

**Hemispheric Ministerial Process
"Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas"**

**Building Capacity for
Enhancing Food Security and
Rural Life in the Americas**



**Ministerial Meetings "Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas"
held within the context of the Summits of the Americas Process**

Hemispheric Ministerial Process “Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas”

Building Capacity for Enhancing Food Security and Rural Life in the Americas

Report of the Secretariat on the 2008-2009 Ministerial Process
“Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas” and the
Fifth Ministerial Meeting - Jamaica 2009

**Ministerial Meetings “Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas”
held within the context of the Summits of the Americas Process**

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Fifth Ministerial Meeting - 2009



At the Fifth Ministerial Meeting “Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas” in the context of the Summit of the Americas process, the Ministers updated the **AGRO 2003-2015 Plan of Action** by approving *the Hemispheric Ministerial Agreement Jamaica 2009 for Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas*.

Foreword

The Ministerial Process of the 2008-2009 biennium culminated with the Fifth Ministerial Meeting, held October 28-29, 2009, in Montego Bay, Jamaica, as part of the “Week of Agriculture and Rural Life of the Americas” whose theme was *“Building capacity for enhancing food security and rural life in the Americas.”*

The 2009 meeting of the Group for the Implementation and Coordination of the Agreements on Agriculture and Rural Life (GRICA) took place from October 26-27. During the Hemispheric Forum of Ministerial Delegates of Agriculture and Rural Life, the participants discussed and reached agreement on the Hemispheric Ministerial Agreement (HMA) Jamaica 2009 that was subsequently submitted to the forum of Ministers of Agriculture. Furthermore, the Ministerial Meeting drew on the findings of a forum of agro-entrepreneurs promoted by the Government of Jamaica during the Week of Agriculture that were also presented to the forum of ministers.

With the adoption of the HMA, the countries renewed their commitment the *AGRO 2003-2015 Plan for Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas*. The Ministerial Process was also strengthened with the *“...principal strategies that inspire this agreement, underpinned by the Ministerial and Summits of the Americas processes, namely:*

- to increase national capacities for enhancing food security and rural life,

- to strengthen the positioning of the issues and the priorities of agriculture and rural development in the public consciousness and in national strategies,
- to invest more in agriculture and rural development,
- to encourage the stakeholders of agriculture to adopt a broad-based approach to thinking and acting in agriculture and the rural milieu, and
- to promote with them the “working together” approach to improve agriculture and rural life in the Americas.

The HMA reflects the sovereign political will of the leaders of agriculture of the countries with respect to the Shared Vision 2015 of the AGRO Plan, the strategic actions that they need to promote together to gradually realize that vision, and the measures required to facilitate implementation of those actions.

In accordance with the measures established to provide follow-up to the HMA, we are making available to the stakeholders of agriculture and rural life the document *Building capacity for enhancing food security and rural life in the Americas*, containing the Report on the 2008-2009 Ministerial Process “Agriculture and Rural Life in Americas” and the Fifth Ministerial Meeting Jamaica 2009.

Part I

The Fifth Ministerial Meeting “Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas” Jamaica 2009 and the 2008-2009 Ministerial Process

- From Guatemala 2007 to Jamaica 2009.
- The 2009 GRICA.
- The Fifth Ministerial Meeting.

2008-2009 Ministerial Process

ON THE ROAD TO JAMAICA 2009

Building Capacity for Enhancing Food Security and Rural Life in the Americas

“There is therefore an urgent call for the region to deliberately put in place appropriate measures to build local capacity in the agricultural sector to enhance production and productivity in order to increase food security and incomes in the rural areas. In this regard, for the 2008–2009 Ministerial process and the Fifth Ministerial Meeting “Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas”, we are emphasizing the theme Building Capacity for Enhancing Food Security and Rural Life in the Americas”.

Christopher Tufton

Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries of Jamaica
Chair of the Fifth Ministerial Meeting
“Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas”

From Guatemala 2007 to Jamaica 2009

The Ministerial Process leading up to the Fifth Ministerial Meeting Jamaica 2009 focused on the implementation of the Hemispheric Ministerial Agreement (HMA) Guatemala 2007, adopted at the Fourth Ministerial Meeting. That HMA, and others that complement it, called for a series of strategic actions and implementation and follow-up measures, with emphasis on:

- The promotion, with the stakeholders of the agricultural sector, of a broad-based approach to thinking and acting in agriculture and the rural milieu;
- The adoption of the approach of “working together” with the stakeholders of the agricultural sector to improve agriculture and rural life in the Americas;
- The repositioning of rural issues in national strategies; and,
- The updating of the Hemispheric Agenda, and the measures required to implement it, for the 2010-2011 biennium.

In its capacity as the host country of the Fifth Meeting, at the start of 2008 Jamaica assumed the chairmanship of the 2008-2009 Ministerial Process, giving it direction and leadership. In the publication *On the Road to Jamaica 2009*

“Building Capacity for Enhancing Food Security and Rural Life in the Americas”, the Chair proposed the theme for the process and its ministerial meeting. In that same document, Dr. Christopher Tufton, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries of Jamaica, wrote:

“There is therefore an urgent call for the region to deliberately put in place appropriate measures to build local capacity in the agricultural sector to enhance production and productivity in order to increase food security and incomes in the rural areas”.

Coupled with the above, early in 2009 Minister Tufton informed his colleagues in the Americas of the work to be carried out prior to the Fifth Meeting to implement the HMA Guatemala 2007, and of the meetings that would be held during the “Week of Agriculture and Rural Life of the Americas” Donovan Stanberry, Ministerial Delegate of Agriculture and Rural Life of Jamaica and the Chair of the 2009 GRICA, also informed the Ministerial Delegates of Agriculture about the Ministerial Process and the tasks that the countries needed to carry out to construct the HMA Jamaica 2009.

The Ministerial Delegates played a key role in the implementation of the 2008-2009 Ministerial Process. Broadly speaking, and with different emphases in the various countries, the Delegates’ efforts were designed to:

- Coordinated implementation of the HMAs, as mandated by the Ministers at their Fourth Ministerial Meeting;
- Reported on and coordinated, with their respective foreign ministries, the dissemination and follow-up of the mandates on agriculture and rural life of the Summits;
- Prepared the national report on progress made and challenges faced with the implementation of HMA Guayaquil 2005; and
- Participated in the preparation of HMA Jamaica 2009.

Based on the **“2009 National Report Progress made and challenges encountered in implementing the Hemispheric Ministerial Agreement Guatemala 2007 for Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas”** provided by 29 countries, IICA, in its capacity as the Secretariat of the Ministerial Process, prepared the *“Base document for the 2009 hemispheric dialogue”*. This document was used as the basis for the work of the Hemispheric

Forum of Ministerial Delegates, also known as the 2009 Meeting of the GRICA, which reached consensus on the text of the HMA Jamaica 2009.

The hemispheric dialogue, led by the Ministers of Agriculture and supported by the Ministerial Delegates, is a distinctive, essential element of the Ministerial Process for the drafting of the HMA. The dialogue is used to promote the participation of the private, social and public sectors in the countries and ensure the relevance and legitimacy of the strategic decisions that the Ministers of Agriculture adopt at the Ministerial Meetings “Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas.”

The dialogue that took place during the 2009 Meeting of the GRICA (October 26-27) enabled the Ministerial Delegates to reach a hemispheric consensus on the issues and strategic actions for the 2010-2011 Hemispheric Agenda and the measures required to implement and provide follow-up to it. That consensus, which was endorsed fully by the ministerial forum, is set out in the *“Hemispheric Ministerial Agreement Jamaica 2009 for Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas”*.

The 2009 GRICA

The Fifth Ministerial Meeting was preceded by the Meeting of the Group for the Implementation and Coordination of the Agreements on Agriculture and Rural Life (2009 GRICA), held in Montego Bay, Jamaica, from October 26-27, 2009. Donovan Stanberry, Ministerial Delegate of Jamaica, and Aarón Velásquez, Ministerial Delegate of Guatemala, were the joint chairs of the meeting. IICA officials Bernardo Badani and Cynthia Indrani Currie were responsible for the Technical Secretariat. The GRICA is the Hemispheric Forum of Ministerial Delegates of Agriculture and Rural Life designated by the Ministers of Agriculture of the 34 countries of the Americas.

The theme of both the national proposals and the work of the Delegates at the 2009 Meeting of the GRICA in drafting the HMA Jamaica 2009 was *Building Capacity for Enhancing Food Security and Rural Life in the Americas*.

The hemispheric dialogue for the drafting of the HMA, which is led by the Ministers of Agriculture, supported by the Ministerial Delegates, is a distinctive, essential element of the Ministerial Process “Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas.” The dialogue is used to reach a hemispheric consensus, promoting the participation of the countries and ensuring the relevance and legitimacy of the strategic decisions that the Ministers adopt at their meetings.

The Delegates’ duties with regard to the Ministerial Process include coordinating in their respective countries the preparation of the national proposal for the drafting of the HMA and interacting as members of the GRICA with the other Ministerial Delegates of the Americas, in order to reach a hemispheric consensus - in this case for the HMA Jamaica 2009.

At previous meetings of the GRICA, the Ministerial Delegates have played an active role in the construction of the hemispheric consensus for the drafting of the following HMAs:

- Ministerial Declaration of Bavaro for the Improvement of Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas (Bavaro 2001).
- AGRO 2003-2015 Plan of Action for Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas (Panama 2003).
- AGRO 2003-2015 Plan. Ministerial Agreement of Guayaquil on Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas (Guayaquil 2005).
- AGRO 2003-2015 Plan. Hemispheric Ministerial Agreement Guatemala 2007 for Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas.

LETTER TO MINISTERIAL DELEGATES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL LIFE (Excerpt)

The Ministerial Delegates and GRICA in the past have played a decisive role in building consensus for the hemispheric agreements adopted at the ministerial meetings held in the Dominican Republic in 2001, in Panama in 2003, in Ecuador in 2005 and in Guatemala in 2007.

The Hemispheric Ministerial Agreement - Jamaica 2009, which will update the AGRO Plan with strategic actions for the 2010-2011 biennium, is therefore expected to be the main outcome of the Fifth Ministerial Meeting. As in previous biennia, that agreement will be built by the countries through national proposals and through the hemispheric dialogue which we, the Ministerial Delegates, will hold in GRICA. In keeping with the theme proposed by our country, we hope that the national proposals will give special emphasis to building capacity for enhancing agriculture, food security and rural life. I am, therefore, requesting your invaluable participation as a Ministerial Delegates and members of the hemispheric forum in the process "On the road to Jamaica 2009".

Donovan Stanberry
Ministerial Delegate of Agriculture and Rural Life of Jamaica
Chair of GRICA 2009

The mandate

At the Second Ministerial Meeting (Panama 2003), the Ministers of Agriculture decided that the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan would be implemented by means of six biennial agendas. Thus, in the Agreement, the Ministers agreed to:

Updating of the Hemispheric Agenda

The 2008-2009 Hemispheric Agenda is the third of six biennial agendas by means of which the AGRO Plan is to be implemented. National governments will deliver reports on progress in implementing each biennial agenda and identify challenges faced. These reports will serve as input for updating the Agenda for the following period. We therefore entrust:

- *The Ministerial Delegates with preparing, with the support of the Secretariat of the Ministerial Process, the national report on progress and challenges in implementing this Ministerial Agreement.*
- *The Hemispheric Forum of Ministerial Delegates (GRICA) with updating this Ministerial Agreement for the 2010-2011 biennium.*

The opening of the 2009 Meeting GRICA



The head table for the opening session of the 2009 Meeting of the GRICA. Pictured, left to right, are Christopher Tufton, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries of Jamaica; Chelston W. D. Brathwaite, Director General of IICA; Donovan Stanberry, Ministerial Delegate of Agriculture of Jamaica, and Chair of the 2009 Meeting of the GRICA; Bernardo Badani, Technical Secretary of the Meeting; and David Morris, Director of the OAS Secretariat for the Summits of the Americas.

The participants in the opening session included Christopher Tufton, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries of Jamaica; Chelston W. D. Brathwaite, Director General of IICA; and Donovan Stanberry, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries of Jamaica and Chair of the 2009 Meeting of the GRICA.

For the benefit of the Ministerial Delegates who were attending a meeting of the GRICA for the first time, Dr. Brathwaite provided an overview of the inclusion of agriculture and rural life as strategic issues on the Inter-American Agenda and the emergence of the Ministerial Process, noting that “... *from the outset, this process has had an important characteristic: the countries’ ownership of the process and its management and outcomes.*”

The Director General emphasized the contribution of the Ministerial Delegates, remarking that in their respective countries and during the Hemispheric Forum they had played a key, groundbreaking role within the Ministerial Process. Their work had included a wide range of activities. They had coordinated the development of the national proposals for

the ministerial agreements, disseminated the proposals and coordinated their implementation, prepared progress reports and identified challenges. Their work would culminate in the forum of Delegates, whose objective was to reach a hemispheric consensus on the agreements and then submit them to the consideration of the Ministers of Agriculture.

Dr. Brathwaite said the success of the forum of the ministerial meeting, and of the process as a whole, was in the hands of the Delegates. He then highlighted the continuous work of several Delegates, predicted that the meeting would be a great success and reiterated IICA’s support for both the meetings themselves and for the countries in implementing the agreements.

Minister Tufton welcomed the Ministerial Delegates to the 2009 Meeting of the GRICA, reminded them of the theme of the meeting, which had been a source of inspiration for the drafting of the HMA Jamaica 2009, underscored the importance of strengthening the contribution of private enterprise, and called upon the Delegates to ensure that the HMA reflected that concern.

He then proceeded to hand over the conduct of the meeting to Donovan Stanberry, Chair of the 2009 Meeting of the GRICA, and Aaron

Velásquez, Ministerial Delegate of Guatemala, the country that hosted the 2007 Ministerial Meeting.

The 2009 GRICA meeting

Mr. Stanberry kicked off the work of the Hemispheric Forum of Ministerial Delegates by welcoming his colleagues and noting the large number of countries represented at the 2009 Meeting of the GRICA (32 delegations were present). He commended the Delegates for the role they had played in the work of preparing the “*2009 National Report on progress made and challenges encountered in implementing the Hemispheric Ministerial Agreement Guatemala 2007.*” He said the Secretariat had received 29 reports, on which it had drawn in drafting the “*Base document for the 2009 hemispheric dialogue.*”

The Chair explained that the document would be displayed, paragraph by paragraph, on two screens (in English and Spanish) to enable the participants to study and discuss the text, make comments and reach a consensus, gradually moving toward the final version of the HMA Jamaica 2009. He then proposed a work plan for the two days of the meeting and urged the Delegates to participate in a proactive, concrete way.

Mr. Stanberry said the document placed emphasis on the human, scientific and technological, organizational, institutional and resource-related aspects that needed to be taken into account to build and increase national capabilities for the sustainable development of agriculture and the rural milieu, in particular to improve food security and rural life.

Human Aspect

- Management and leadership
- Production and income

Scientific and technological aspect

- More and better food
- Storage and food processing
- Food basket

Organizational aspect

- Multisectoral agroenvironmental management
- Focusing on rural territories
- Coordination mechanisms and chain approach

Institutional aspect

- Agricultural health and food safety
- Soils and water
- Climate change
- Institutional capacity
- Risk management and agricultural emergencies

Resources aspect

- Investment in agriculture and rural development

During a series of sessions spread over two days, the Delegates discussed and reached consensus on the HMA Jamaica 2009, the full text of which is to be found in Annex 1.

The Fifth Ministerial Meeting



The meeting provided an opportunity for the ministers to review and complete the Ministerial Process for the 2008-2009 biennium. The dialogue and the decisions adopted by the Ministers of Agriculture and their Delegates revolved around the theme of the event, Building Capacity for Enhancing Food Security and Rural Life in the Americas. The decisions taken will have an important impact on the work carried out during the 2010-2011 biennium.

