7 Inter-institutional cooperation

<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Organization and implementation of joint meetings and exchanges between institutions of research, training and extension of Central America and the Caribbean	\$40,000
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8.3 Proposal for workshop on the implications of FTAA 2005, for the agricultural sector

8.3.1 Objective

To inform and update Central American and Caribbean countries of the present status, process and implications of the FTAA 2005 proposals for the agricultural sector.

8.3.2 Specific objectives

1. To provide information regarding the FTAA 2005 process including the context of the proposal within the ongoing global and hemispheric developments.
2. To provide countries with relevant information to assist them in the conduct of negotiations regarding the agricultural sector, as well as to appraise them of various countries positions, interests and sensitivities which exist within the Caribbean and Central American countries as a group.

8.3.3 Strategy

In the first instance a joint proposal on behalf of the Caribbean and CORECA Ministers of Agriculture would be prepared by IICA in collaboration with the CARICOM Secretariat (CARISEC).

In preparing, the expertise and experience of institutions which have been involved in the process such as OAS, CEPAL, will be drawn upon. In addition, countries of the two regions which have chaired Working Groups of the FTAA will be invited to share their experiences and to participate in other areas of the workshop.

In this regard, the countries to be invited include Costa Rica, Jamaica and Mexico, Honduras and El Salvador. Brazil will also be invited to participate.

The pivotal role to be played by Costa Rica in hosting the March 1998 meeting, and the keen interest of the Vice-Minister of Costa Rica in the FTAA process recommend Costa Rica as the venue of the proposed workshop.

In preparing for the workshop two (2) position papers will be completed these papers will respectively address:

- i. The background of the FTAA process, and the importance of this process for the agriculture sector of the Central American and Caribbean countries.
- ii. The progress of the Working Groups after the Bello Horizonte Meetings, and in particular the transition of these groups to Negotiating Groups. Critical issues arising from the transition of the Working Groups to Negotiating Groups and the implications of this change for CAC countries will be high lighted.

8.3.4 Follow-up

Back-up support through attendance of the FTAA Meetings; provision of critical information, and assistance with the strengthening of negotiating skills will be provided by a small Technical Support Team comprising CARISEC, IICA, and CORECA.

Periodic reports on the process and the dissemination of information between meetings will be provided through IICA newsletter on socio-economic policies, trade and investments.

8.3.5 Date and duration of meeting

It is proposed that the workshop be held during the last week of January 1998 and be of three (3) days duration.

8.3.6 Participation

The meeting would involve participation from the two Regional Integration Grouping (two each), FTAA participating countries (two each) and representatives from collaborating institutions such as: SELA, OAS, ECLAC, CDB, OECS, SIECA, CABEL.

8.3.7 Output of workshop

- Increased awareness of country participants of importance of the FTAA process and a clear understanding of the manner in which the agriculture sector can be involved.
- A document outlining particular areas of interest and sensitivity to individual CAC countries and groups of countries as well as the areas in which assistance would be required.

- A set of recommendations indicating follow-up actions which participating countries would wish IICA as well as other collaborating institutions to provide in support of the process.
- A Technical Assistance Team comprising CARISEC, CORECA, IICA as well as other specialist in institutions.

8.3.8 Costs and Financing

It is proposed that participating countries support the participation of at least one (1) participant

Airfares Caribbean Countries for 14 participants at average of US\$700 each = $14 \times 700 =$	9.800
Central America Countries for 7 participants at average of US\$400 each =	2.800
Other participants ten (10) persons at average of US\$600 =	6.000
<i>Per Diem</i> Thirty one (31) persons at average of US\$150 = 4650×4 nights =	for four (4) nights 18.600
Contingency of 20 percent =	US\$ 7.440
Sub-Total	US\$ 44.640
Document preparation =	US\$ 10.000
Grand Total	US\$ 54.640

APPENDICES

- Appendix 1: Some Potential Areas for Interchange of Experiences and Technology between the Caribbean and Central American Countries**
- Appendix 2: A Preliminary List of Institutions, Professional Associations and Networks for Cooperation**
- Appendix 3: List of OIE Member States in Central America and the Caribbean**
- Appendix 4: Families of Critical Technologies for Agricultural Development**
- Appendix 5: Ongoing Projects and Initiatives supported by IICA**
- Appendix 6: Memorandum of Understanding**
- Appendix 7: Members of the Working Group and Technical Support Team**

APPENDIX 1

SOME POTENTIAL AREAS FOR INTERCHANGE OF EXPERIENCIES AND TECHNOLOGY BETWEEN THE CARIBBEAN AND CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES

Thematic area	Country or countries with specific successful experience in this area
1. Agricultural Policy Analysis	
1.1 Model for privatization of technical services provided by the public sector.	Costa Rica, Mexico , Dominican Republic, Honduras
1.2 Regional Policy Analysis Unit RUTA experience.	Central American countries
1.3 Institutional Policy Reform.	Costa Rica, Mexico
1.4 Agrarian reform model.	Mexico, Honduras
1.5 Special finding system for women and youth projects.	Haiti, Dominican Republic
1.6 Strategies to modernize the agriculture extension system of Ministries of Agriculture.	Mexico, Costa Rica
1.7 Experience in increasing incomes of rural women.	Haiti
1.8 Development communication support for agriculture (radio, journalism, technical writing, television, audio-visual, communication skills).	Mexico
1.9 Experiences with eco-turism.	Costa Rica

