

RESOLUTION No. 534

THE CONTRIBUTION OF RURAL WOMEN TO AGRICULTURE IN THE AMERICAS

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

CONSIDERING:

That approximately 58 million women live in rural areas in Latin America and the Caribbean and despite the fact that, like men, they are engaged in food production, their work is under-reported and undervalued, and only 10% of them have access to credit and only 5% to technical assistance programs;

That it is essential and extremely relevant that the countries of the Americas incorporate women into agricultural development and rural production processes, under conditions that enable equity and gender equality; therefore, highlighting the role of rural women and fostering the development of sound public policies that are of benefit to them is a matter of urgency;

That tackling gender inequalities and reducing the gender-related gaps that rural women face will require the implementation of gender sensitive policies, programs and affirmative actions, as well as the increased participation of rural women in decision-making, particularly in mixed enterprises and in the public sector;

That, in implementing the 2018-2022 Medium-term Plan (MTP), the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) has sought to guarantee the full participation of women in an equal opportunity environment and to promote their empowerment in all areas of participation, with a view to building their capacities, valuing and promoting their contribution to production processes, and increasing their access to the benefits of rural development;

That, on July 27th of this year, the Director General convened, the I Forum of Female Ministers and Deputy Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas within the framework of the 2021 Food Systems Pre-Summit in Rome, Italy, and 12 countries participated;

That the women participating in that forum expressed an interest in establishing an institutional forum for discussion and information exchange to share experiences on dealing with matters such as access to credit, availability of new technologies, land tenure and ownership and other areas in which rural women in the Americas have been historically disadvantaged; and

That the Institute is continuously creating opportunities for dialogue with woman leaders in rural areas of the Americas that address their problems, as well as their needs and contributions to

the development of rurality, and that these dialogues have resulted in the establishment of the Hemispheric Platform for Rural Women, which is a valuable tool that will contribute to their empowerment,

RESOLVES:

1. To ensure that the contribution of rural women of the Americas to agricultural and rural development is fully recognized in all cultural, social, and productive sectors, particularly, given the severe limitations imposed on rural women by the global health emergency triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. To endorse the conclusions of the I Forum of Female Ministers and Deputy Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas and other rural women's forums in the hemisphere, with respect to the need to spur the development of sound public policies with a gender focus that benefit women who live and work in rural areas.
3. To entrust the Director General of IICA with the task of creating an institutional discussion forum for women who are Ministers, Deputy Ministers and other high-level public sector authorities, as well as representatives of rural women of all ethnicities in the Member States of the Institute, in a bid to raise awareness about the role of rural women and to propose gender-sensitive policies that reduce gender gaps and inequalities and facilitate women's participation and inclusion in rural development on an equal footing.
4. To request that the Director General ensure that the strategic vision and technical cooperation actions aimed at reducing gender gaps and inequalities are strengthened in the 2022-2026 Medium-term Plan, with a view to increasing the empowerment and equitable inclusion of rural women in the development of the agrifood systems of the Americas.