The Ministerial Meeting was the key event of the Week of Agriculture and Rural Life of the Americas. The participants discussed the results of the Hemispheric Forum of Ministerial Delegates of Agriculture and Rural Life (2009 GRICA) and of the forum held with the private sector, which provided input for the drafting of the HMA Jamaica 2009.

The theme

The improvement of food security and living conditions in the rural communities of the Americas are two of the Strategic Objectives defined by the Ministers and Secretaries of Agriculture in the *AGRO 2003-2015 Plan of Action for Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas*, and ratified in the agreements adopted in Guayaquil in 2005 and

in Guatemala in 2007. Along with the objectives of Food Security and Rural Poverty, the Ministers and Secretaries also defined Increased Competitiveness, Sustainability, Equity and Governability as objectives, with the overarching objective being the sustainable development of agriculture and the rural milieu.

Those objectives and the strategic actions set forth in the Plan for achieving them help to focus the efforts of the leaders of the public and private sectors, in essence, defining **What to do** in order to achieve the overarching objective. Nonetheless, it is necessary to do more than define such objectives and strategic actions if the goal is to reach the Shared Vision for 2015 and the Strategic Objectives of the AGRO Plan, the Millennium Development Goals or others defined at the national and international levels. It is necessary to establish the means of implementation; in other words, **How to do** in order to achieve the objectives.

The building and improvement of national capacity is one of the most important means of implementation for meeting the challenges of development. In particular, the capacity of a country to make the development of agriculture and the rural milieu sustainable depends to a great extent on the capacity of its people and its institutions.

The building and improvement of national capacity should be defined, in general terms, as a continual process in which individuals, groups, organizations, institutions and societies improve, use and maintain their ability to identify and meet the challenges of development in a sustained and sustainable manner. This encompasses the country's **human, scientific, technological, organizational, institutional and resource** capabilities.

A fundamental goal of building and improving capacity is to strengthen the ability to evaluate and address strategic and priority issues related to policy options and modes of

implementation among development options. This entails understanding the possibilities and limitations of the national and international context, as well as the needs and priorities defined by the country.

The building of capacities for the sustainable development of agriculture and the rural milieu has been a priority of the Ministers and Secretaries of Agriculture throughout the Ministerial Meetings "Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas." This was reflected in the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan in the form of **strategic actions** defined in the meetings held in Panama in 2003, in Guayaquil in 2005 and in Guatemala in 2007.

However, in view of the need to enhance the countries' capabilities for improving agriculture and rural development, it was decided that the theme of the Fifth Ministerial Meeting would be *Building Capacity for Enhancing Food Security and Rural Life in the Americas*.

During the meeting, the ministers' discussions revolved around the presentations made on the regional outlook for capacity building efforts, the prospects for agriculture, food security and rural life in the Americas, the perspective of the different regions of the Americas with regard to the situation, public policies, and the contributions of the private sector to capacity building to improve food security and rural life and the perspective of international organizations (their role in capacity development to achieve food security in the Americas). During the meeting, the ministers also adopted **new strategic** actions aimed at building capabilities.

The expected results

The ministers set themselves the following four main goals, all of which were achieved:

- The adoption of the Hemispheric Ministerial Agreement Jamaica 2009.
- A more thorough understanding of the strategic importance of agriculture and the rural milieu for the sustainable development of the Americas, as the basis for making new decisions regarding implementation of the AGRO Plan.
- A renewed commitment on the part of the countries to promote the development and implementation of the information system for following up on and evaluating the AGRO Plan and its regional strategies.
- The strengthening of international cooperation within the framework of the AGRO Plan.

Opening Ceremony

The Hon. Bruce Golding, Prime Minister of Jamaica, inaugurated the Ministerial Meeting on October 27, 2009, in Montego Bay, Jamaica. He was joined at the head table by José Miguel Insulza, Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS); Chelston W. D. Brathwaite, Director General of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA); Christopher Tufton, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries of Jamaica; and Donovan Stanberry, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, and Chair of the 2009 Meeting of the GRICA.

The opening ceremony was attended by Jamaican government ministers; delegations from the countries participating in the Summits of the Americas process; heads of diplomatic

missions and international agencies; members of the diplomatic corps; José Graziano Da Silva, FAO Assistant Director General and Representative for Latin America and the Caribbean; Directors Emeritus of IICA; officials from international organizations; and, speakers and special guests.

Donovan Stanberry served as the master of ceremonies. The activity began with a procession of the flags of IICA's 34 member countries. Jamaica's national anthem was then sung and Rev. Royland Thompson, of Brownsville United Church, prayed for the success of the event.

The following is a summary of the main ideas expressed by the dignitaries who took the floor during the inaugural ceremony.

Doctor Christopher Tufton,
Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries
of Jamaica

Dr. Tufton welcomed all the participants to the Week of Agriculture and Rural Life of the Americas Jamaica 2009, in particular to the various events that would be taking place, such as the forum of agribusiness entrepreneurs, the Fifth Ministerial Meeting and the Fifteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA).

The Minister commended the Heads of State and Government who took part in the Third Summit of the Americas, held in Quebec in 2001, for underscoring the importance of agriculture as a way of life for millions of rural dwellers and as a key sector for the generation of prosperity. He also remarked that the summit had promoted the creation of the Ministerial Process and its hemispheric meetings under the banner of “Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas.” He said he was delighted to have the opportunity to work with strategic institutional partners and stakeholders of the agricultural sector to ensure that the Ministerial Process achieved its objectives.

Minister Tufton noted that during the 2009 Meeting of the GRICA the Ministerial Delegates had worked to update the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan, the new version of which the Ministers of Agriculture had adopted in the HMA Jamaica 2009. He explained that during those meetings emphasis had been placed on the important role played by the private sector in promoting investment in the agricultural sector, which was essential to promote

economic growth and food security in the hemisphere.

The Minister expressed satisfaction at the presence of senior representatives of major international institutions, such as José Miguel Insulza, Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS), and José Graziano da Silva, Director of the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). Other organizations represented included CARICOM, the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the World Food Programme (WFP), the Common Fund for Commodities, and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) - represented by its Executive Secretary, Ms. Alicia Bárcena - and other important stakeholders committed to the process of strengthening agriculture and improving rural life in the Americas.

The world faced the prospect of having to meet double the present demand for food. That would require better means and methods for increasing primary production and the support of an appropriate rural infrastructure. All countries, large and small, rich and poor, had to adopt a paradigm that would stimulate food production, not only to meet their own needs but also the hemispheric and global demand. They had to focus more on the economic and social multiplier effect of primary production. The Minister ended his remarks by saying:

“Agriculture should not just be viewed as an economic statistic measure in its traditional terms of GDP per capital, but a critical socioeconomic imperative, particularly for rural people.”

Doctor José Miguel Insulza,
Secretary General of the Organization
of American States (OAS)

Dr. Insulza said it was an honor to take part in such an important ministerial meeting on the improvement of food security and rural life in the Americas. He commended Chelston Brathwaite for the leadership he had demonstrated in further strengthening the links between the various inter-American ministerial meetings and the Summits of the Americas process, and for his untiring efforts to revitalize IICA's mandate. The Institute was a valued member of the OAS within the framework of the Joint Summit Working Group (JSWG), which helped the Member States to implement the different summit mandates.

Turning to the issue of food security, he said the global economy was still struggling to climb out of the recession and the countries of the Americas were suffering from the negative effects of the economic slowdown. He then remarked that there was an urgent need to address the issue of food security, pay more attention to the agricultural sector and rural communities, and invest more in them. He went on:

“Our hemisphere has more than enough resources, technology, and ideas to ensure that no one - man, woman, boy, or girl - suffers from hunger. We have the natural and human resources required to produce sufficient, nourishing food to meet domestic consumption and export food to other parts of the world. We must exploit those resources and do so in such a way as to address the problems that our countries face with regard to food security, including dwindling investment in the agricultural sector and rural communities; a younger generation that shows

not the least interest in studying for a career in agriculture; the shrinking supply of fertile farmland, due to unrestricted soil degradation; the impact of climate change on soil and water resources; extreme climatic events and natural disasters; and the need for the agricultural sector to have social safety nets, such as insurance.”

Those challenges, he said, were not insurmountable provided that everyone worked together and adopted the multidimensional approach to agriculture and rural development that the hemisphere's political leaders had reaffirmed recently at the Fifth Summit, where they had also reiterated their commitment to the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan. The Secretary General concluded his remarks by stating that:

“Implementing these mandates should make a significant contribution to the efforts to strengthen the agricultural sector of our countries, improve food security, and promote human prosperity, environmental sustainability and the consolidation of democracy in our hemisphere.”

Doctor Chelston Brathwaite,
Director General of IICA

Dr. Brathwaite thanked the Hon. Bruce Golding, Prime Minister of Jamaica, his government, and the people of Jamaica for their warm welcome, and the Prime Minister specifically for gracing the inaugural ceremony with his presence. He also expressed his sincere gratitude to Minister Tufton and the institution he represented for their commitment and cooperation in organizing the Ministerial Meeting and the Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture.

He said that during the last decade several megatrends had emerged, namely:

- Increases in the incidence of global warming and climate change.
- Increase in the incidence of transboundary diseases.
- Increases in the cost of energy and the increase in the production of sustainable energy from agricultural sources.
- A rise in the prices of basic commodities and increasing cost of food.
- Increase in the deterioration of natural resources and elimination of biodiversity.
- A global financial crisis.

He complemented the above data with information supplied by the World Food Programme, the World Bank, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean - institutions that, among other things, had highlighted the fact that hunger was once again a problem in the region; that in the 21st century agriculture continued to be a key tool for sustainable development and poverty reduction; that at a high-level conference on food security, held in Rome, the countries had discussed short, medium and long-term strategies for addressing the problem; and that the five years of positive economic growth that the Latin American and Caribbean countries had enjoyed between 2002 and 2007 could be undone by the present crisis.

The world faced a critical moment in its history, characterized by:

- The major economic powers of the world are in recession.

- The G8 countries no longer dominate global consumption or global capital formation.
- Developing economies will grow at rates that will double those of the developed world.
- The population of developed countries will represent a small and declining proportion of the world population.
- And the major growth in population in the future will occur in the cities of the developing world.

Brathwaite said all those issues would pose serious challenges for food production and food security in the future.

He added, “It is against this backdrop that we meet today, to determine strategies that will make it possible to strengthen food security in the hemisphere. We believe we can tackle these challenges by promoting the construction of a modern, multisectoral, and multidimensional agricultural sector in our countries.” The Director General also remarked that when agriculture was viewed in that way, it became a strategic sector that could help to meet many challenges, including:

- Reducing poverty,
- Diminishing the impact of global warming and climate change,
- Improving nutrition,
- Controlling transboundary diseases,
- Ensuring food safety and food security,
- Producing sustainable energy supply, and
- Solving the problems associated with increased urbanization.

However, he concluded his remarks by saying that, “...if agriculture is to become a priority on national development agendas again, a different development

model must be adopted.” And he added: “A model that promotes a better urban-rural balance by means of the integrated development of urban areas and rural areas; a model that channels more investments to rural areas, which are essential to guarantee political and social stability; a model that promotes the competitiveness of agriculture and rural economic activities; a model that creates jobs in the rural economy.”

The Hon. Bruce Golding,
Prime Minister of Jamaica

The Hon. Bruce Golding said that for the Government and people of Jamaica it had been a pleasure and privilege to host the Fifth Ministerial Meeting and Fifteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture.

He described as “very significant” the fact that the two meetings had been held in Jamaica, followed immediately by a high-level ministerial meeting on integration and development in Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as the Ministerial Meeting of the Rio Group. All those meetings were important examples of the increasing cooperation and solidarity among the countries of the Americas. He emphasized that:



Prime Minister of Jamaica

“We confront so many challenges that are either identical or similar; we share much in terms of our hopes and our goals; and there is so much that we can do together in search of the opportunities that will enable us to achieve those goals.”

He noted that the meeting was being held at a time when all the countries in the region, the hemisphere, and the world were having to deal with different degrees of pressure. The global crisis had affected Jamaica very seriously. It had shaken an already fragile economy like an earthquake. He imagined that the country’s experience was no different from that of many of the countries represented at the conference. In that regard, he said that:

“One of the great fears I have is that many of the gains we have made in recent decades in terms of reducing poverty and creating momentum for investment as a basis for real sustained growth may be eroded, meaning that we may have to virtually start all over again.”

The Prime Minister then called upon the countries to redouble their efforts to develop the capabilities required to guarantee their peoples a better quality of life. He went on,

“It is in essence, a challenge to us to reenergize ourselves in order to face the difficulties of the moment, but also to secure the opportunities and the successes of the future. Nowhere is that need more compelling than in improving our food security...”

And affirmed emphatically,

“We have to build up agriculture. It has to be a path way to prosperity. It has to be an instrument of social and economic transformation. We have so much more to do than we have done so far. Much that is riding on this conference that you are engaged in this week.”

The meeting



Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of ECLAC, Chelston Brathwaite, Director General of IICA, and José Miguel Insulza, Secretary General of the OAS, pictured during the Fifth Ministerial Meeting Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas.

The meeting was attended by 33 national delegations, 22 of which were led by the respective ministers of agriculture. The program included four plenary sessions that involved expert presentations, panels of regional experts and international organizations, the presentation of reports and the findings of the private sector forum, the ministerial dialogue, and the signing of the HMA Jamaica 2009. The full texts of the presentations and the agreement are to be found at <http://www.iica.int/Eng/cumbres/Pages/default.aspx>

1. The Ministerial Meeting in context - First plenary session

Opening remarks by the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries of Jamaica

In his capacity as the Chair of the meeting, Christopher Tufton gave a special welcome to the Ministers of Agriculture, representatives of international organizations and other participants, and thanked the Ministerial Delegates for all their hard work. He also acknowledged the participation of the representatives of the private sector.

He mentioned the context in which the decisions of the meeting would be taken. He explained that there was a close link between a country's development and the participation of the primary sector in the economy and that, as countries invested in agricultural technology, human resources were released that were incorporated into other areas of the economy, which, in turn, generated higher levels of development. The Minister also noted that the developed countries had made that type of investment, while the developing countries had not. For that reason, they continued to be producers of raw materials.

Tufton then mentioned the relationship between population growth and the growing demand for food, an issue that had been discussed in the past and was once more high on the international agenda. The Minister explained how the problem had to do with the pressure

created by the availability and use of land and water and environmental degradation. He said that food production would have to grow 50% by 2050, making it even more necessary to increase investment in efforts to boost agricultural productivity.

Another issue for the Ministerial Meeting to consider was the setback in poverty reduction efforts, due to the recent international crises, which would affect food security in Latin America and the Caribbean. The Minister added that poverty was particularly acute in rural areas. However, the situation provided an opportunity to reposition agriculture and rural life as sectors of strategic importance in combating food insecurity in the region.

Finally, the Minister said that the urgency of the situation called for immediate action; hence, the need for the Fifth Meeting, after a full and frank discussion, to commit to an action plan that reflected the political will of the participants.

Capacity building to improve food security and rural life in the Americas

Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of ECLAC, began her presentation by noting that the event was taking place at an extremely important time for the region.

“A time to rethink the old and new challenges for agriculture and the rural world in the Americas.”

In that context, she highlighted the role that agriculture had played in the region historically and its importance for the rural milieu because of its contribution to production, its links with other productive sectors, its role in creating

jobs and generating income, and its contribution to foreign exchange reserves.

The official then mentioned the crisis in food prices in 2008 - its causes and interrelationships with other international crises, and its negative effects on poverty levels and, in particular, on rural poverty, which was greater than urban poverty. She said the food crisis, “...*showed everyone the importance of public policies for agriculture and the sector’s key role in safeguarding the population’s nutritional and food security.*”

She noted that, prior to the recent international crises, Latin America in general had enjoyed a period of sound fiscal policies, more flexible exchange rates, the unprecedented accumulation of international reserves and economic growth coupled with a balance of payments current account surplus. However, the situation was different in most of the Caribbean countries, which had large fiscal and current account deficits, coupled with high levels of debt servicing and relatively low international reserves when the crisis began.