2. Technology Generation and Transfer

- | | | |
|------|--|---|
| 2.1 | Technology training in advanced agricultural sciences (tissue culture, bio engineering, management of biodiversity). | Costa Rica, México and Venezuela |
| 2.2 | Traditional fruit crop production and processing technology (mango). | Mexico, Dominican Republic, Trinidad & Tobago, Guatemala, Venezuela, Brazil |
| 2.3 | Non-traditional fruit production technology. | Mexico, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic |
| 2.4 | Vegetable production technology (seasoning herbs). | Costa Rica, Guatemala |
| 2.5 | Geographic information system for decision-making. | Costa Rica, Mexico |
| 2.6 | Dairy goat production and processing technology. | Mexico |
| 2.7 | Mixed aquaculture of vegetables, fish, prawns. | Honduras |
| 2.8 | Production of cutflowers | Costa Rica, Guatemala |
| 2.9 | Technology transfer methodology. | Mexico |
| 2.10 | Small-scale processing equipment technology for non-traditional crops. | Mexico |
| 2.11 | Boutique agriculture. | Jamaica, Haiti |
| 2.12 | Small dairy farm management. | Guyana (Saint Stanibus model) |
| 2.13 | No till and minimum tillage technology for hillside farming | Honduras, Colombia, El Salvador |
| 2.14 | Management of genetic resources. | Costa Rica (INBio experience) |

<p>3. Pest Control and Integrated Pest Management</p> <p>3.1 Integrated Pest Management.</p> <p>3.2 Integrated Pest Management (Pink Mealy Bug).</p> <p>3.3 Plant and animal quarantine management.</p> <p>3.4 Animal and Plan quarantine in negotiations of Trade Agreements.</p> <p>3.5 Pest management (coconut lethal yellowing).</p>	<p>Mexico</p> <p>Trinidad & Tobago, OECS</p> <p>St. Lucia, El Salvador, Barbados (IICA/FAO)</p> <p>Mexico, Costa Rica</p> <p>Jamaica, Costa Rica</p>
<p>4. Agroprocessing and Agricultural Management</p> <p>4.1 Trade information systems.</p> <p>4.2 Experience in export marketing of non-traditional products.</p> <p>4.3 Experience in production and marketing of organic produce.</p>	<p>Mexico</p> <p>El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Costa Rica</p> <p>El Salvador, Costa Rica</p>
<p>5. Water Resource Management</p>	<p>Mexico, Brazil, Dominican Republic</p>
<p>6. Aquaculture Development</p>	<p>Mexico, Honduras</p>

7. Promotion of Private Sector Development	Dominican Republic, El Salvador
8. Analysis of the Legal Aspects of Agricultural Trade	Mexico
9. Agrobusiness Development 9.1 Farmer entrepreneurship development. 9.2 Experiences in micro-enterprise development. 9.3 Experience with sustainable development projects for indigenous people. 9.4 Institutional building of agribusiness associations.	Mexico, Honduras El Salvador Guatemala, Mexico, El Salvador, Panama Dominican Republic (JAD)

APPENDIX 2

A PRELIMINARY LIST OF INSTITUTIONS, PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS AND NETWORKS FOR COOPERATION

Proposals for inter-institutional cooperation

1. INSTITUTIONS OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING

CARIBBEAN REGION

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

Gilbert Agricultural and Rural
Development Centre

JAMAICA

Knockalva Agricultural School
Elim Agricultural School

BARBADOS

Barbados Community College

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Universidad Nacional Pedro Enríquez
Ureña

Universidad Autónoma de Santo
Domingo

Universidad Nordestana

Instituto Tecnológico del Cibao Oriental

Universidad CDEP

Instituto Superior de Agricultura

Universidad Eugenio María de Hostos

GRENADA

Tamarryshow/Dept. of Agriculture and
Food Science

GUYANA

University of Guyana

Regional Education Program for Animal
Health ASS. (REPAHA)

Guyana School of Agriculture
Corporation

SAN VINCENT AND THE

GRENADINES

St. Vincent Technical College

HAITI

Faculté D'Agromomie et Medecine
Vétérinaire

Faculté des Sciences de l'Agriculture et
l'Environnement

Université Roi Henry Christophe

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

University of the West Indies

◇ School of Veterinary Medicine

◇ Faculty of Agriculture (CEPAT)

◇ Faculty of Engineering

CENTRAL REGION

BELICE

Belice College of Agriculture

COSTA RICA

Escuela Centroamericana de Ganadería

Universidad de Costa Rica (UCR)

Facultad de Agronomía

Centro Agronómico Tropical de

Investigación y Enseñanza (CATIE)

Escuela de Agricultura de la Región

Tropical Húmeda (EARTH)

Universidad Estatal a Distancia (UNED)

Instituto Tecnológico de Costa Rica
(ITCR):

- ◊ Departamento de Ingeniería Agropecuaria
- ◊ Departamento de Biología
- ◊ Departamento Forestal
- ◊ Departamento de Ingeniería Agrícola
- ◊ Departamento de Agronomía

EL SALVADOR

Instituto Tecnológico Centroamericano

Departamento de Ingeniería Agrícola

Colegio León Sigüenza

GUATEMALA

Universidad de San Carlos

- ◊ Facultad de Medicina Veterinaria y Zootecnia
- ◊ Facultad de Agronomía

Universidad Rafael Landívar

- ◊ Facultad de Ciencias Agrícolas y Ambientales

HONDURAS

Universidad José Cecilio del Valle

Escuela Nacional de Ciencias Forestales

Escuela Nacional de Agricultura (ENA)

Escuela Agrícola Panamericana,
ZAMORANO

Centro Universitario Regional Litoral
Atlántico

Universidad de San Pedro Sula

MEXICO

Universidad Autónoma del Estado de
Hidalgo

Universidad Autónoma de
Chihuahua/Facultad de Fruticultura
CESUES, Unidad Académica San Luis,
Sonora

Universidad de Celaya

Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo
León/Facultad de Agronomía

Universidad Autónoma de
Guerrero/Escuela Sup. de
Agricultura

Universidad de Guadalajara/Centro
Universitario de la Costa Sur

Facultad de Agrobiología Pte. Juárez
Instituto Tecnológico Agropec. No. 25

Universidad Nacional Autónoma de
México/Facultad de Est. Superiores

Colegio Superior Agropecuario del
Estado de Guerrero

Centro Universitario de Ciencias
Biológicas y Agropecuarias, División
Ciencias Agronómicas

Universidad Autónoma de Baja
California Sur

MEXICO...

Instituto de Ciencias Agrícolas
Colegio de Posgraduados en Ciencias
Agrícolas
Instituto Tecnológico Agropecuario de
Oaxaca
Universidad Autónoma Estado de
Morelos/Facultad de Ciencias
Agropecuarias
ITESM División de Agricultura

NICARAGUA

Facultad de Ciencias Económicas,
UNAM
Centro Universitario Regional Camoapa
Escuela de Agricultura y Ganadería de
Estelí

NICARAGUA

Universidad de Ingeniería
Universidad Nacional Agraria
Universidad Centroamericana/Facultad
de Ciencias Agropecuarias

PANAMA

Universidad de Panamá
◊ Vicerrectoría de Posgrado
◊ Facultad de Ciencias Agropecuarias
Universidad Técnica de Panamá, Centro
Regional de Veraguas/Facultad de
Ingeniería Civil
Universidad de Panamá, Centro
Regional Universitario de Coclé

2. PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

CFCS: Caribbean Food Crops Society
PCCMCA: Programa Cooperativo Centroamericano de Cultivos y Animales

3. RESEARCH NETWORKS

PROMECAFE: Cooperative Program for the Protection and Modernization
of Coffee Cultivation in Mexico, Central America, Panama
and the Dominican Republic
REMERFI: Meso-American Network of Plant Genetic Resources
PROCICARIBE: Caribbean Cooperative Agricultural Research Program
CARAPHIN: Caribbean Animal and Plant Health Information Network
SICTA: Central American Integrated System for Agricultural
Technology

4. RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS

CARDI: Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute
CATIE: Tropical Agriculture Research and Training Center
CIMMYT: International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center
CACHE: (Central American Universities)e.g. REDCA, UGA, UWI, UCB)
SRC/CARIRI-ITCR, CITA, ICAITI, INCAP, SRC, FHIA,
UGA.

APPENDIX 3

LIST OF OIE MEMBER STATES IN CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

IICA MEMBER STATES

ANDEAN REGION

Bolivia**
Colombia**
Ecuador**
Peru**
Venezuela**

CENTRAL REGION

Belize
Costa Rica**
El Salvador
Guatemala
Honduras**
Nicaragua
Panama**

CARIBBEAN REGION

Antigua and Bermuda
Bahamas
Barbados
Dominica
Grenada
Guyana**
Haiti**
Jamaica
Dominican Republic
St. Kitts and Nevis
Saint Lucia
St. Vincent and The
Grenadines
Suriname
Trinidad and Tobago

NORTHERN REGION

Canada**
United States of America**
Mexico**

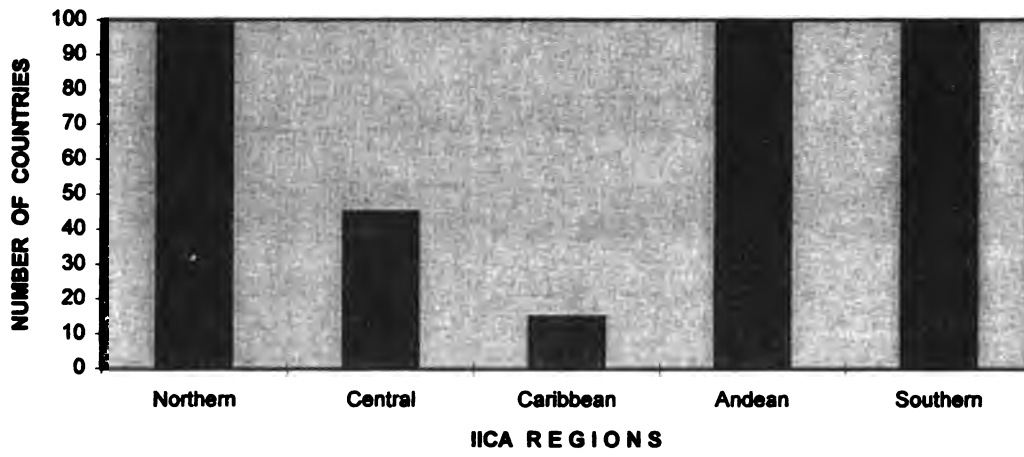
SOUTHERN REGION

Argentina**
Brazil**
Chile**
Paraguay**
Uruguay**

(*) OIE = International Office of Epizootics. This organization has been given responsibility for quality standards in the World Trade Organization Agreement.