Ms. Bárcena mentioned the growth of agriculture, comparing the situation that had occurred in South America and Mexico - where agricultural value added had grown faster than GDP - with developments in Central America, where agriculture had grown but more slowly than GDP, and in the Caribbean, where the sector had shrunk.

She then explained that, in the years prior to the crisis, poverty and extreme poverty rates had fallen and some countries had made progress in reducing the level of inequality. However, she warned that the levels of poverty, extreme poverty and inequality continued to be very high in the region. She said the crisis had reduced

demand, trade, remittances, and foreign investment. In that regard, she remarked that:

“...the crisis has forced governments to focus on stabilizing policies, often with an urban bias at the expense of agriculture and the rural milieu. Paradoxically, crises tend to increase the pressure on agriculture and rural areas as part of the safety networks that offset rising urban unemployment.”

Ms. Bárcena also stressed that the food, financial and economic crises had highlighted other structural gaps on which the Latin American and Caribbean countries still needed to work, such as persistent inequality; the precarious state or lack of social protection systems, particularly important to meet the growing needs in times of crisis; the gap in productivity with the developed countries, which continued to widen even after nearly six years of an exceptionally favorable economic environment, and the still sluggish rate of investment.

The current global crises, she went on, had shown that solving the problems of humankind did not depend only on economic measures, but rather on sound, collective, forward-looking decisions. In other words, the political arena was the key space for constructing a better future, viewed as a tool for making decisions, choosing from a wide range of socially acceptable options to construct a social contract for determining priorities, thereby ensuring the effective provision of public goods with a collective concept of society.

The effects of the crisis, she said, would dictate the dynamics of growth and the articulation of economic, financial and trade relations as part of what was being called the “New Normalcy” in the global economy. She highlighted five of the elements that characterized it:

- A pattern of slower growth and a fall in the aggregate demand of the developed countries;
- Shrinking trade with protectionist policies;
- Recovery without employment;
- A situation in which the emerging economies were playing more of a leading role, and
- The need to create an inclusive, sustainable, and efficient international financial architecture.

All this, she said, meant that everyone was required to reflect on the new nature of the rural milieu. She added that: *“...it is evident that today’s rural milieu consists of much more than agricultural activities, that agriculture alone is not capable of providing productive solutions to rural poverty, that the vision of the rural world and how to measure it do not match the type of productive and sociocultural changes that have taken place in this milieu.”*

Ms. Bárcena then mentioned several factors that would have an adverse effect on the agricultural sector:

- The low priority afforded to agriculture in public policymaking in the last two decades and the weakening of agricultural and rural institutions;
- Low levels of investment in agricultural R&D and innovation;
- The increasing impact of natural disasters on agricultural production, which is expected to continue worsening in the future owing to climate change;
- Mounting demand for, and increasing imports of, food by large emerging

economies which may boost agricultural revenues but could have implications for food security.

In that regard, she singled out three areas of public policy that were essential for constructing the capabilities required to improve food security and rural life, referring to them as the three I's (investment, innovation and institutional framework):

- Creating the conditions to draw investment in agricultural production;
- Promoting agricultural R&D and innovation; and
- Strengthening the role of the State and developing agricultural institutions to deal with the new challenges facing agriculture today.

To achieve the above, the Executive Secretary of ECLAC emphasized that it was vital to strengthen the State's role and promote new institutional arrangements. During the 1990s, she explained, under the Washington Consensus most countries in the region had dismantled the institutional structures used to provide support services and supply public goods to agriculture, tasks that the private sector had been incapable of performing adequately.

All that, she concluded, had resulted in a decline in national capabilities for developing agricultural and rural productive policies.

In conclusion, Ms. Bárcena noted that development *"as we live it, think it, or have suffered from it, has today reached breaking point. The financial crisis and its social effects, and the threat of climate change, have raised serious doubts about the scope of the predominant productive and economic paradigms of previous decades."* She added that:

"...unless countries develop a new State architecture that is up to handling the new situation, as well as the urgent equal rights issues that need addressing—particularly urban-rural unbalances within the framework of the new status of rural communities—and the challenges posed by climate change, our whole future will be in jeopardy."

Progress made on the implementation of the HMA Guatemala 2007 and the summit mandates: report of the Secretariat

IICA's Director General gave an overview of the Institute's participation in the Summits of the Americas and the Ministerial Process Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas. He stressed the importance of the mandates of the Heads of State and Government related to agriculture, food security and rural life. He mentioned the Declaration of the Fifth Summit of the Americas (Port of Spain 2009), especially the mandates contained in paragraphs 23-25, and highlighted the actions that IICA had carried out in response to those mandates and ministerial decisions.

He then asked Mr. Bernardo Badani, Director of IICA's Office for Follow-up to the Summits of the Americas (OSCU) to give details of the main results achieved in carrying out the mandates.

The Director of OSCU described the Ministerial Process and the meetings held, and explained their relationship to the Summits of the Americas. He highlighted the progress made in achieving the recognition and positioning of agriculture and rural life as strategic issues in the inter-American dialogue, in the construction of an institutional framework and in the articulation of

the Ministerial Process with the Summits. Turning to the specific actions carried out by IICA as the Secretariat of the Ministerial Process, he reported on the Institute's participation in the Fifth Summit, the dissemination and implementation of the AGRO Plan and the preparation of the "*Base document for the 2009 hemispheric dialogue*," drawing on 29 national reports produced in 2009 on the progress made and problems encountered in implementing the HMA Guatemala 2007.

Turning to the status of the implementation of the AGRO Plan in the countries, Mr. Badani highlighted the national efforts to implement the *strategic actions* called for under the plan, the dovetailing of the objectives of the national strategies with those of the plan, the use of the AGRO-Matrix to design policies and the significant progress made in the joint work with the stakeholders of the public, private and social sectors of agriculture.

In conclusion, he mentioned the main problems that the countries had identified for the implementation of the AGRO Plan, namely economic, productive, social, environmental, and institutional obstacles that continued to hinder the sustainable development of agriculture and the rural milieu; the concerns with regard to competitiveness, sustainability, equity, and governance; and capacity development to improve food security and rural life in the Americas.

The outlook for agriculture and rural development in the Americas: the situation in Latin America and the Caribbean

IICA's Director General invited Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of ECLAC, and

José Graziano da Silva, Director of the FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, to take their places at the head table for the presentation of the document "*Perspectives of Agriculture and Rural Development in the Americas: A Look at Latin America and the Caribbean 2010*," prepared jointly by those two organizations and IICA. He then introduced Dr. James French, IICA's Director of Technical Leadership and Knowledge Management, who gave a presentation on behalf of the three organizations.

Dr. French began by pointing out that, traditionally; the countries had found it difficult to make the right decisions in the area of agriculture. One of the reasons for that was the lack of statistics showing agriculture's true contribution to development. He then highlighted the report's main message: *that the countries needed to invest more in agriculture and the rural milieu, and do so more effectively.*

He went on to describe the macroeconomic and social context of Latin America, characterized by an unfavorable environment for agriculture, due, among other things, to problems associated with price volatility, economic recession and slowdown, and shrinking external investment and remittances. He added that climate change was one of the factors that would have the biggest impact on the evolution of agriculture.

The IICA official also mentioned the problems that existed at the regional level, including rising poverty and undernutrition, limited investment in agriculture and the difficulty of meeting the Millennium Development Goals. He said the Southern and Northern regions were in a less vulnerable position than the Central, Andean, and Caribbean regions with respect to food insecurity and obstacles to the development of agriculture.

Dr. French then presented an analysis of agricultural production, stock raising, aquaculture and fisheries, forestry, rural well-being, and the institutional framework. Based on the information compiled, the following recommendations had been made in the report:

- Recognize the role of agriculture in the economy
- Focus on small and medium-sized enterprises
- Create jobs in rural areas
- Increase productivity and competitiveness
- Reflect the importance of forestry, aquaculture, and fisheries in sectoral policies
- Take advantage of the agriculture's potential for producing biofuels without affecting the availability of food or affecting the environment, and,
- Improve access to food.

He went on to mention some positive results that could be achieved if the countries were to invest in the development of agriculture and the rural sector, including the creation of employment, the reactivation of the rural economy, the improvement of food security and the preservation of natural capital and the environment.

He concluded his presentation by stressing the need to modernize and evaluate the institutional framework linked to agriculture and rural life, for which it would be necessary to make the issue a priority and allocate resources for institutional innovation, to stimulate the management of territories, invest in public goods, strengthen policies that encourage competition, foster public research, promote land markets and regulatory frameworks,

foster transparency, organize and integrate markets and production systems, and design policies to reduce the impact of price volatility.

The perspective of the private sector: investment, value chains, agro-processing and capacity development

Minister Tufton then introduced Miguel García, IICA's Director of Agribusiness, and Earl Jarret, the representative of the Jamaican National Building Society and Chair of the Private Sector Dialogue: Promoting Agri-business Within the Americas, held in Montego Bay on October 27 as part of the Week of Agriculture and Rural Life of the Americas. The Minister underscored the sector's importance in the Ministerial Process, and its key role for the development of agriculture and rural life.

Dr. García's presentation was entitled "*Engaging the private sector for agricultural development and food security*." He suggested ways in which the sector could be encouraged to participate in agriculture and thereby improve agriculture's competitiveness and help reduce poverty. He stressed the need to renew business models and redefine the role of the State and its relations with the private sector. He emphasized that improving the participation of the private sector called for actions by both the governments and the private sector.

He said that, to attract the private sector, the public sector needed to work on four main areas, namely innovative development and financing mechanisms, transparent risk management tools, the development of efficient market information systems, and the creation

of an enabling environment for the operation of collaboration and cooperation networks.

The IICA official also suggested that the private sector could contribute through investments aimed at the implementation of productive activities, the generation of public goods, and the strengthening of new forms of public-private partnerships. He mentioned the following three areas for action by the private sector:

- Vehicle for linking small farmers to value chains and to international markets.
- New economy businesses.
- New business models.

In concluding his remarks, Dr. García said that:

- The participation of the Private Sector (and Civil Society) is needed to achieve the development of the agricultural and rural sector that is being demanded by the society.
- Governments must develop efforts to create an enabling environment for the expression of the entrepreneurial capacity of their people.
- The Private Sector cannot continue “business as usual”. They need to develop transparent governance mechanisms and embrace accountability and social responsibility principles.

The Chair then gave the floor to Earl Jarret, spokesperson for the Private Sector Dialogue, who thanked the meeting for the opportunity to participate in the Week of Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas, particularly in the

Fifth Ministerial Meeting. He began his presentation by pointing out that the private sector recognized the key roles played by: (i) agriculture and agribusiness in national development, food security, capacity creation and the improvement of the quality of life in rural communities; and, (ii) collaboration between the public and private sectors for the development of a vibrant agribusiness sector.

He said it was vital to focus on the following priority areas:

- Research and development, innovation, and technology transfer;
- Financing, credit, and risk management; and,
- The marketing of agribusiness within the framework of regional trade agreements.

Mr. Jarret then offered a series of recommendations with regard to each of those areas.

In his presentation, he also mentioned several problems that continued to beset most of the countries in the region and that were a constraint to agribusiness development, such as legal insecurity and the risks posed by natural disasters.

Finally, he thanked the Fifth Ministerial Meeting for allowing the private sector to take part and stressed the need to maintain such opportunities for dialogue between the public and private sectors.

The Chair said it was essential that the recommendations of the private sector be used as input for the decisions that the Ministers of Agriculture took to strengthen agriculture and food security in the Americas.

Ministerial dialogue: capacity-building strategies to improve food security in the Americas

The first plenary session was devoted to presentations, reports and studies. The second was given over to the ministerial dialogue on the issues addressed in the first. The following is a summary of the most important points raised by the national representatives who took the floor.

The Representative of **Saint Kitts and Nevis** said that since the sugar industry ceased operations in 2005, the agricultural sector had found it very difficult to recover and the situation had been worsened by the recent financial, oil, and food crises. He believed the countries of the Americas should regard themselves as a family and emphasize solidarity, especially with those in the Caribbean. He urged the G-8 countries to permit a significant proportion of the cooperation resources they provided to be used to promote the development of agriculture in the Caribbean region.

The **Chair** said there could be no single strategy to combat food insecurity, because the situation was different in each region and country. The space available in the Caribbean for food production was very limited. He added that the guidelines established by the WTO had led to significant changes in the way that food was produced. The food production model needed to be changed and adjusted to current and future needs and guidelines, to add value and provide more efficient access to international markets. Finally, he explained that in the Caribbean agricultural production was limited by the amount of land available. It was impossible to meet the demand for food, so it was vital to seek alternative mechanisms for production.

The Representative of **Antigua and Barbuda** pointed out that his country was taking action to reposition agriculture as an essential sector for national economic development. Investment in agricultural activities had to provide a sufficient rate of return and governments had to engage in dialogue with producers to identify their problems, needs and strengths, and to help them to use their resources better. He added that one of the problems his country needed to address was the fact that producers were ageing; therefore, a training plan was being designed for young farmers. Finally, he remarked that the management of agriculture had to be expeditious, to increase its contribution to the economic development of the countries.

The Representative of **Dominica** said that in his country producers were becoming more aware of the need to use soils properly; however, the biggest challenge they faced was the high cost of fertilizers. He suggested that mechanisms be sought to reduce fertilizer prices in the Caribbean region so the agricultural sector could lower its costs and raise its income, in order to promote its development.

The Representative of **Ecuador** thought the current crisis offered producers a great opportunity. There were three ways in which agriculture could take advantage of the crisis: i) by promoting the complementarity of economies through integration mechanisms that promoted intra-American trade; ii) by seeking non-traditional markets on other continents; and, iii) by including small farmers and family producers in decision-making processes.

The Representative of **Canada** talked about the resources being made available for agriculture at the international level. He underscored the importance of open markets and the strengthening of trade treaties among countries.

The Representative of the **United States of America** said the theme of the Fifth Ministerial Meeting was a faithful reflection of the importance that the Member States attached to food security and the development of agriculture. He added that food security and good nutrition were of decisive importance for human development, particularly the development of children, and affected the development potential of countries. Achieving further agricultural development and higher levels of food security depended on a number of factors, such as the availability of infrastructure, adequate incentives for the private sector, the improvement of post-harvest activities and the promotion of trade and integration. The delegate said his country was revamping its food security strategy and support for the countries in that area, focusing on promoting private investment in agriculture, an integrated approach to attack the causes of food insecurity and better articulation and coordination of regional and global efforts.

The Representative of **Colombia** seconded the opinions of the Representatives of Saint Kitts and Nevis, Dominica and Antigua and Barbuda concerning the high price of fertilizers and their implications for agriculture in the Caribbean. He said that two of the problems facing LAC agriculture were that its small farmers were ageing and young people had little desire to take their place. He believed it was important that the private sector strengthen its links with agriculture, assuming risks jointly with the public sector while acting transparently and eliminating corruption. He mentioned that his government was implementing a food security and nutrition policy designed to provide the population with sufficient quantities of wholesome food. The policy's main lines of action were the stability of the food supply, the quality and safety of foodstuffs, access to the factors of production, scientific

and technological development, and the effective transfer of technologies to the countryside. The delegate emphasized the importance of international cooperation with regard to technology, investments, and trade integration.

The Representative of **Jamaica** said it was important to define a new role for small and medium-scale agricultural production, seek solutions to the problems that forced young people to abandon the countryside and to halt the slide in investment, all of which could help to keep young people in the rural milieu.

The Representative of **Panama** felt that, given the international forums that were due to take place in the near future, it was important to establish a strong, unified hemispheric position on the deforestation and degradation of wilderness areas. He favored the payment of environmental services by the countries that caused most pollution to countries that made efforts to promote conservation. He said it was necessary to promote the profitability of small and medium-sized farms, for which the diversification of production was vital.