(**) Members of OIE

**PERCENTAGE OF MEMBER COUNTRIES OF IICA
THAT ARE ALSO MEMBERS OF OIE**



APPENDIX 4

FAMILIES OF CRITICAL TECHNOLOGIES FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

A. Principal objective: Increased competitiveness

1. New uses of products

- ◆ Development of products with intrinsic characteristics different from the traditional product (crop) that make new uses possible.
- ◆ Development of processes that make new uses of products possible.

Examples:

- ⇒ Genetic modification of crops for certain purposes (edible oils free from erucic acid, for human consumption; or vice-versa, for use as motor oil).
- ⇒ System of rapid production of eucalyptus for use as wood pulp or cellulose.
- ⇒ Improved wheat germ plasm for processing into toasted breakfast cereal.

2. Optimization of use of inputs (precision technologies)

- ◆ Development and/or adaptation of technologies that will make it easier to calibrate the use of inputs more precisely (lower costs) and raise productivity.

Examples:

- ⇒ Modern irrigation systems (drip-fed, microjets, etc.)
- ⇒ Addition of fertilizer to irrigation water
- ⇒ Preparation and leveling of soil using laser beams
- ⇒ Remote sensing and GIS applications to identify local agroclimatic conditions.

3. Post-harvest technology and articulation of production and industry

- ◆ Development of products (i.e. varieties) better suited to conservation in the harvest/consumption stage, and of technologies for efficient post-harvest handling (packing, transportation, conservation).
- ◆ Technologies that increase the systemic efficiency of the agrifood chain: a) the quality of the final processed product depends on how it was produced and the raw materials were handled during the agricultural phase; (b) the efficiency of the industrial process depends on the agricultural product's being available at the right moment and in the right amount.

- ◆ Marketing and organizational technologies that will make it possible to meet the requirements of agroindustrial technology.

Examples:

- ⇒ Development of varieties of “hard” tomatoes that are less likely to be damaged by handling, and last longer after harvesting.
- ⇒ Development of packing methods and physical and chemical treatments (e.g., use of ultraviolet light) for the conservation and transportation of fresh produce.
- ⇒ Reduction in the damage caused by pests in storage silos, without using chemical insecticides.
- ⇒ The quality of tomato paste or fruit jams depends on the quality of the agricultural raw material, which must be suited to the pertinent industrial process.
- ⇒ Development of contract farming, joint ventures, vertical integration, cooperatives and other associative forms of agriculture and industry.

4. Increase in production potential through genetic improvement (plant and animal)

- ◆ Development of varieties and/or breeds that permit higher productivity, are resistant to or tolerate diseases and pests; with better organoleptic or processing characteristics; etc.
- ◆ Applications of biotechnology to support traditional genetic improvement, for the purposes described.

Examples.

- ⇒ Most agricultural research has traditionally focused on this issue (production of high-yield varieties), so it is not necessary to cite examples. On the other hand, it is obvious that there will be some overlapping between this “family” of technologies and others, since genetic improvement and genetic engineering are also used for purposes such as those described under new uses of products, post-harvest, etc.

5. Improvement of agribusiness management

- ◆ Development of modern management and administrative methods, and their application to agriculture.
- ◆ Application of expert systems, and other quantitative and computational models for agricultural administration.

Examples:

- ⇒ Studies of the economic efficiency of agricultural enterprises (units) and their organization.
- ⇒ Development and application of programming and simulation models to support management.
- ⇒ Application of expert systems in the management of dairies (or other specific agricultural activities).
- ⇒ Development of an expert system for minimizing chemical fertilization, under specific local conditions.

B. Principal objective: Preservation of natural resources

6. Use and management of abiotic natural resources (soil and water)

- ◆ Studies to survey and characterize natural resources in critical areas, such as those where the agricultural frontier is being pushed back.
- ◆ Research on soil and water management.
- ◆ Studies on watershed management.
- ◆ Development of conservationist agricultural practices and low-input technologies
- ◆ Technologies for rehabilitating degraded areas.

Examples:

⇒ They are fairly obvious, given the characterization of this “family” of technologies and in view of the fact that this field (especially soil management and conservation) has also traditionally been a focus of agricultural research.

7. Use and management of biotic natural resources (flora and fauna) and the conservation of biodiversity

- ◆ Research to optimize the use of the region’s genetic resources, given the enormous biodiversity that exists.
- ◆ Research on forestry and agroforestry development and management.
- ◆ Studies for the management and conservation of biodiversity.
- ◆ Germ plasm banks.
- ◆ Studies for the conservation of specific ecosystems (e.g. marine).

Examples:

⇒ Studies of plant species (or specific genes) with potential for agricultural use, without detriment to the original resource.

⇒ Improvement of production systems (e.g., small-scale farmers) to prevent the loss of traditional cultivars/varieties that form part of the wealth of genetic resources.

8. (Integrated) pest and disease management

- ◆ Development of pest and disease control strategies to minimize damage to natural resources and the environment, by reducing the use of chemical inputs and mechanical tilling of the soil. This calls for an increase in the use of biological control methods and of resistant germ plasm, as components of management strategies.

Examples:

⇒ Development of genetically resistant varieties.

⇒ Agricultural practices that include rotations or combinations of crops, with a view to interrupting the cycles of pests and diseases.

⇒ Introduction of predators of harmful insects.

⇒ Combinations of several control methods.

9. Technologies to meet international environmental standards

- ◆ These include technological research and development in the areas described above, but with a more specific objective, in terms of compliance with the environmental protection standards imposed especially by the industrialized countries that import agricultural products from the region.

Examples:

- ⇒ Development of a system of indicators to monitor the level of pollution of groundwater tables.
- ⇒ Soybean cultivation practices that meet the ISO 14000 standards.

C. Joint objectives related to increasing productivity, preserving natural resources and alleviating poverty

10. Production technologies and systems for small-scale agriculture

- ◆ Development of forestry-agriculture-grazing systems for small-scale agriculture, paying special attention to the need to avoid the deterioration of the resource base and reduce rural poverty.

Examples:

- ⇒ Adaptation of minimum tillage technologies to specific agroecological situations.
- ⇒ Evaluation and validation of agroforestry (or forestry-livestock) systems
- ⇒ Alternative production systems to the slashing and burning methods used by small farmers in the tropics.

11. Policy design and institutional strengthening

- ◆ Research on socioeconomic topics and government policy, aimed at designing measures and strategies for achieving the objectives proposed (competitiveness, natural resources, poverty alleviation).
- ◆ Development of information and methodologies for the institutional strengthening of agricultural research systems in the region.

Examples:

- ⇒ Studies on rural poverty and strategies to reduce it.
- ⇒ Studies of productivity and agricultural profitability in different scenarios.
- ⇒ Organization and management of research and technology development institutions.
- ⇒ Strategies for the development of human resources for agricultural research and technology development.

Alternative forms of financing for technological development (greater interaction between the public and private sectors).

APPENDIX 5

ONGOING PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES SUPPORTED BY IICA

1. Multinational projects

a) Trade

Policy and Trade Support for Agri-Food Sector Competitiveness in the Caribbean (Barbados, ECS, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Dominican Republic, Suriname Trinidad and Tobago)

Supporting

between the Caribbean and Latin America (Barbados, ECS Jamaica,, Guyana, Haiti, Dominican Republic, Suriname Trinidad and Tobago)

Assessment of the Impact and the Policy Implications of Trade Liberalization on the Agricultural Sector of CARICOM Countries (Barbados, ECS, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Dominican Republic,, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago)

Regional Agricultural Integration in the Caribbean (Bahamas, Barbados, Dominican Republic, ECS, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago)

Supporting trade and Integration in the Central Area (Costa Rica, , El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama)

Agricultural Competitiveness (Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama)

EEC: Regional Program to upgrade agricultural research on Basic grains in Central America and Panama

Modernization of Agricultural Health Services in the Central Area to contribute to trade opening and integration (Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama y Mexico)

b) Technology

Support for Agricultural Technology Development, Transfer and Utilization in the Caribbean (Phase II) ECS

ADCU: Development of a Feasible Plan of Actions to Increase the Effectiveness of the OECS Agricultural Diversification Programme ECS

Strengthening technical capabilities in economic analysis among Caribbean Countries through the evaluation and the situation and evolution of the Agri-Food Sector (Barbados, ECS, , Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Dominican Republic, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago)

Support to agricultural cooperation between Latin America and the Caribbean (Barbados, ECS, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Dominican Republic, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago)

Dairy sector development in the Southern Caribbean (Guyana, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago)

IICA/MAE: Supporting the development of tropical fruits in the Caribbean Phase II (Barbados, ECS, Guyana Haiti, Jamaica, Dominican Republic, Suriname Trinidad and Tobago)

Support for the modernization of small farmers (Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Mexico, Panama and Dominican Republic).

Technical assistance for agricultural development in Central America (RUTA II) (Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama)

IICA/CORECA: Technical support to enhance the effectiveness of the decision-making process of the Regional Council for Agricultural Cooperation in Central America, Mexico, Panama and Dominican Republic.

Technical attachment to the general cooperation agreement between IICA and the Permanent Secretariat of the General Treaty of Central American Economic Integration (SIECA) within the framework of the Central American Integration System (SICA) (Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama).

UPEB: Technical Cooperation between IICA and the UPEB for the development of the Documentation and Information Service on Bananas and Plantains, (Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama and Venezuela).

IICA/PROMECAFE/EEC Countries/EEC- CIRAD: Cooperative program for the protection and modernization of coffee cultivation in Mexico, Central America, Panama and Dominican Republic.

Modernization of agricultural health services in the Central Area to contribute to trade opening and integration

c) Animal health and plant health

Supporting Agricultural Health Services in the Caribbean to Facilitate Production and Trade (Barbados, ECS, Guyana Haiti, Jamaica, Dominican Republic, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago)

IICA/USDA/AP: Implementation of the surveillance phase of the Regional Program to Eradicate the Tropical Bont Tick, *Amblyomma Variegatum*, from the Caribbean Region (Barbados, ECS, Guyana Haiti, Jamaica, Dominican Republic, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago)

Supporting the Regional Action Programme for the Control of the Pink Mealybug in the Caribbean ((Barbados, ECS, , Guyana Haiti, Jamaica, Dominican Republic, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago)

d) Gender and youth

Agricultural policy analysis *vis-a-vis* women food producers in the Andean Region, the Southern Cone and the Caribbean (IDB/IICA)
Communication, gender and sustainable development
Caribbean rural youth development project
Rural women integration program (First Ladies)

Programa de Corazones Verdes/Green Heart Program (*Guatemala*)

2. Information systems

a) Trade

Agro Info Americas: is a free on-line road-map to information resources for all stages of agribusiness production, trade and financing.