The Representative of **Suriname** thought that extensive political work was needed, both in the countries and at the regional and hemispheric levels, to ensure that agriculture enjoyed its rightful place. He agreed with the previous speakers that there was little private investment, limited public spending on the sector, few productive linkages, and poor institutional coordination at the domestic level. The profile of agriculture and rural life in the Summits of Heads of State and Government needed to be raised even further. He believed the countries should redouble their efforts to ensure that they produced a much larger proportion of the food they consumed; they could not delegate the responsibility for feeding their peoples to other nations.

The delegate remarked that, to solve the problems of poverty and food insecurity that beset the countries, the international environment had to be favorable. He emphasized the fact that food security was a moral, as well as an economic, issue, and that while the rich countries had not thought twice about bailing out their financial institutions to the tune of hundreds of billion dollars, there were far greater reasons for helping agriculture in the developing countries. Therefore, he wished to take advantage of the presence of members of the G-8 to request support for efforts to make food production something desirable, positive and good.

The Representative of **Nicaragua** cited the position of a United Nations agency (UNCTAD), according to which the best type of international cooperation was effective trade liberalization. He believed that the neoliberal production model had run its course and said the current financial crisis demonstrated that markets were not capable of self-regulation. He advocated effective actions to combat climate change, which not only resulted in more pollution but also in more floods and droughts. As a result, Nicaragua was not interested in receiving payment for environmental services to counterbalance the pollution being caused, because it did not make up for the harm being done at the global level. The

delegate said that climate change was a global human rights issue. He favored changes in farming practices and production that would make it possible get away from single-crop farming, diversify production, and interest the new generations in agriculture. It was essential to promote exchange and articulation among countries; the Central American experience of obtaining better input prices by means of joint purchases was a case in point. He concluded his remarks by stating that dialogue with the private sector was fundamental.

The **Chair** recapitulated on the main issues addressed during the event, including the need for integration, the importance of food security and nutrition, the urgent need for national strategies for agricultural and rural development, the high cost of inputs and raw materials, the need to find ways to ensure that the new generations participated and remained in agriculture, and the urgent need to tackle climate change with appropriate strategies and policies. He concluded his remarks by reminding the meeting that food production could not be measured in terms of value alone, and that agriculture was more important than even its quantitative contribution to the countries' GDP suggested, because it played a key role in promoting stability, governance, and the well-being of the population.



2. Working together to achieve food security and sustainable development - First and second plenary sessions

Regional perspective: the situation, public policies, and the contributions of the private sector to capacity development to improve food security and rural life

The following experts took part in the session:

Caribbean Region: Neil Pierre, Director of ECLAC, Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean.

Andean Region: Ramón Espinel, Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Aquaculture and Fisheries of Ecuador.

Southern Region: Iván Nazif Astorga, National Director of the Office of Studies and Agricultural Policies, Ministry of Agriculture of Chile.

Central Region: Alberto Mora, Coordinator of research for the State of the Region Report on Sustainable Human Development.

Northern Region: Alex McCalla, Emeritus Professor of Agriculture and Economic Resources, University of California in Davis.

The presentations provided an overview of the food security situation in each region and outlined mechanisms for the design of public policies and the contribution of the private sector to capacity building efforts.

The perspective of the international organizations: role in capacity development to achieve food security in the Americas

Taking part in this session were representatives of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the World Bank, the World Food Programme (WFP), and the Common Fund for Commodities (CFC).

United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

FAO Regional Director José Graziano da Silva began his presentation by pointing out that, even though sufficient food was available, undernutrition in the region had increased. That showed that, for a large slice of the population, hunger was not related to food production but to access to food. He then noted that the countries had responded to the food crisis with different solutions. To mitigate the impact of higher prices, the first step that the governments had taken was to increase transfers of resources for social aid, after which they promoted the expansion of production, to little effect.

Dr. Graziano da Silva explained that, given the scenario, FAO's priority areas in the region for the present biennium were: i) the rise in agricultural prices, food security and efforts to hunger; ii) policies related to rural development, employment and the promotion of family farming; iii) bioenergy; iv) transboundary diseases; v) agrifood health and safety; vi) urban and peri-urban agriculture; and, vii) climate change and environmental sustainability.

He then added that one of the principal initiatives being promoted by FAO was the “Hunger-Free Latin American and the Caribbean Initiative (HFLAC). HFLAC has created the Parliamentary Front against Hunger, an effort involving lawmakers throughout the region aimed at making the fight against hunger a priority on the political and legislative agendas of the countries. Its objectives were to promote legal frameworks to improve food and nutritional security (FNS), facilitate the creation of national FNS strategies and develop national and international networks to sensitize people to the scourge of hunger and the urgent need to eradicate it.

He said that FAO had carried out joint activities with a large number of international organizations, including PAHO, GTZ, AECID, the World Bank, the IDB, ECLAC and IICA. With regard to the Institute, he listed a series of joint activities carried out in the regions of South America and Mesoamerica.

In conclusion, the FAO Regional Director said the main challenges and opportunities for the international agencies involved in the field of food, agriculture, and rural development were as follows: i) the high and ever-growing number of undernourished people in the region (especially children); ii) increasing inequality with regard to income and access to natural resources (forests, water and land); iii) the declining availability of natural resources, aggravated by climate change; and iv) the establishment of a new institutional framework for territorial development and food security.

Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)

The IDB’s representative, Paul Trapido gave a presentation entitled “*Stimulating Latin America*

and the Caribbean’s agricultural supply: The Bank’s response to food security in the Region.”

He explained that, in the short term, the agricultural demand was inelastic, which meant that the response to the crisis in prices had to guarantee food security. However, in the medium and long term agriculture should drive development. He highlighted four main factors in the IDB’s strategy to support the countries’ efforts to promote positive changes in the supply of agricultural goods: i) efficient resource allocation; ii) the development of comparative advantages; iii) the participation of a large number of producers, with emphasis on small producers; and, iv) efforts to achieve a high rate of return.

He then described the IDB’s policy tools for supporting the agricultural development of the countries. These were: 1) price support mechanisms, including policies to help close the gaps between the local prices and border prices of specific products; 2) direct support programs, including compensation for producers and subsidized rural credit, agricultural insurance, and the use of raw materials (electricity, water, etc.); and, 3) agricultural services in the areas of technology and innovation, agricultural health and food quality, information systems, the regulation of land ownership and rural infrastructure (transport, energy).

Finally, he mentioned the bank’s three main areas of intervention, namely: 1) assist Governments in the elimination of obstacles in price-transmission mechanisms to ensure that domestic producers benefit fully from favorable price shocks; 2) ensure long-term competitiveness of agriculture through provision of agricultural services and rural infrastructure;

and 3) when necessary, combine with direct support programs to promote technology adoption and/or market access.

World Bank

The World Bank's representative, Yurie Tanimichi Hoberg, said her institution had recently approved a plan of action for agriculture. She explained that her presentation would focus on two main issues: i) what are the challenges for LAC and what are their implications for agriculture and, ii) How is the World Bank responding to these challenges? The challenges she mentioned were high poverty rates, which continued to be concentrated in the rural milieu; the continued existence of urban-rural disparities; the growing demand for food, coupled with falling agricultural yields; highly volatile prices and lower purchasing power, particularly hurting poor producers and consumers, and climate change.

Ms. Tanimichi said that, to meet those challenges, it was necessary to increase agricultural productivity, which called for higher spending on public goods, research and development in agriculture; promotion of higher agricultural incomes by strengthening value chains linking producers to markets; improved management of price volatility; facilitation of the flow of non-agricultural rural income; and, implementation of actions for mitigation and adaptation to climate change and adapt farming practices to it.

World Food Programme (WFP)

WFP representative Jaime Vallauré described the initiative known as *Nutrinet.org*, a regional platform for sharing knowledge about policies for eradicating hunger and promoting the attainment of food security. He added that the WFP had formulated two work strategies:

i) support for the operation of knowledge networks to facilitate communication among decision-makers, academics, and other stakeholders; and, ii) development of a Web-based platform to facilitate access to important information and knowledge.

Those two strategies had given rise to what was known as the "Bank of Knowledge," which contained a specialized search engine for key documents, statistics, information about best practices, and information programs and videos, as well as a bank of experts, institutions and information and data on events.

The WFP representative concluded his presentation with a series of observations about the possible challenges facing *Nutrinet*, particularly the need for mechanisms for establishing closer ties with communities and involving them in the initiative.

Common Fund for Commodities (CFC)

The CFC's representative, Ali Mchumo, spoke about his agency's role in the development of capabilities for food security in the Americas. He began by explaining the fund's structure, functions, mandates, and priority areas; and detailed some of the mechanisms that the organization used to cooperate with the less developed countries.

He explained the principal objectives of the CFC's projects related directly with food security, which were as follows: to promote an increase in, and the diversification of, food production; to promote the mitigation of the vulnerability of small-scale commodity producers; and, to facilitate credit for small producers. He said the CFC had financed 84 projects in Latin America and the Caribbean costing around US\$56 million.

Comment

The Chair summarized the presentations that had been given and concluded his remarks by underlining the need for all the international agencies involved in the development of agriculture and rural life to play an active role in the countries' efforts to improve food security and reduce hunger and poverty by means of closely coordinated initiatives that did not duplicate efforts and projects.

A new development model - a proposal for capacity development to achieve food security in the Americas

The Director General of IICA, Chelston W. D. Brathwaite, began his presentation by stressing the fact that agriculture continued to be essential to reduce poverty and promote sustainable development. He mentioned the concept of the "food and agriculture sector," pointing out that it comprised two systems that complemented each other, i.e., the rural system and the agrifood system. He showed data for a group of countries. First, agriculture's percentage contribution to GDP exclusively in terms of primary production; and, second, the contribution of expanded agriculture, which included value added (the concept of the "food and agriculture sector").

Given the crisis and the global challenges related to agriculture, Dr. Brathwaite called for a new development model that integrated agriculture and the rural economy into the development agenda and recognized their contribution to food security, energy security, water supplies, employment, environmental conservation, peace, and social stability. He

added that the model should comprise the following components:

- State policies that support a multidimensional, multi-sectoral focus on agriculture and rural life.
- Strategies to increase investment in agricultural research, innovation and technology transfer.
- A new agricultural educational curriculum.
- Institutional reform of Ministries of Agriculture.
- New Policies on food consumption and nutrition.
- A global partnership focused on reducing world food insecurity.
- A ecologically- friendly approach to all of the above components.

In particular, he said that improving food security in any nation called for: (i) leaders that recognize that the food and agricultural sector is a strategic sector of our economy; (ii) farmers who are entrepreneurs, farmers who recognize that their farm is a business enterprise and that they as business managers must acquire management skills, knowledge and technology to become competitive and to make business decisions about investments, the market and prices, and (iii) political will and leadership to make food security a priority in the development agenda of the country.

All those requirements were directly related to, and consistent with, the need to develop national capabilities.

IICA's perspective on food security

Dr. James French, IICA's Director of Technical Leadership and Knowledge Management, presented a report entitled "Implementation of the Institute's technical cooperation strategy for food security." He began by stressing IICA's sustained commitment to the issue, as demonstrated by its presence in the institutional vision set out in the Medium-term Plan. He described the circumstances that had led the countries to seek IICA's support. He then explained the three strategic lines of action adopted by the Institute, the objectives in each case, and the main progress achieved since July 2008. The strategic lines of action were:

- Institutional innovation for a new paradigm of technological change.
- Institutional framework and services to better able small-and medium-scale producers and family agriculture to become involved in the market.
- Analysis, monitoring and dissemination of policies and information on the state of and outlook for Food Security.

Dr. French explained that in working with the countries the Institute had realized that it needed to focus its efforts on support for small and medium-scale producers, strengthening the institutional frameworks that promoted their development and consolidation. To that end, IICA had created the "Small and medium-scale agriculture: technology, markets, and institutions" program. The official said the emphasis on small and medium-scale producers was justified because they made up the largest single group of producers, generated a high percentage of the food produced, were part of

the most vulnerable and sensitive segment of the population, and were a multiplier factor in the generation of rural jobs and income. In concluding his remarks, he described the program's main challenges and objectives, and the outcomes obtained and expected in IICA's different regions.

Dialogue on the presentations for the session "Working together to achieve food security and sustainable development"

The Chair of the meeting threw open the floor for a discussion of the presentations made and stressed the importance of formulating concrete proposals for improving the food security situation and rural living conditions. He highlighted the need for an integrated approach, with a view to achieving the real development of agriculture and the rural milieu. He said there were many institutions working on the same issues, hence the need to integrate into a single proposal the worthwhile initiatives presented by the representatives of the World Bank, the IDB, ECLAC, IICA, and FAO.

The Representative of **Haiti** said people had to be given a major say in their own development. His country had a strategy for improving food security but the big challenge lay in translating the strategy and policies into effective actions that would improve the food security situation of the poor and also convert them into stakeholders in the processes undertaken.

The Representative of **Chile** expressed concern about the gap between declarations, on the one hand, and the actions implemented and results achieved, on the other. A good list of important issues had been drawn up, but

now it was a question of interrelating them and finding a way to understand them in an integrated manner. The only way to achieve a sustainable improvement in food security was by reducing poverty, which in turn called for efforts to improve income distribution and to lessen inequality. All that meant the countries needed to base their policies on a “global” country vision. He then called upon the international agencies to transfer the successful experiences of several countries to others that could find them useful.

The Representative of **Brazil** agreed that the countries possessed many technical tools and the main problem was ensuring they were implemented properly. In that regard, he seconded the proposal that greater importance be attached to exchange and cooperation among countries. He said there were many development institutions, but the problem was how to manage and coordinate their aid and cooperation actions.

The Representative of **Bahamas** briefly described the food security situation in his country and referred to the main measures adopted by his government. Those measures included the promotion of food production; access to seeds and planting material; financing for agriculture; the cultivation and preparation of land; fiscal incentives for imports of equipment, machinery, and inputs; technical and logistical assistance for the collection of production; the promotion of traditional crops; the establishment of nurseries in schools; the implementation of workshops on soil conservation; and the provision of aid funds to cope with the effects of natural disasters.

The Representative of **Mexico** recommended improving the working relationship between

IICA and FAO with regard to food and agriculture.

The Representative of **Costa Rica** mentioned several concerns that IICA’s Dr. James French had raised in his presentation that involved the use of verbs such as “to train,” “to transfer,” “to articulate,” “to extend,” “to link,” “to create,” and “to develop,” all of which underscored the need to take action. He stressed the fact that producers expected actions, not declarations, so the important thing was to move from assessments to policies and from strategies and plans to actions.

The Representative of **Ecuador** said the statistics presented by the World Bank suggested that both agricultural production and poverty were on the rise, confirming the fact that growth did not necessarily mean an improvement in living conditions in the rural milieu, nor the reduction of poverty. Therefore, he was pleased that IICA was now placing greater emphasis on support for small and medium-scale farmers, especially the struggle against poverty and efforts to increase the supply of food and strengthen food sovereignty.

The Representative of **Panama** agreed on the need to share successful national experiences. A case in point was the lack of competitiveness of dairy farming in Central America, which could benefit from the knowledge generated by countries like Brazil. He said that with sufficient support of the right kind, many small and medium-size livestock producers in his country would be able to adopt silvo-pastoral systems that would help reduce deforestation and soil degradation. He stressed that the key was to ensure small and medium-scale farmers a reasonable rate of return and promote agricultural diversification.

The Representative of **Belize** explained that his government had adopted a new vision with respect to food security that included an approach that combined poverty alleviation with technology transfer and access to international markets. Belize had recently signed trade agreements with Mexico and Guatemala. The objective was to convert Belize into an agricultural exporting country, which, he stressed, did not mean ignoring the importance of traditional crops.