SIAPA: Information System for Agricultural Policy Analysis in Latin America and the Caribbean.

b) Animal health

SANINET: Is a regional agricultural health information service of the countries of the Andean Area, coordinated by IICA through its Andean Regional Center. Its objective is to promote and offer to the official health services, organizations and persons of the Andean Area and from other

regions, interested in agricultural health, a platform of information and communication intra and extra Andean via Internet.

HANDISTATUS: (Help with World Animal Disease Status): Is a data base program with important animal diseases information essential for international trade and human health. Main sources of information are FAO/OIE/WHO Animal Health Annual Book published by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and the World Animal Health International Code published by the International Office of Epizootics (OIE).

3. Research networks

- PROMECAFE:** Cooperative Program for the Protection and Modernization of Coffee Cultivation in Mexico, Central America, Panama and the Dominican Republic
- REMERFI:** Meso-American Network of Plant Genetic Resources
- PROCICARIBE:** Caribbean Cooperative Agricultural Program in Science and Technology
- CARAPHIN:** Caribbean Animal and Plant Health Information Network
- SICTA:** Central American Integrated System for Agricultural Technology

APPENDIX 6

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

INTRODUCTION

The First Meeting of the Standing Committee of Ministers responsible for Agriculture of the Caribbean Community and the Central American Council of Ministers of Agriculture was held in Belize on 26 May 1997. The Meeting was chaired by the Hon. Russell Garcia, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, Belize.

2. The following countries participated in the Meeting - Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, British Virgin Islands, Costa Rica, Dominica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Montserrat, Netherlands Antilles, Nicaragua, Panama, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos Islands. A list of participants is attached.

3. The Ministers exchanged views on a variety of issues and challenges confronting the agricultural sector of both Regions. They recognised the similarity of these challenges and the approaches being developed to advance agriculture in the two Regions. They also concluded that through cooperation and joint initiatives their individual efforts could be greatly enhanced.

PLAN OF WORK

4. Based on the above recognition and the need for urgent action to resolve the many challenges and take advantage of emerging opportunities, the Ministers agreed to cooperate in the development and implementation of a Plan of Work in the following four broad areas with their sub areas -

Horizontal Technical Cooperation

- (i) **Agricultural Policy Analysis.**
- (ii) **Technology Generation and Transfer.**
- (iii) **Agro-Processing and Agricultural Marketing.**
- (iv) **Water Resource Management.**
- (v) **Joint Research in areas of critical mutual importance.**
- (vi) **Development of Agri-Business.**
- (vii) **Mechanism of cooperation and exchange on agricultural health.**
- (viii) **An analysis of the legal aspects of international trade.**

/...

- (ix) Promotion of the development of improved genetic materials and their exchange.**
- (x) Promotion of the development of Private Sector Agri-Business Associations of the two Regions and their networking.**

**Development of Trade
between the two Regions**

- (i) Reduction of Technical Barriers to Agricultural Trade and the encouragement of the development of a Free Trade Area between the Regions.**
- (ii) Elimination of infrastructural weaknesses, for example, transportation.**
- (iii) Encouragement of participation in Trade Promotion activities.**
- (iv) Exchange of information on regimes, standards and other requirements for trade.**

Cooperation in Trade Negotiations

- (i) Arrange dialogue between the Chairmen of five FTAA Working Groups coordinated by States of the two Regions and the representatives of the Ministers of Agriculture of the two Regions in order to ensure that the needs of the agricultural sector of the Small Economies are given due consideration in the negotiations.**

- (ii) Encourage collaboration between the countries of the two Regions in the negotiations of the FTAA particularly, and other appropriate trade agreements.**

Exchange of Information

- (i) The exchange of production and socio-economic information in relation to the agricultural sector.**

- (ii) Facilitate the exchange of information in the areas of trade statistics, research, technology etc. through visits, exchange of technical documents, participation in symposia and workshops, etc.**

- (iii) Cooperation in promoting natural resource management and in the development of systems which are environmentally sustainable.**

INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

5. The Ministers recognised that there are existing institutions in the two Regions which, through collaboration, could implement many aspects of the areas of cooperation. These institutions include, in the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Region, the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI), the University of the West Indies (UWI), the Caribbean Food and Nutrition Institute (CFNI), the Caribbean Export Development Agency (Caribbean Export) and in the Consejo Regional de Cooperacion Agricola de Centroamerica (CORECA) Region, the Tropical Agricultural Research and Training Centre (CATIE), the Regional Agricultural School for the Humid Tropics (EARTH), the Pan-American School of Agriculture (ZAMORANO) and the Honduran Agricultural Research Institute (FHIA). In addition, there are a number of international agencies operating in the two Regions which have a mandate to support agricultural development, for example, the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the International Centre for Improvement of Wheat and Maize in the Tropics (CIMMYT), the International Centre for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) and the Regional Organisation for Agricultural Health (OIRSA) which will be encouraged to facilitate collaboration between the two Regions. Ministers agreed to request IICA to coordinate the follow-up to this Memorandum of Understanding.

6. In addition, the Ministers noted that IICA has Cooperation Agreements with the Government of Brazil, the Government of Mexico and Texas A & M University which can support the proposed cooperation between the Regions.

THE TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP

7. The Ministers agreed to establish a Technical Working Group coordinated by IICA and including representatives of the Chairmen of the SCMA and CORECA and the CARICOM and CORECA Secretariats. This Technical Working Group is charged to develop programme proposals within the abovementioned Plan of Work for effecting the cooperation and to provide a report to the SCMA and CORECA by the end of September 1997.

APPRECIATION

8. The Ministers expressed their deep appreciation to the Government of Belize for its initiative in promoting and hosting this First Meeting and to IICA and the CARICOM and CORECA Secretariats for providing technical and logistical support.

HOSTING OF THE SECOND MEETING

9. The Ministers accepted the invitation of the Government of Costa Rica to host the next Joint Meeting of CARICOM/CORECA at a date to be determined by the two Regions.

Signed at Belize City, Belize, on this 27th day of May 1997..

**FOR THE COUNTRIES OF THE
CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY**

**FOR THE COUNTRIES
OF CORECA**



**CHAIRMAN OF THE STANDING
COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS
RESPONSIBLE FOR AGRICULTURE
OF THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY
AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE
AND FISHERIES, BELIZE**



**ACTING CHAIRMAN OF
CORECA AND MINISTER
OF AGRICULTURE,
NICARAGUA**

ANEXO

REUNIÓN CONJUNTA DEL STANDING COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR AGRICULTURE (SCMA), DE LA COMUNIDAD CARIBEÑA Y EL CONSEJO REGIONAL DE COOPERACIÓN AGRÍCOLA (CORECA)

Lista de Jefes de Delegación

Antigua and Barbuda

Hon. Jeremy Langford
Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Land,
Fisheries, Planning and Cooperative

Bahamas

Mr. Ronald Thompson
Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries

Barbados

Hon. Rawle Eastmond
Minister of Agriculture and Rural
Development

Belize

Hon. Russel Garcia
Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries

British Virgin Islands

Ms. Sheila Brown
Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Natural Resources and
Labour

Costa Rica

Hon. Ricardo Garrón
Minister of Agriculture and Livestock

Dominica

Hon. Peter Carbon
Minister for Agriculture and the
Environment

Dominican Republic

Mr. Juan Jose Espinal
Vice Minister
Secretariat of State for Agriculture

El Salvador

Hon. Ricardo Quirfinez
Minister of Agriculture and Livestock

Grenada

Hon. Mark Isaac
Minister of Agriculture, Land, Forestry
and Fisheries

Guatemala

Mr. Oscar Humberto Suchini
Vice Minister
Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock

Guyana

Hon. Reepu Daman Persaud
Second Vice President and Minister
of Agriculture

Haiti

Hon. Franck Hyppolite
Head of Cabinet of the Minister of
Agriculture, Natural Resources and
Rural Development

Honduras

Mr. Marco Polo Micheletti
Vice Minister
Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock

Jamaica

Hon. Horace Clarke
Minister of Agriculture and Mining

Mexico

Mr. Jose Andres Casco Flores
Deputy Secretary
Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and
Rural Development

Montserrat

Hon. P.A. Bramble
Minister of Agriculture, Trade and
Environment

Netherlands Antilles

Mr. Chris Winkel
Director, Department of Agriculture

Nicaragua

Hon. Mario De Franco
Minister of Agriculture and Livestock

Panama

Mr. Manuel Miranda
Vice Minister
Ministry of Rural Development

St. Kitts and Nevis

Hon. Timothy Harris
Minister of Agriculture, Lands and
Housing

St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Hon. Allan Cruickshank
Minister of Agriculture and Labour

Trinidad and Tobago

Mr. Irwin Titus
Director
Agricultural Planning
Ministry of Agriculture, Land and
Marine Resources

Turks and Caicos Islands

Hon. Staven Rigby
Minister of Natural Resources,
Planning, Agriculture, Fisheries,
Environment and Coastal Resources
and Housing

APPENDIX 7

MEMBERS OF THE WORKING GROUP AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT TEAM

1. PARTICIPANTS

Working Group

Gloria Abraham, Specialist of CORECA

Marikis Alvarez, Adviser to the Minister of Agriculture of Belize

Chelston Brathwaite, Director, Management Unit for the Coordination of Regional Operations

H. Arlington D. Chesney, Director Caribbean Regional Center

Herman Rohler, Director of Sectorial Programmes, CARICOM Secretariat

Armando Reyes, Director Central Regional Center

Rene Soler, Executive Secretary of Planning and Evaluation Unit -Ministry of Agriculture

Technical Team

Victor Del Angel, Executive Secretary of CODES

Patrick Antoine, Specialist in Trade and Integration

Enrique Alarcón, Acting Director Area Science, Technology and Natural Resources

Jorge Ardila, Specialist in Investigation

Hector Barreyro, Specialist in Socioeconomic Politics and Trade

Dowlat Budrham, Specialist of CEPPI

Hector Campos Lopez, Coordinator Animal Health for Central and Caribbean Areas

Juan Calivá, Specialist in Training

Carlos Machado, Specialist in Science, Technology and Natural Resources

Antonio Pinchinat, Regional Specialist for Generation and Transfer of Technology

Support Team

Ana Cristina Bolaños, Secretary

Marta E. Umaña, Secretary

Marcelle Banuett, Administrative Assistant

Ana Victoria Rojas, Secretary

2. MEMBERS OF WORKING GROUP

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H. Arlington D. Chesney	Director of the Caribbean Regional Center IICA Office 3 Herbert Street St. Clare Port of Spain, Trinidad	(809) 628 4403 628 4078 Fax (809) 628 4562
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Chelston W.D. Brathwaite	Director of the Management Unit for the Coordination of Regional Operations IICA Headquarters San Jose, Costa Rica	(506) 229-0222 (506) 229-2135 Fax (506) 229-6968