The Representative of **Guatemala** said IICA should not be the only institution responsible for addressing its Member States' need for technical and technological support; governments also needed to assume greater responsibilities. Furthermore, it was essential to support medium-scale, small, and micro producers, to guarantee food production for on-farm consumption, which IICA should also support.

The Representative of **Barbados** hoped the delegates would return to their countries with a message of hope for their farmers. He believed the initiative to strengthen IICA's joint activities with FAO was very important.

The Representative of **Bolivia** said small farmers still faced many problems that needed to be studied and solved, so she hoped that all the stakeholders in the agricultural sector would move from declarations to concrete actions. She mentioned that Bolivia was interested in issues such as production chains, water, access to land, the provision of seeds, and access to markets. It had therefore initiated actions in those areas with civil society organizations, with the idea of working together for sustainable and ecological agriculture. She called for measures to promote the production of food free from chemicals, and to take into account the ancestral knowledge of small farmers.

The Representative of **Uruguay** felt it important that mechanisms continue to exist for discussing the role of the State in promoting agricultural production and family and small-scale agriculture. Therefore, he was delighted that IICA intended to work in the field of family farming. He informed the meeting that the Southern Cone had a Family Agriculture Network, with which IICA could coordinate its actions in that field.

The Representative of **Saint Kitts and Nevis** said his country was constructing a new agricultural development model to guarantee food security. Various centers had been set up to support rural producers and a broad process of technological modernization had been promoted. An agreement had also been established with producers' groups and hotel chains, ensuring that producers had a local market. He said that to promote agricultural development in his country, support was needed in areas such as irrigation systems, water management, and the availability of equipment.

The **Chair** said both the presentations and the comments of the country delegates had been very useful. He mentioned the continued existence of certain factors in the hemisphere that limited the capacity of certain countries to achieve food security. That was a real concern because it was essential to solve the problem of access to food, to improve the quality of life of the peoples of the hemisphere. Turning to the question of social spending, he said a balance needed to be struck between urban and rural areas, to channel more resources into the rural milieu.

The Chair also believed an approach was required that would make it possible to gauge the true contribution of the agrifood sector to

the economic and social development of the countries. The various stakeholders needed to be educated so that agriculture's contribution to development and the economy ceased to be assessed only in terms of its contribution to GDP. He called upon the international organizations involved in the issue of food security to redefine their actions within a single framework and thus avoid duplication of efforts. He added that it was vital to articulate and share among the countries the efforts aimed at promoting the attainment of food security, since, despite the differences among the countries, it was clear that they could share policies and concrete action plans on food security.

3. Hemispheric Ministerial Agreement Jamaica 2009 Fourth plenary session

Report of the Chair of the 2009 GRICA on the consensus reached by the meeting of Ministerial Delegates

Donovan Stanberry, Ministerial Delegate of Agriculture of Jamaica and Chair of the GRICA, presented to the Forum of Ministers the results of the 2009 Meeting of the GRICA, held October 26-27, in Montego Bay.

The Chair explained that the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan had been adopted at the Second Ministerial Meeting, held in Panamá in 2003. Since then, each year that a ministerial meeting is held the Forum of Delegates (GRICA) develops and negotiates a new chapter of the AGRO Plan. IICA has a mechanism whereby the countries could submit reports on the status of the plan and identify the problems encountered.

Mr. Stanberry said that a large number of countries had participated actively in the 2008-2009 Ministerial Process and the GRICA and the comprehensive dialogue had facilitated the construction of the consensus for the HMA Jamaica 2009. The Ministerial Delegates of 29 countries had submitted national reports on the progress made and problems encountered in implementing the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan, which the Secretariat had used as input in preparing the base document for the dialogue on, and negotiation of, the HMA by the 2009 GRICA.

The Chair of the 2009 GRICA informed the Ministers that, based on the proposal contained in the aforementioned document and a proposal for strategic action presented by the Delegation of Jamaica dealing with land ownership and titling, the delegates had reached complete agreement on 15 strategic actions. The contents of the agreement coincided with the results of the private sector forum with regard to the need to boost the private sector's role in the development of agriculture and the rural milieu.

The agreement, he went on, had been constructed in the Forum of Delegates within framework of broad cooperation. It reflected the thoughts of the countries, updated the AGRO Plan with a new chapter for the 2010-2011 biennium, placed emphasis on the implementation of the plan by the countries and called upon IICA to assist the countries in implementing and providing follow-up to the agreement.

“So I think today we have an agreement that our political heads and bosses can sign out on, and finally I just like to say that there was a particular accent on implementation, and there are provisions in the agreement that we'll ask the IICA, as an Institution, to coordinate the implementation and to engage our private sector partners.”

Finally, Mr. Stanberry said the GRICA had completed the work entrusted to it at the Ministerial Meeting Guatemala 2007; and thanked the Ministerial Delegates for their efforts and the Technical Secretariat for its constant support for the work of the Delegates.

On behalf of the Ministers, Dr. Tufton, the Chair of the Ministerial Meeting, thanked the Ministerial Delegates, the Chair of the GRICA, Donovan Stanberry, and the Secretariat for bringing so many people together, the conduct of the process and the work carried out during the 2009 GRICA.

Remarks by the Hon. Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries of Jamaica

Christopher Tufton said it had been an honor for him and his team in Jamaica to host the *“Week of Agriculture and Rural Life of the Americas.”* The week had begun with the Meeting of the 2009 GRICA, with the Ministerial Delegates spending a day and a half negotiating the new agreement, which would be adopted as the 2010-2011 Hemispheric Agenda. He thanked and paid tribute to the Ministerial Delegates, led by Donovan Stanberry, for the work they had performed to reach a consensus on the strategic actions and measures required to implement the agreement.

Dr. Tufton noted that, one after another, the speakers had stressed the need to reposition agriculture as a key engine of economic growth and development and rural prosperity. It was clear, he added, that increasing production and productivity was a matter of urgency and the effort had to be sustained. He said the HMA

Jamaica 2009 emphasized the critical and strategic issues that needed to be promoted at the national and hemispheric levels to achieve the sustainable development of agriculture. Individual countries had to take the 2010-2011 Hemispheric Agenda and earmark resources within their budgets for the implementation of the strategic actions.

The Minister said those individual efforts would call for significant support. He called upon IICA and other international institutions:

“We are challenging the IICA to in a concrete way sit with our development partners and iron out specific mechanisms and programmes to match the resources of our critical bilateral and multilateral partners to funding the implementation of our AGRO Plan 2005-2015.”

Reiterating his concern for the implementation of the agreement, Dr. Tufton said it could not be executed by the public sector alone. The governments had created an enabling environment and it was up to the private sector stakeholders throughout the value chain to work with governments to implement the plan.

“...the adoption of the Ministerial Agreement marks an important beginning. We must however be aware, that this is in fact the easiest step, implementation is the greater challenge. Implementation will only be effective if there is in the first instance the political will, and the commitment of resources and an effective monitoring and reporting mechanism”.

Finally, referring to the meeting and the implementation of the agreement, Christopher Tufton said:

“...it has been a fruitful Ministerial meeting. The presentations were first class, the dialogue among Ministers rich, but I want Jamaica 2009 to be remembered for bold and concrete actions to advance Agriculture and rural life in the hemisphere and in providing a new impetus to focused and effective implementation”.

Remarks by the Hon. Dr. Ken Baugh, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica

Dr. Ken Baugh said he was privileged and honored to be taking part in the closing ceremony of the Fifth Hemispheric Meeting, in particular because the subject under discussion was “Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas.” He congratulated the participants on the successful conclusion of their deliberations, following nearly two days of intense dialogue that had culminated in the adoption of the HMA Jamaica 2009.

“The positive outcome of this meeting bolsters the work for the AGRO Plan 2003-2015, the product of four previous ministerial meetings, and continuous to chart the course for agriculture and rural development and, indeed, for overall sustainable development in the hemisphere.”

The continued primacy of agriculture and concomitant rural development on the hemispheric agenda has been reinforced and fulfills the mandate given by the Fifth Summit of the Americas...

“That mandate instructed the Ministers of Agriculture of hemisphere to develop activities on

food security to allow for access and availability of food, including through the promotion of investment and the building of institutional capacities in order to increase and intensify productive activities in agriculture.”

Turning to the issue of food security, he said the developing countries regarded the right to food as a basic human right and there was growing international consensus on that. It was also instructive, he added, that the economic, environmental, and energy problems had highlighted the importance of continuous access to food and good agricultural practices to protect a vulnerable world and promote an international development agenda.

“In this connection, given the inextricable link of agriculture and economic development, it is necessary for international policy makers to seek to mainstream agriculture into their deliberations.”

Finally, referring to the HMA Jamaica 2009, Dr. Ken Baugh said:

“...the course has been set for you, by you, and you have charted the way towards achieving our hemispheric objectives”.

Ceremony for the adoption of the agreement and close of the meeting

The ceremony was attended by the Hon. Ken Baugh, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica; Ministers, Secretaries, and Ministerial Delegates of Agriculture of the Americas; representatives of the Diplomatic Corps and international organizations; and, special guests and IICA officials.

With Dr. Christopher Tufton presiding, the delegations proceeded to approve and sign the “Hemispheric Ministerial Agreement Jamaica 2009 for Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas”¹ on which the 2009 Meeting of the GRICA had reached agreement.

In signing the agreement, the Ministers of Agriculture reaffirmed their commitment to the implementation and updating of the *AGRO 2003-2015 Plan of Action for Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas* and the continuity of the Ministerial Process toward the Sixth Meeting Ministerial (2011) and its articulation with the process of the Sixth Summit of the Americas (Cartagena, Colombia 2012).

After the agreement had been signed, Christopher Tufton declared the Fifth Ministerial Meeting adjourned.



Dr. Christopher Tufton, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries of Jamaica and Chair of the Ministerial Meeting, signs Hemispheric Ministerial Agreement Jamaica 2009.

¹ The full text of the HMA is to be found in Annex

Part II

Background of the Ministerial Process

- Agriculture and rural life on the inter-American agenda: from Quebec 2001 to Port Spain 2009.
- IICA's contribution to the Ministerial Process.
- A strategic framework for agriculture and rural life in the Americas: the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan for Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas.



Fifth Summit of the Americas Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago

April 19, 2009

Declaration of Commitment of Port of Spain

Securing Our Citizens' Future by Promoting Human Prosperity, Energy Security
and Environmental Sustainability

Promoting Human Prosperity

24. We call on our Agriculture Ministers to develop activities aimed at addressing issues affecting access to and availability of food in order to combat chronic malnutrition and to promote adequate nutritional policies for our populations. We support the promotion of investment in agriculture, as well as the strengthening of our States' institutional capacity, with a view to increasing and intensifying productive activities, particularly in the countries most affected by hunger.
25. We believe that a multidimensional and multisectoral approach to agriculture and rural life is a key factor for sustainable development and food security. In this context and within the framework of the **AGRO Plan 2003–2015 of the Fourth Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas** held in Guatemala in 2007, we support the efforts in the repositioning of agriculture and rural issues and priorities in our national strategies and we commit to strengthening national, sub-regional, regional and hemispheric approaches and strategic actions, as applicable, with the support of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and other relevant organizations.

Strengthening the Summit of the Americas, Follow-Up and Implementation Effectiveness

90. In order to strengthen ministerial participation in and continuity with the Summits of the Americas Process, improve the implementation of our decisions at this Fifth Summit, and increase our accountability to the people of the Americas, we call on the technical secretariats of all inter-American Ministerial Meetings to inform their Ministers and high level authorities of the mandates arising from this Summit and to initiate strategic actions, by the end of 2009, to facilitate the implementation of our commitments. We further commit to convening the Summit of the Americas on a regular basis and no later than every three years.
93. We call upon the institutions of the Joint Summit Working Group (JSWG) to further strengthen their commitment and to develop coordinated programmes of action aimed at achieving the goals for the Americas set out in this Declaration.

Agriculture and Rural Life on the Inter-American Agenda: from Quebec 2001 to Port Spain 2009

Over the last decades, efforts to build a more just, secure, prosperous and equitable world in the 21st century through dialogue and consensus building at the global and hemispheric levels have been strengthened. The Millennium Development Goals and their targets for 2015, as well as the mandates and commitments of the Summit of the Americas process, are two significant results of those efforts which have important implications for agriculture and rural communities.

A political framework that reassesses the value of agriculture and rural life: the mandates of the Summits of the Americas

The Third Summit (Quebec 2001) marked a historic milestone in efforts to build a renewed institutional framework for agriculture and rural life. On that occasion, the Heads of State and Government acknowledged the important contribution that agriculture and rural life make to combating poverty and promoting sustainable development in their countries, in recognition of agriculture's dual role as a way of life for millions of rural inhabitants and as a strategic sector of the socioeconomic system for generating prosperity.

With this in mind, they instructed to promote:

- **hemispheric joint action** among the stakeholders of the agricultural sector, with a view to bringing about sustainable improvements in agriculture and rural life, and
- medium- and long-term **national strategies** for the sustainable improvement of agriculture and rural life, based on a dialogue among government ministers, parliamentarians and representatives of different sectors of civil society.

As well, they

- bestowed on the Ministers of Agriculture a leading role in the implementation of the mandates of the Summits process; and
- gave rise to the Ministerial Process "Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas" and its meetings, as instruments for energizing the Summits process

At the Special Summit (Monterrey, 2004), they pledged to make a sustained effort to improve the living conditions of rural dwellers,

by promoting investments and creating an environment that would be conducive to the improvement of agriculture and contribute to social development, rural prosperity and food security. To that end, they endorsed the efforts of the Ministers of Agriculture by defining as a mandate of that Summit the implementation of the “*AGRO 2003-2015 Plan of Action for Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas*,” which was adopted by the Ministers at their Second Ministerial Meeting (Panama 2003) to implement the **hemispheric joint action** the Heads of State and Government pledged to promote at the Quebec Summit in 2001.

At the Fourth Summit of the Americas (Mar del Plata 2005), they pledged to build an institutional framework based on the coordination of public policies, which would include a comprehensive framework for rural and agricultural development that would promote investment, job creation and rural prosperity. To that end, they adopted as a national commitment “*To support the implementation of the Ministerial Agreement of Guayaquil 2005 on Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas (AGRO 2003-2015 Plan)*.”

Lastly, at the Fifth Summit of the Americas (Trinidad and Tobago, 2009), whose motto was *Securing Our Citizens’ Future by Promoting Human Prosperity, Energy Security and Environmental Sustainability*, the countries built consensus for the *Declaration of Commitment of Port of Spain*, in which agriculture is considered, especially as regards its importance in promoting human prosperity, energy security and environmental sustainability.

Specifically, in paragraph No. 25 of the Declaration, the Heads of State and Government stated that for sustainable development and

food security to be possible it was of the utmost importance to adopt a broad-based, multidimensional and multisectoral approach to thinking and acting in agriculture and the rural milieu.

In addition, they expressed support for efforts aimed at repositioning the priorities of agriculture and the rural milieu in the national strategies, as defined in the HMA – Guatemala 2007, and pledged to strengthen national, regional and hemispheric approaches and strategic actions carried out with support from IICA and other relevant organizations.

The mandates and commitments of these four Summits constitute a policy framework for attaching greater value to agriculture and rural life in the Americas, and give rise to a new ministerial process whose agreements contribute to implementing and updating the mandates of the hemispheric Summits.

The Ministerial Process “Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas” and its meetings: dialogue, consensus and commitment

The ministerial meetings

In Quebec 2001, the Heads of State and Government recognized the importance of the Ministerial Meetings as a mechanism for advancing the Summit of the Americas process. The meetings are used address the strategic matters particular to the inter-American agenda and to coordinate the implementation of the mandates set forth by the Heads of State and Government in the Plans of Action of the Summits. They

are the highest level hemispheric forum for dialogue, coordination and cooperation among the 34 member countries of the Inter-American System. As such, the Ministerial Meetings reach agreement by consensus on priorities and strategic actions to meet hemispheric challenges.

At the Third Summit, the Heads of State and Government assigned the Ministers of Agriculture a leading role in the implementation of the Plans of Action of the Summits, and promoted the emergence of the Ministerial Process “Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas” and its meetings. Since 2001, the Ministerial Process has become a continuous cycle that includes, in general terms:

- the adoption of Hemispheric Ministerial Agreements (HMAs) on agriculture and rural life;
- the implementation of the HMAs;
- monitoring of progress in the implementation of the HMAs;
- the identification of challenges in implementing the HMAs; and
- dialogue and development of consensus for the formulation of new HMAs for the sustainable development of agriculture and the rural milieu.

As part of that process, in the Ministerial Meetings, progress to date is reviewed and new commitments for strategic actions in the following biennium are assumed.

The Hemispheric Ministerial Agreements (HMA)

To date, there have been four meetings within the Ministerial Process. At them, the

Ministers and Secretaries of Agriculture, supported by the hemispheric forum of Ministerial Delegates (GRICA), have adopted important HMAs, including the *Ministerial Declaration of Bavaro*, the *AGRO 2003-2015 Plan of Action for Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas*, the *Hemispheric Ministerial Agreement Guayaquil 2005*, the *Hemispheric Ministerial Agreement Guatemala 2007*, and the *Hemispheric Ministerial Agreement Jamaica 2009*

Jamaica 2009 (Fifth Ministerial Meeting)

- AGRO 2003-2015 Plan: Hemispheric Ministerial Agreement – Jamaica 2009

This Agreement comprised two parts: (i) the 2010-2011 Hemispheric Agenda, with 15 strategic actions that complement those adopted in the ministerial meetings held in Panama (2003), Guayaquil (2005) and Guatemala (2007); and (ii) the section “Implementation and Follow-up,” which includes six measures. The Agreement, as a whole, places emphasis on the development of capacities for improving food security and rural life in the Americas.

Guatemala 2007. (Fourth Ministerial Meeting)

- AGRO 2003-2015 Plan. HMA Guatemala 2007

The agreement comprises two parts: (i) the 2008-2009 Hemispheric Agenda “*Providing leadership for a holistic approach to agriculture and rural life*,” with 11 strategic actions that complement those adopted in the Ministerial Meetings held

in 2003 (Panama) and 2005 (Guayaquil); and (ii) the section Implementation and Follow-up *“Working together for agriculture and rural life in the Americas,”* which includes 6 measures with direct implications for the work in the countries and regions, as well as for the role of the international organizations and the Secretariat of the Ministerial Process.

The Agreement of Guatemala 2007 focuses on how to build a renewed institutional framework for the sustainable development of agriculture and the rural milieu, with the participation of the public, private and social sectors. In this regard, the agreement attaches priority to two complementary strategic orientations *“... the first one, to promote with the agricultural stakeholders a broad-based approach to thinking and acting in agriculture and the rural milieu and, the second one, “working together” to improve agriculture and rural life in the Americas.”*

Guayaquil 2005. (Third Ministerial Meeting)

- AGRO 2003-2015 Plan: Ministerial Agreement of Guayaquil on Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas

The decision to implement the Plan by means of biennial ministerial agendas created the need to keep abreast of progress in the implementation of their strategic actions and, based on the information garnered, to update the Plan. The Agreement reaffirms the ministers’ commitment to the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan and updates it with complementary strategic actions for the 2006-2007 biennium, as well as implementation and follow-up measures. The Agreement places emphasis on the promotion of national policies for agriculture

and rural life, and the strengthening of regional integration and international cooperation.

- Ministerial Agreement on the Implementation and Follow-up of the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan in preparation for the Fourth Ministerial Meeting

Basically, this covers the preparation of the national reports on the progress being made in implementing the Plan and the challenges facing the countries. Based on the reports, the Plan will be updated for the 2008-2009 biennium.

- Ministerial Agreement on the Information System for Monitoring the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan

It recognizes the effort initiated by IICA and ECLAC, and supported by FAO, PAHO, UNESCO and the ILO. It calls for further efforts to develop the system.

- Ministerial Agreement on the Proposal for the Fourth Summit of the Americas

The Ministers instructed the Chairperson and the Secretariat of the Ministerial Meeting, based on the ministerial proposal, to help consolidate the positioning of agriculture and rural life within the Summits process.

Panama 2003. (Second Ministerial Meeting)

- AGRO 2003-2015 Plan of Action for Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas

The Ministers’ decision to reach consensus on a shared hemispheric agenda, taken at the First

Ministerial Meeting, prompted further dialogue and the development of the second HMA.

The Ministers' determination was reflected in the Plan, in the following four complementary components: the Shared Vision 2015; the Strategic Objectives, to focus the efforts; the strategic actions needed to achieve the objectives (the 2003-2005 Hemispheric Agenda); and, the measures for implementing and following up on the Plan.

The Ministers and their Delegates based the preparation of the Plan on a new and broader conception of agriculture and rural life, of great value in developing effective strategies for agriculture, which is summarized in the **AGRO-Matrix**.

- Ministerial Agreement on Implementation of and Follow-up to the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan

Bavaro 2001. (First Ministerial Meeting)

- Ministerial Declaration of Bavaro for the Improvement of Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas

In the Declaration, the Ministers of Agriculture pledged to promote joint action aimed at improving agriculture and rural life, as called for in the Plan of Action adopted at the Third Summit of the Americas. They stressed the importance of making progress with the efforts related to food security, rural poverty alleviation and the sustainable development of agriculture and the rural milieu, addressing together the issues of competitiveness, equity, environmental sustainability and democratic governance.

The “institutional architecture” that underpins the ministerial process

This hemispheric process is possible thanks to the emergence and consolidation of a new institutional architecture that facilitates the implementation of the Ministerial Agreements and the mandates of the Heads of State and Government. This architecture is made up of components that are organizational (the first four) and directional (the last two) in nature.

- A *national team* comprising a Ministerial Delegate of Agriculture and Rural Life, an Alternate Delegate and a technical support group made up of members of the policy or planning units of the ministries of agriculture. The key duties of this team are: (i) to coordinate implementation of the mandates of the Summits and the HMAs in the respective country; (ii) to prepare the reports on progress and challenges, which are shared with the other Ministerial Delegates; and (iii) to conduct national consultations in order to gather the inputs needed to begin building consensus on new HMAs.
- A *hemispheric forum of Ministerial Delegates*, the GRICA, chaired by the Ministerial Delegate of the host country of the following Ministerial Meeting, who is accompanied by the Ministerial Delegate of the host country of the last Ministerial Meeting. The Ministerial Delegates, through dialogue and negotiation, build consensus on proposals for new HMAs they submit to the consideration of the Ministers.
- A *Secretariat of the Ministerial Process and its Ministerial Meeting*, provided by IICA, whose main task is to support the national, regional and hemispheric dialogue that: (i) underpins

the HMAs; (ii) gives continuity to the Ministerial Process; (iii) facilitates regional integration within the context of the hemispheric process; (iv) facilitates articulation of the Ministerial Process with the Summit of the Americas process; and (v) contributes to further positioning agriculture and rural life on the inter-American agenda. As a contribution to the dialogue, the Secretariat supports the work of the Delegates, the GRICA and the Ministerial Meeting. The Secretariat also serves as the institutional memory of the process “Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas,” constantly updating its Web site: www.iica.int/cumbres.

- *A Hemispheric Ministerial Meeting in the context of the Summit process*, which is the forum of Ministers of Agriculture. This forum gives direction to and conducts the hemispheric process and adopts the HMAs which make it possible to continue working toward the Shared Vision 2015. Through the Secretariat, the Chair of the Ministerial Meeting sends some of those HMAs to the

Chair of the SIRG and to the Secretariat of the Summit Process of the OAS for consideration by the Heads of State and Government, so that they can make the decisions required to move forward toward the Shared Vision 2015.

- *A strategic framework for agriculture and rural life in the Americas*, comprising the mandates on agriculture and rural life of the Summits and the HMAs, the common thread of which is the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan. This HMA, which is a reference point for decision makers, comprises the Shared Vision 2015, the Strategic Objectives, the hemispheric ministerial agendas and the measures for implementing and monitoring same.
- *A renewed concept of agriculture and rural life, the **AGRO-Matrix***, which the Ministerial Delegates and the Ministers developed over the span of three Ministerial Meetings (Bavaro 2001, Panama 2003, Guayaquil 2005) in an attempt to reach agreement on the scope of action of the AGRO Plan.

IICA's contribution to the Ministerial Process

In its capacity as an institutional partner in the Summit of the Americas process and as a member of the Inter-American System, IICA is the organization that is specialized in agriculture and the rural milieu. Its purpose is to provide innovative technical cooperation to Member States so that they can achieve sustainable development for the benefit of the peoples of the Americas. Accordingly, in fulfillment of the mandates of the Summits of the Americas and its institutional mission, IICA supports the countries' efforts to implement the mandates adopted by the Heads of State and Government at the Summits of the Americas in the areas of agriculture and rural life and international cooperation.

In addition, in coordination with the Summits of the Americas, IICA facilitates the continuity of the ministerial process "Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas" and its hemispheric ministerial meetings which endeavor to follow-up on the mandates of the Summits.

Accordingly, it has been assisting countries in the development and consolidation of an "institutional architecture" to facilitate the implementation of presidential mandates on agriculture and rural life, as well as their respective ministerial agreements.

This institutional architecture is also intended to ensure the continuity of the "Agriculture and

Rural Life in the Americas" ministerial process and its linkages to the summit process. One of the Institute's most significant contributions has been the recognition of this framework at the most recent summit (Trinidad and Tobago 2009) as an ideal tool to monitor the implementation of mandates. Some of its components were formally included in the Declaration of Commitment of Port of Spain, for use in other hemispheric ministerial processes.

Thanks to the political will of the ministers of agriculture, as well as the approval and support of the heads of state at the last three summits (2004, 2005, and 2009) and the technical support of IICA, this institutional framework is now in operation as the Fifth Ministerial Meeting (Jamaica 2009) approaches.

To this end, IICA, as Secretariat, supported the Ministerial Delegated during the 2008-2009 Ministerial Process, in particular in the identification of the advances made and challenges faced in implementing the HMA Guatemala 2007. Moreover, drawing on the 29 national reports provided by the countries, the Institute prepared the basic document used to focus the work of the Delegates to the 2009 GRICA meeting on building consensus vis-à-vis the HMA Jamaica 2009.

Furthermore, IICA provided the Chairs of the 2009 GRICA and of the Fifth Ministerial

Meeting with support in organizing and holding their respective hemispheric meetings. In terms of support for the implementation of the HMAs, IICA provides the countries with technical cooperation in several thematic areas related to the topics and strategic actions the countries agreed upon in the 2003-2015 AGRO Plan.

In addition, and with an eye to promoting the articulation of the Ministerial and Summit processes, IICA has participated and will continue to participate in the Joint Summit Working Group and in the meetings of the SIRG by providing technical support to the Chairmanship of the Fifth Summit, to the OAS Summit of the Americas Secretariat and to the countries as they prepare for the Fifth Summit. At the beginning of the process leading to the Fifth Summit, IICA offered its perspective on the challenges facing the hemisphere and its priorities. This was expressed in the JSWG's document entitled *"Towards the Fifth Summit of the Americas. Regional Challenges"*.

In this regard, IICA stressed that it is essential to revitalize the hemispheric process by focusing political will in two directions: (i) the effective implementation of the agreements adopted, which requires the building of an institutional framework to support it; and,

(ii) establishing few new challenges capable of consolidating, in practical terms, the basic criteria for development, such as the economic and social inclusion of large sectors engaged in production and other aspects of the national life, urban-rural balance in countries' development, respect to human diversity and achieving well-being in harmony with nature.

In this context, and in preparation for the Fifth Summit, IICA shared three hemispheric challenges with the members of the Joint Summit Working Group (JSWG):

- Strengthening the institutional framework for the implementation of the commitments adopted.
- Reappraising the rural milieu as part of the national heritage and as an essential resource for comprehensive development.
- Building a knowledge base for comprehensive sustainable development.

Likewise, IICA was successful in bringing to the attention of the preparatory sessions of the Fifth Summit the strategic guidelines of the HMA Guatemala 2007, which were expressly reflected in the *Declaration of Commitment of Port of Spain*.

A strategic framework for agriculture and rural life in the Americas: the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan for Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas

The Hemispheric Ministerial Agreements (HMA)

Throughout the Ministerial Process “Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas,” begun in 2001 in response to the mandates of the Third Summit of the Americas, the Ministers have adopted a number of far-reaching decisions of importance for agriculture and rural life, which are set out in the Hemispheric Ministerial Agreements (HMAs) approved in the Ministerial Meetings of 2001, 2003, 2005, 2007 and 2009.

They are ministerial decisions on strategic aspects of agriculture and rural life in the Americas that the ministers take by consensus. As international instruments in support of the Summit of the Americas Process, the HMAs document the ministers’ determination and commitment to promote **strategic actions** for the sustainable improvement of agriculture and the rural milieu.

The HMAs carry considerable political weight because they are the result of a highly participatory ministerial process, are based on the realities identified in the national proposals and are strengthened with the hemispheric consensus built by the Ministerial Delegates of the

34 member countries of the Inter-American System by means of dialogue and negotiation. That political weight is derived from the governments’ pledge to implement and follow up on the HMAs, with a view to updating them and ensuring the continuation of the process required to move toward the Shared Vision 2015, defined by the Ministers of Agriculture in the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan.

The political weight of the HMAs was reaffirmed when they were adopted as official documents of the Summit of the Americas process, and as inputs for the declarations and plans of action issued by the Heads of State and of Government.

Development of the HMAs begins in the countries, with a Ministerial Process that encompasses national consultations which yield the proposals that the countries share. Based on these national proposals, the countries enter into dialogue, negotiate and reach a hemispheric consensus on the text of each HMA.

Given the diversity of the countries’ interests and views, the Ministerial Process has made it possible to reach a broad consensus on the HMAs. As a result, the HMAs reflect common concerns and issues on which the countries agree, which are of great value for improving agriculture and rural life.

With a view to facilitating hemispheric dialogue and building consensus, since 2001 the Ministerial Process has included two groups of key players who have their respective hemispheric forums and agreements: (i) the Ministerial Delegates of Agriculture and Rural Life and their hemispheric forum, the GRICA; and (ii) the Ministers of Agriculture and their forum, the Ministerial Meeting “Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas.”

The Delegates coordinate the formulation of national proposals for the HMAs and, meeting as the GRICA, build the hemispheric consensus required for the agreements signed by the ministers in their meetings. They also coordinate the preparation of the national progress reports on the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan and identify the challenges faced in implementing it.

The AGRO 2003-2015 Plan

The AGRO 2003-2015 Plan is the shared long-term agenda for promoting the sustainable development of agriculture and the rural milieu. The Plan was adopted at the Second Ministerial Meeting “Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas” (Panama 2003), following a broad-based process of dialogue and negotiation aimed at reaching consensus on national proposals, which were then submitted to the same process at the hemispheric level under the responsibility of the Ministers of Agriculture and their Ministerial Delegates.

The Plan provides a framework for bringing about the changes required to achieve the Shared Vision 2015, and is implemented and updated by the countries through the strategic

actions contained in the biennial hemispheric agendas, and the measures for their implementation and follow-up negotiated by the GRICA and defined by the ministers in their Ministerial Meetings.