ACRONYMS

ADCU:	Agricultural Diversification Coordinating Unit
ALADI:	Latin American Integration Association
ANDEAN GROUP:	Known as the Andean Pact
ATPA:	Andean Trade Preference Act
CABEI:	Central American Bank for Economic Integration
CAC:	Central America and the Caribbean
CACM:	Central American Common Market
CARAPHIN:	Caribbean Animal and Plant Health Information Network
CARDI:	Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute
CARIBBEAN EXPORT:	Caribbean Export Development Agency
CARIBCAN:	Canada-Caribbean Commonwealth Program
CARICOM:	Caribbean Community and Common Market
CARIRI:	Caribbean Industrial Research Institute
CARISEC:	CARICOM Secretariat
CATIE:	Tropical Agricultural Research and Training Centre
CACHE:	Caribbean Council of Higher Education in Agriculture
CARIFRUIT:	Network for Tropical Fruits in the Caribbean
CBI:	Caribbean Basin Initiative
CDB:	Caribbean Development Bank
CEPAL:	see ECLAC
CEPPI:	Center for Programs and Investment Projects (IICA)
CFCS:	Caribbean Food Crops Society
CFNI:	Caribbean Food and Nutrition Institute
CIAT:	International Centre for Tropical Agriculture
CIMMYT:	International Centre for Improvement of Wheat and Maize in the Tropics

CIMMYT:	International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center
CIRAD:	Center for International Cooperation in Agricultural Research for Development
CITA:	Food Technology Research Center (Costa Rica)
CNFI:	Caribbean Food and Nutrition Institute
CODES:	Sustainable Development Committee (IICA)
CODEX ALIMENTARIUS:	After its establishment in 1962 by FAO/WHO this Commission has approved more than 220 product parameters and more than 40 technical practices and hygienic codes
CORECA:	Regional Council for Agricultural Cooperation in Central America, Mexico, Panama and Dominican Republic.
CPPC:	Caribbean Plant Protection Commission
EAI:	Enterprise for the Americas Initiative
EARTH:	Regional Agricultural School for the Humid Tropics
ECLAC:	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
ECS:	Eastern Caribbean States
EEC:	European Economic Community
ENA:	School of National Agriculture, Honduras
FAO:	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FHIA:	Honduran Agricultural Research Institute
FTAA 2005:	Free Trade Area of the Americas
G3:	Group of Three
GATT:	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
HACCP:	Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point

HANDISTATUS:	(Help with World <u>Animal Disease Status</u>): Is a data base program with important animal diseases information essential for international trade and human health
ICAITI:	Central American Institute for Research and Industrial Technology
IDB:	Inter-American Development Bank
IICA:	Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
INBIO	Biodiversity Institute (Costa Rica)
INCAP:	Central American Institute for Public Administration
IPPC:	International Plant Protection Convention
ISO:	International Standards Organization
ITCR:	Costa Rican Technological Institute
LAC:	Latin America and the Caribbean
MERCOSUR:	Southern Common Market
NAFTA:	North American Free Trade Agreement
OAS:	Organization of American States
OECS:	Organization of Eastern Caribbean States
OIE:	International Office of Epizootics
OIRSA:	International Regional Organization for Agricultural Health
PCCMCA:	Central American Cooperative Program of Plants and Animals
PMC:	The Program Management Committee of the Proposal for Cooperation in Agriculture between Central America and the Caribbean
PROCIANDINO:	Cooperative Agricultural Research and Technology Transfer Program for the Andean Subregion
PROCICARIBE:	Caribbean Cooperative Agricultural Program in Science and Technology
PROCISUR:	Cooperative Program for the Development of Agricultural Technology in the Southern Cone

PROMECAFE:	Cooperative Program for the Protection and Modernization of Coffee Cultivation in Mexico, Central America, Panama and Dominican Republic
REMERFI: REPAHA	Meso-American Network of Plant Genetic Resources Regional Education Program for Animal Health Association in Guyana
RUTA:	Regional Unit for Technical Assistance
SANINET:	Is a regional agricultural health information service of the countries of the Andean Area, coordinated by IICA through its Andean Regional Center
SCMA:	Standing Committee of Ministers of Agriculture of the Caribbean Countries
SELA: SIAPA:	Latin American Economic System Information System for Agricultural Policy Analysis in Latin America and the Caribbean
SICA:	Central American Integration System (Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama)
SICTA:	Central American Integrated System for Agricultural Technology
SIECA:	Permanent Secretariat of the General Treaty of Central American Economic Integration
SPS AGREEMENT:	Sanitary and Phytosanitary Agreement
UCR:	University of Costa Rica
UNED	Long Distance Costa Rican State University
UPEB:	Union of Banana Exporting Countries
USDA:	United States of America Department of Agriculture
UWI:	University of the West Indies
WHO:	World Health Organization
ZAMORANO:	Pan-American School of Agriculture (Honduras)



INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR COOPERATION ON AGRICULTURE
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