In the Plan, the Ministers and Secretaries of Agriculture:

- Took into consideration for its preparation a renewed way of viewing agriculture and rural life, which is the conceptual framework of the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan. The **AGRO-Matrix** synthesizes this new concept of agriculture and rural life.
- Adopted the **Shared Vision 2015** for agriculture and rural life. The vision is a characterization of the desired future vis-à-vis the national and international context, rural territories and agricultural production-trade chains.
- Reiterated the commitments they assumed in the Ministerial Declaration of Bavaro, with the **Strategic Objectives** of Rural Prosperity, Food Security, the International and Regional Integration of Agriculture, Agricultural Health and Food Safety, and the Sustainable Development of Agriculture and the Rural Milieu. The Strategic Objectives make it possible to focus the efforts of the leaders of the Community of Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas.
- Pledged to promote, with the stakeholders in agriculture and others involved in the development of agriculture and

rural life, the **strategic actions** of the 2003-2005 Hemispheric Agenda, to make progress toward achievement of the Strategic Objectives. This Hemispheric Agenda is the first of six biennial agendas.

- Stated that the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan reflects the member countries' intention of working to achieve the shared vision, acknowledging that the national governments have primary responsibility for implementing the Plan pursuant to their international commitments and agreements. They decided on a number of **measures for Implementation and Follow-up** of the Plan. These included: (i) the preparation of national progress reports on the implementation of the strategic actions of the current hemispheric agenda; (ii) the updating of the agenda for the next five biennia; (iii) a request that international institutions and cooperating governments coordinate their strategies around the implementation of the Plan; and, (iv) efforts to determine appropriate ways of gauging the progress of the Plan.

The AGRO 2003-2015 Plan of Action has been updated as a result of the HMAs adopted at the Third and Fourth Ministerial Meetings (Guayaquil 2005, Guatemala 2007 and Jamaica 2009).

The AGRO-Matrix

The AGRO-Matrix synthesizes a new concept of agriculture and rural life and facilitates a comprehensive understanding of both. It

recognizes that agriculture and rural life are complex phenomena, with a multiplicity of actors and a diversity of interests that should be taken into account when designing effective strategies and policies aimed at transforming the sector. It is one of the main outcomes of the consensus-building process followed by the Ministerial Delegates in their efforts to support the Ministers of Agriculture in developing the HMAs adopted at the Ministerial Meetings held in 2003, 2005, 2007 and 2009.

The AGRO-Matrix, used by the Ministerial Delegates as the basis for preparing the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan, is the conceptual framework for the sustainable development of agriculture and the rural milieu. There are two aspects that need to be differentiated in the AGRO-Matrix. They are: (i) the two pillars of its structure; and (ii) the three components of the desired situation.

The two pillars of its structure are: a systemic concept of agriculture and rural life, broken down into three categories or operational areas (rural territories, agricultural value chains and the national and international context) and a sustainable development approach consisting of four dimensions or types of actions (production-trade, ecological-environmental, sociocultural-human and political-institutional). The three components of the desired situation needed to attain the Shared Vision 2015 are: the twelve purposes, the seven strategic objectives and the overarching objective, which guide the strategies, policies and actions adopted.

The AGRO-Matrix helps to explain the basic aspects of the complex phenomenon of agriculture and rural life, promotes national,

The AGRO-Matrix

System Concept	Rural Territories	Agricultural Production-Trade Chains	National and International Context	Strategic Objectives
Sustainable development approach				
Production-Trade	I. Promoting competitive rural enterprises	II. Integrating chains and strengthening their competitiveness	III. Promoting an environment conducive to competitive agriculture	→ Competitiveness
Ecological-Environmental	IV. Being environmentally responsible in the rural areas	V. From farm to table: promoting integrated environmental management	VI. Participating in building and institutional environmental framework	→ Sustainability
Sociocultural-human	VII. Quality of life in rural communities: creating know-how and opportunity	VIII. Advancing learning and expertise in the chain	IX. Promoting policies to create capabilities and opportunities for the rural communities	→ Equity
Political-institucional	X. Strengthening public and private sector participation and coordinated action between them in the territories	XI. Strengthening dialogue and commitments among actors in the chain	XII. Promoting national policies and regional and hemispheric cooperation for agriculture and rural life	→ Governance
Strategic Objectives	Rural Prosperity - Food Security - International Positioning			Overarching Goal Sustainable Development of Agriculture and Rural Milieu

regional and hemispheric strategies, policies and actions to address specific issues and facilitates coordination between different interested groups, in order to develop a new institutional framework for the sustainable development of agriculture and the rural milieu.

The AGRO-Matrix is the ideal tool for understanding and defining the “real” contribution of agriculture and rural life to the development of countries. Its use facilitates the development

of a common base of information on agriculture and rural life and on the nature and magnitude of the processes they involve. It also helps to organize the compilation of the opinions and expectations of the multiple actors of agriculture and rural life, and to define and rank objectives and strategic actions, to identify the impact of policies and programs and to measure the progress made in achieving the purposes and strategic objectives and moving toward the Shared Vision 2015.

“Creating Jobs to Fight Poverty and Strengthen Democratic Governance”

The Heads of State and Government of the Americas advocated growth through job creation, proposed a renewed institutional framework and supported implementation of the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan

We are committed to building a more solid and inclusive e institutional framework, based on the coordination of economic, labor, and social public policies to contribute to the generation of decent work, which must comprise:

A comprehensive framework for rural and agricultural development, to promote investment, job creation, and rural Prosperity.

**Fourth Summit of the Americas, 2005
Paragraph 55 g), Declaration of Mar del Plata**

To carry out the above, the Heads of the State and Government defined as a national commitment:

To support the implementation of the Ministerial Agreement of Guayaquil in 2005, Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas (AGRO 2003-2015 Plan).

**Fourth Summit of the Americas, 2005
Paragraph 35, Plan of Action**

Annex 1.

AGRO 2003-2015 Plan.

Hemispheric Ministerial Agreement Jamaica 2009
for Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas.

The Hemispheric Ministerial Agreement Jamaica 2009

This HMA updates the *AGRO 2003-2015 Plan for Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas* with complementary strategic topics and actions and with renewed measures for implementing the HMA and follow up on it in the 2010-2011 biennium.

The principal strategies that inspire the Agreement are: (i) to increase national capacities for enhancing food security and rural life, (ii) to strengthen the positioning of the issues and the priorities of agriculture and rural development in the public consciousness and in national strategies, (iii) to invest more in agriculture and rural development, (iv) to encourage the stakeholders of agriculture to adopt a broad-based approach to thinking and acting in agriculture and the rural milieu, and (v) to promote with them the “working together” approach to improve agriculture and rural life in the Americas.

In the first part of the Agreement, the 2010-2011 Hemispheric Agenda 2010-2011, the ministers adopted **strategic actions** for the following priority topics:

- More and better food
- Diversification of the food basket
- Storage and food processing
- Plant and animal health and food safety
- Soils and water management
- Land and land tenure

- Risk management and agricultural emergencies
- Climate change
- Multisectoral agroenvironmental management
- Management and leadership
- Production and income
- Focusing on rural territories
- Coordination mechanisms and chain approach
- Institutional capacity
- Investment in agriculture and rural development

In the second part, there are number of measures for its implementation and follow-up, related to the following aspects:

- Dissemination of the Jamaica 2009 Hemispheric Ministerial Agreement and the AGRO-Matrix.
- Regional mechanism and strategies.
- Support from and alignment of the international organizations.
- Updating of the Hemispheric Agenda.
- Dialogue forums for other agricultural stakeholders.
- Implementation mechanisms.

The decisions stated in the HMA-Jamaica 2009, together with the mandates on agriculture and rural life contained in the *Declaration of Commitment of Port of Spain* of the Fifth Summit of the Americas (Trinidad and Tobago, 2009) confirm the hemispheric political framework that will guide the 2010-2011 Ministerial Process in the run up to the Sixth Ministerial Meeting “Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas.”



Fifth Ministerial Meeting
“Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas”
within the context of the Summit of the Americas Process
 Montego Bay, Jamaica October 26-29, 2009

MM5/HMA9-2009
 October 29, 2009

AGRO 2003-2015 PLAN

Hemispheric Ministerial Agreement Jamaica 2009 for Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas

Building capacity for enhancing food security and rural life in the Americas

We, the Ministers and Secretaries of Agriculture or Heads of Delegation, gathered together at the Fifth Ministerial meeting “Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas”, in the city of Montego Bay, Jamaica and within the context of the Summit of the Americas process, as a follow-up to the Ministerial Agreement Guatemala 2007 and the mandates related to agriculture, food security and rural life issued at the Fifth Summit of the Americas (Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago 2009), hereby reaffirm our commitment to the implementation and updating of the AGRO 2003- 2015 Plan for Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas

Therefore, having reviewed the national reports on progress made and challenges encountered and identified in the implementation of the AGRO Plan during the 2008-2009

Ministerial Process, and based on the consensus reached by the Ministerial Delegates during the 2009 Meeting of the GRICA (Group for the Implementation and Coordination of the Agreements on Agriculture), we adopt the strategic actions of the Hemispheric Agenda for the 2010-2011 biennium and the measures for implementing and following up on the AGRO Plan.

2010-2011 Hemispheric Agenda

The updating of the Hemispheric Agenda for the 2010-2011 biennium is based on the current validity of the strategic actions adopted in 2003, 2005 and 2007, and on new challenges and emphasis identified by the countries during the 2008-2009 Ministerial Process, in particular those related to food security, the global

The AGRO-Matrix

System Concept	Rural Territories	Agricultural Production-Trade Chains	National and International Context	Strategic Objectives
Sustainable Development Approach				
Production - Trade	I. Promoting competitive rural enterprises	II. Integrating chains and strengthening their competitiveness	III. Promoting an environment conducive to competitive agriculture	→ Competitiveness
Ecological - Environmental	IV. Being environmentally responsible in the rural areas	V. From farm to table: promoting integrated environmental management	VI. Participating in building and institutional environmental framework	→ Sustainability
Sociocultural - Human	VII. Quality of life in rural communities: creating know-how and opportunity	VIII. Advancing learning and expertise in the chain	IX. Promoting policies to create capabilities and opportunities for the rural communities	→ Equity
Political - Institutional	X. Strengthening public and private sector participation and coordinated action between them in the territories	XI. Strengthening dialogue and commitments among actors in the chain	XII. Promoting national policies and regional and hemispheric cooperation for agriculture and rural life	→ Governance
Strategic Objectives →	RURAL PROSPERITY - FOOD SECURITY - INTERNATIONAL POSITIONING			Overarching Goal Sustainable Development of Agriculture and Rural Milieu

economic crisis and climate change, and their impacts on agriculture and rural life.

In defining the strategic actions of the present Hemispheric Agenda, and in accordance with the broad-based approach to agriculture and rural life, the AGRO Matrix used by the Ministers and Ministerial Delegates in preparing the AGRO Plan in 2003 and the Hemispheric Ministerial Agreements Guayaquil 2005 and Guatemala 2007 was used.

In this context, the principal strategies that inspire this Agreement are:

- to increase national capacities for enhancing food security and rural life,

- to strengthen the positioning of the issues and the priorities of agriculture and rural development in the public consciousness and in national strategies,
- to invest more in agriculture and rural development,
- to encourage the stakeholders of agriculture to adopt a broad-based approach to thinking and acting in agriculture and the rural milieu, and
- to promote with them the “working together” approach to improve agriculture and rural life in the Americas.

Therefore, we express our will to promote, jointly with other stakeholders of agriculture and rural life the following, **strategic actions**:

I. Promoting competitive rural enterprises
(Rural territories – production/trade dimension)

More and better food

1. To promote technological innovation and to disseminate the use of good production practices and of science based technologies, including environmental and sanitary ones, among producers, growers' organizations, local leaders, and professionals providing technical assistance to contribute to increase production, productivity, nutrition, food quality and safety, competitiveness, and sustainability of agricultural activities.

Diversification of the Food basket

2. To improve the quality of life in rural areas by encouraging the production of traditional foods of cultural significance that are locally consumed, enhancing the use of under-utilized species and varieties and promoting an increase in their productivity and marketing, through research among other means, with a view to contributing to the diversification of the food basket, local supply, food security and the conservation of biodiversity.

II. Integrating chains and strengthening their competitiveness
(Agricultural production-trade chains – production/trade dimension)

Storage and food processing

3. To promote the improvement of harvesting, storage and food processing technologies

and infrastructure through public and private investment that contributes to a better use of agricultural production, a reduction of post harvest losses and an increased food supply to local and export markets.

III. Promoting a harmonized environment conducive to competitive agriculture
(National and international context – production/trade dimension)

Plant and animal health and food safety

4. To strengthen capacity development and modernization of national and international institutions for plant and animal health and food safety with the objective of:
 - improving veterinary, phytosanitary and public health status of the countries,
 - the harmonization of sanitary and phytosanitary measures according to science-based international standards,
 - border and cross-border disease controls, and
 - the management capacity to prevent and combat invasive organisms and diseases.

Soils and water management

5. To strengthen, jointly with the cooperation of other national institutions and with the technical assistance of international organizational bodies:
 - the implementation of national strategies,
 - exchange of international experiences, and
 - mobilization of resources

to enhance the capacities of agriculture stakeholders, promote conservation and sustainable management of soils and water resources and to address degradation, desertification, floods and droughts for the protection of land and water as common resources of humankind so as to encourage agricultural production and productivity.

Land and land tenure

6. To create programs that facilitate access to land, and establishing mechanisms for security of tenureship and land titling for small producers.

Risk management and agricultural emergencies

7. To improve and develop instruments for the management of risks such as:
 - agricultural insurance
 - mechanisms to combat risks related to illegal occupation and praedial larceny,
 - integration of early warning information systems,
 - international networks for cooperation in risk assessment,

as well as to strengthen the comprehensive management of emergencies in agriculture and the rural milieu caused by agro-climatic and meteorological changes, and by human intervention.

IV. Being environmentally responsible in the rural areas
(Rural Territories – ecological/
environmental dimension)

The challenges identified are covered by the previous hemispheric agendas and, therefore, no complementary strategic actions are suggested.

V. From farm to table: promoting integrated environmental management
(Agricultural production-trade chains – ecological/environmental dimension)

The challenges identified are covered by the previous hemispheric agendas and, therefore, no complementary strategic actions are suggested.

VI. Participating in building an institutional environmental framework
(National and international context - ecological/environmental dimension)

Climate change

8. To strengthen the agricultural sector's capacity to mitigate and to adapt to climate change through the development and implementation of strategies that address:
 - coordination between environmental and food security policies,
 - development of incentives for those that protect the environment,
 - generation and use of environmentally sustainable technologies and practices,
 - increasing public and private sector investment, and
 - assessment of the impact of climate change and the exchange of information.

Multisectoral agroenvironmental management

9. To actively encourage a multisectoral approach for the development of national strategies in agro-environmental management in rural areas.

VII. Quality of life in rural communities: creating know-how and opportunity
(Rural Territories – sociocultural/human dimension)

Management and leadership

10. To improve entrepreneurial management and leadership capacities through the operation of appropriate rural institutions offering services such as training, technological dissemination, innovation, market information and other services required for production, processing and marketing. These activities should give special priority to small and medium size producers and entrepreneurs, field workers, women and youth.

VIII. Advancing learning and expertise in the chain
(Agricultural production-trade chains – sociocultural/human dimension)

The challenges identified are covered by the previous hemispheric agendas and, therefore, no complementary strategic actions are suggested.

- IX. Promoting policies to create capabilities and opportunities for the rural communities
(National and international context - sociocultural/human dimension)

Production and income

11. To promote expansion of producers and rural entrepreneurs and increased rural incomes through:
 - clear price signals for inputs, food products and associated processing and transportation costs,
 - increased capacity for post harvest storage and marketing,
 - national strategies directed to the incorporation of rural groups, organizations and communities into the production process,
 - increased investment in agriculture,
 - strengthening of small and medium size rural enterprises,
 - participation of rural women and youth in income and employment generating activities, to contribute to the improvement of the quality of life in the rural milieu giving priority to those that present a higher level of social vulnerability and to food insecurity.

- X. Strengthening public and private sector participation and coordinated action between them in the territories
(Rural Territories – political/institutional dimension)

Focusing on rural territories

12. To promote the use of a systemic, multi-sectoral and participatory approach in the design of policies and programs and in the assignment and focusing of resources for improving agriculture, food security and sustainable rural development.

XI. Strengthening dialogue and commitments among actors in the chain
(Agricultural production-trade chains – political/institutional dimension)

Coordination mechanisms and chain approach

13. To promote or strengthen, as required, the creation and operation of formal coordination mechanisms with all public and private agricultural production chain stakeholders, to facilitate, among other things:
 - identifying and eliminating those factors that restrict their competitiveness,
 - the integral analysis of such chains through a chain approach,
 - trust building and institutional mechanisms to solve the conflicts inherent to each chain,
 - improving logistics from farm to the table,
 - improving regulatory compliance
 - responding to crises
 - dialogue, reaching agreements and follow-up of action commitments.

XII. Promoting State policies and regional and hemispheric cooperation for agriculture and rural life
(National and international context – political/institutional dimension)

Institutional capacity

14. To enhance the public and private institutional capacity in order to promote:
 - participation of stakeholders in the agricultural sector and the development of their own capacities,
 - expansion of technical services and technological innovation to improve the entire agricultural value chain, with particular emphasis on small and medium sized producers and entrepreneurs,
 - building trade capacities for the benefit of agriculture and rural communities,
 - environmental management of the different agricultural activities,
 - inter-institutional coordination, and
 - informed participation in international forums regarding agriculture and rural life

Investment in agriculture and rural development

15. Promoting National policies to increase public and private, national and international investment as well as better financing of agriculture, agribusiness, small and medium-size enterprises, cooperatives, infrastructure and public goods for the rural milieu.

Implementation and Follow-up

The AGRO 2003-2015 Plan reflects the will of the countries to work together towards the Shared Vision 2015, with the understanding that national governments are the main parties responsible for the implementation of the shared agenda and to coordinate the participation with the other public and private agricultural stakeholders in view of their international commitments and agreements.

Dissemination of the Jamaica 2009 Hemispheric Ministerial Agreement and the AGRO-Matrix

16. The implementation of the Jamaica 2009 Hemispheric Ministerial Agreement requires a joint action on the part of stakeholders in the public, private and social sectors. Therefore, it is necessary to widely disseminate the Jamaica 2009 *Hemispheric Ministerial Agreement*, an activity that the ministerial delegates will undertake with the support of the IICA offices in their countries, taking their national policies into account.

The broad-based and comprehensive way in which we conceive agriculture and rural life in the Plan (expressed in the AGRO-Matrix) represents the main contribution of our ministerial process to facilitate an understanding of the importance of agriculture and the rural milieu to development in our countries, in accordance with the call of the Port of Spain Declaration of Commitment, Trinidad and Tobago, for us to initiate actions by 2009 to facilitate implementation of the Heads of State and Government commitments as indicated in paragraphs 23, 24, 25, 90 and 93 of this declaration.

Regional mechanism and strategies

17. To strengthen regional meetings of ministers of agriculture, regional meetings of other agricultural stakeholders, as well as working together with the mechanisms for the regional integration of agriculture and for consultation and identification of priorities, coordination of actions and adoption of regional policies on matters of common interest, in the context of the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan.

Support from and alignment of the international organizations

18. We reiterate our calls to the international organizations, made in 2001, 2003, 2005, 2007 and request that they actively participate in the implementation of the Hemispheric Ministerial Agreement Jamaica 2009.

Updating of the Hemispheric Agenda

19. The 2010-2011 Hemispheric Agenda is the fourth of six biennial agendas for the implementation of the AGRO Plan. National governments will deliver reports on progress in implementing each biennial agenda and identify challenges faced. These reports will serve as input for updating the Agenda for the 2012-2013 period. We therefore entrust:

- The Ministerial Delegates with preparing, with the support of the Secretariat of the Ministerial Process, the national report on progress and challenges in implementing this Ministerial Agreement.

- The Hemispheric Forum of Ministerial Delegates (GRICA) with developing the Ministerial Agreement for the 2012-2013 biennium.
- The Technical Secretariat, with reporting, in the Sixth Ministerial Meeting, on the progress of the Ministerial Process “Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas” and on any actions carried out to ensure coordination of this ministerial process with the Summit of the Americas process, with the purpose of consolidating the positioning of agriculture and rural life in the Sixth Summit of the Americas, to take place in the city of Cartagena de Indias, Colombia in 2012.

Dialogue forums for other agricultural stakeholders

20. Due to the importance of the participation of all stakeholders in the value chain

to achieve the agricultural and rural milieu development objectives, we consider necessary to promote dialogue forums parallel to the Ministerial Meetings for the other key agricultural stakeholders, such as private industry and social organizations, among others. With this in mind we request IICA and other international organizations, institutional partners of the Summit of the Americas Process, to support the implementation of such forums in future Ministerial Meetings.

Implementation mechanisms

21. Against the background of concerns about the effective implementation of the Hemispheric Agenda 2010-2011, we mandate IICA to provide support to strengthen and monitor the implementation of the Agro Plan in Member States and to facilitate exchange of experiences.

*Signed in the city of Montego Bay, Jamaica
on the twenty-ninth day of October of two thousand and nine*

Antigua and Barbuda
Hilson Baptiste



Argentina
Luciano Nicolás Di Tella



Bahamas
Lawrence Cartwright



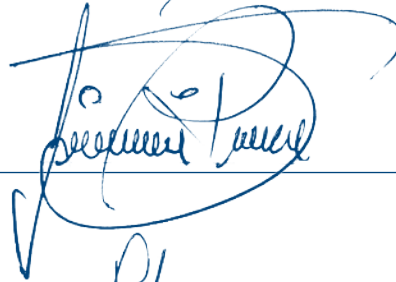
Barbados
Haynesley Benn



Belize
Rene Montero



Bolivia
Julia Ramos



Brazil
Lino Colsera



Canada
Stephen Hallihan



Chile
Iván Nazif Astorga



Colombia
Ventura Díaz Mejía



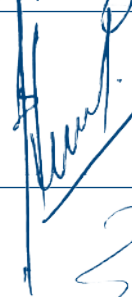
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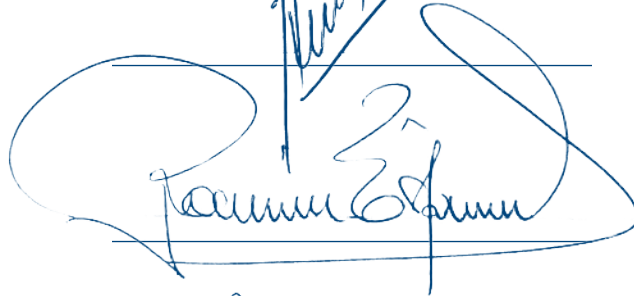
Dominica
Matthew Joseph Walter



Dominican Republic
Salvador Jiménez Arrango



Ecuador
Ramón Espinel Martínez



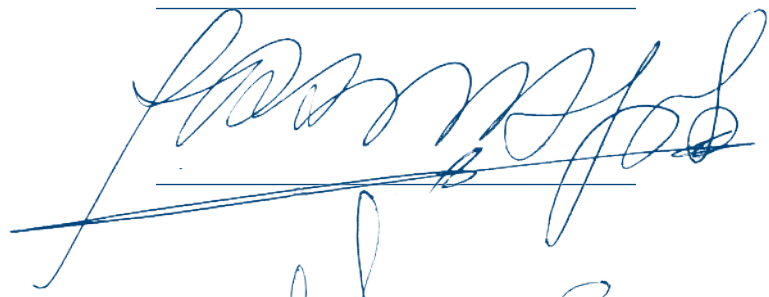
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Manuel R. Sevilla Avilés



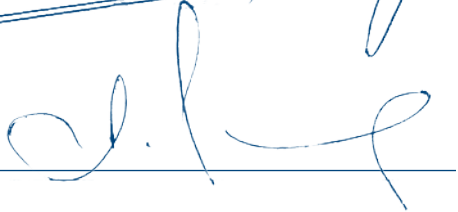
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Guyana
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Haiti
Joanas Gue



Honduras

Mexico
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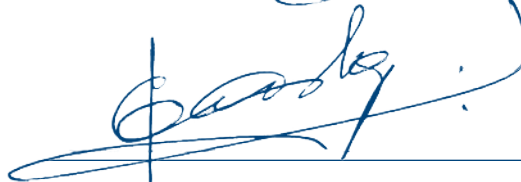
Nicaragua
Juan Rodolfo Delgado Romero



Panama
Víctor Manuel Pérez Batista



Paraguay
Enzo Cardoso Jiménez



Peru
Carlos Leyton Muñoz



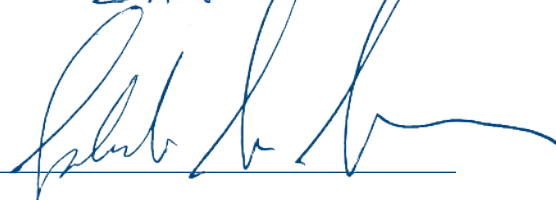
Saint Lucia
Ezechiel Joseph



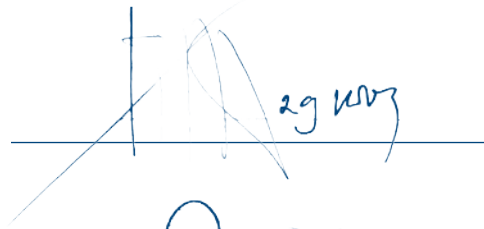
Saint Kitts and Nevis
Cedric Liburd



Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Saboto Caesar



Suriname
Kermechend Raghoebarsing



Handwritten signature of Kermechend Raghoebarsing, dated 29/10/03, written in blue ink on a horizontal line.

Trinidad and Tobago
Arnold Piggott



Handwritten signature of Arnold Piggott, written in blue ink on a horizontal line.

United States of America
Burnhan Philbrook



Handwritten signature of Burnhan Philbrook, written in blue ink on a horizontal line.

Uruguay
Andrés Berterreche Alvarez




Handwritten signature of Andrés Berterreche Alvarez, written in blue ink on a horizontal line.

Venezuela
Noel Enrique Martínez Ochoa



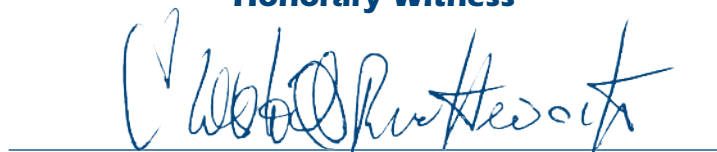
Handwritten signature of Noel Enrique Martínez Ochoa, written in blue ink on a horizontal line.



Handwritten signature of Christopher Tufton, written in blue ink on a horizontal line.

Christopher Tufton
Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries of Jamaica
Chair of the Fifth Ministerial Meeting
“Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas”

Honorary Witness



Handwritten signature of Chelston W. D. Brathwaite, written in blue ink on a horizontal line.

Chelston W. D. Brathwaite
Director General
Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture

Annex 2. AGRO 2003-2015 Plan for Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas. Hemispheric Ministerial Agreements: strategic themes

Systemic Concept	Rural Territories	Agricultural Production – Trade Chains	National and International Context	Strategic Objectives
Sustainable Development Approach				
Production – Trade	<p>Promoting competitive rural enterprises</p> <p><i>HMA – Panama 2003</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Productivity and production - Infrastructure, competitive enterprises and investment - Support services for production and commercialization - Financial and non-financial services - Coordination between producers, research centers and public and private agricultural services <p><i>HMA – Guayaquil 2005</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Areas of local economic development <p><i>HMA – Guatemala 2007</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Entrepreneurial and business capability for innovation <p><i>HMA – Jamaica 2009</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More and better food - Diversification of the food basket 	<p>Integrating chains and strengthening their competitiveness</p> <p><i>HMA – Panama 2003</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strengthening trade-chains - Development infrastructure - Development of products using national raw materials <p><i>HMA – Guayaquil 2005</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Quality management and certification - Development of products based on biotechnologies <p><i>HMA – Guatemala 2007</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Market information - Inclusive chain linkages <p><i>HMA – Jamaica 2009</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Storage and food processing 	<p>Promoting an environment conducive to competitive agriculture</p> <p><i>HMA – Panama 2003</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Policies for a favorable environment - Favorable international framework for agricultural trade - Regional integration and increase of national capacities - Micro, small and medium scale rural enterprises - Cooperatives and associative enterprises - Investment in the rural milieu - Research capacity - access to innovative technologies - Agricultural health and food safety <p><i>HMA – Guayaquil 2005</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Generation of energy from alternative sources - Policies for agroindustry <p><i>HMA – Guatemala 2007</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strengthening of small and medium scale rural enterprises. - Mobilizing resources <p><i>HMA – Jamaica 2009</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Plant and animal health and food safety - Soils and water management - Land and land tenure - Risk management and agricultural emergencies 	Competitiveness
Ecological – Environmental	<p>Being environmentally responsible in the rural areas</p> <p><i>HMA – Panama 2003</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Environmental impact of agriculture - Biodiversity and agriculture - Sustainable agriculture - Access and use of sustainable technologies - Linking agriculture with other non-agricultural activities based on the sustainable use of natural resources - Mitigation of natural disasters <p><i>HMA – Guatemala 2007</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Environmental plans for businesses 	<p>From farm to table: environmental management of agricultural production-trade chains</p> <p><i>HMA – Panama 2003</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Environmental management of trade-chains 	<p>Participating in building an institutional environmental framework</p> <p><i>HMA – Panama 2003</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participation in updating environmental standards - Organic agriculture - Public and private coordination for environmental management - Early warning and agrometeorological monitoring <p><i>HMA – Guayaquil 2005</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Environmental services and environmentally sound practices - Market opportunities for goods and services produced in an environmentally sustainable manner <p><i>HMA – Jamaica 2009</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Climate change - Multisectoral agroenvironmental management 	Sustainability
Sociocultural – Human	<p>Quality of life in rural communities: creating know-how and opportunity</p> <p><i>HMA – Panama 2003</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Poverty, quality of life and employment - Capacities for dialogue, negotiation and strategic action - Agricultural education system and rural education - Social protection for rural families - Broad based participation in the design and implementation of rural development strategies - Access to resources and services <p><i>HMA – Jamaica 2009</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Management and leadership 	<p>Advancing learning and expertise in the chain</p> <p><i>HMA – Panama 2003</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Entrepreneurial capacity 	<p>Promoting policies to create capabilities and opportunities for the rural communities</p> <p><i>HMA – Panama 2003</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rural development that includes gender, age and multicultural equity - Agricultural and rural training - Evaluation and accreditation of agricultural education <p><i>HMA – Guayaquil 2005</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Social responsibility in rural enterprises <p><i>HMA – Guatemala 2007</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Repositioning of rural issues in national strategies <p><i>HMA – Jamaica 2009</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Production and income 	Equity
Political – Institutional	<p>Strengthening public and private sector participation and coordinated action between them in the territories</p> <p><i>HMA – Panama 2003</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participation of rural communities <p><i>HMA – Guayaquil 2005</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Integral development of rural territories <p><i>HMA – Guatemala 2007</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establishment and follow-up of partnerships and agreements <p><i>HMA – Jamaica 2009</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Focusing on rural territories 	<p>Strengthening dialogue and commitments among actors in the chain</p> <p><i>HMA – Panama 2003</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Institutional frameworks to facilitate dialogue and negotiation <p><i>HMA – Jamaica 2009</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Coordination mechanisms and chain approach 	<p>Promoting national policies and regional and hemispheric cooperation for agriculture and rural life</p> <p><i>HMA – Panama 2003</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mechanism for cooperation between countries - Cooperation and coordination between stakeholders - Institutional capacity - Regional and Hemispheric cooperation <p><i>HMA – Guayaquil 2005</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National policies - Interinstitutional and multisectorial work <p><i>HMA – Guatemala 2007</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establishment of partnerships and agreements - Modernization and institutional strengthening of the rural public sector - Reassessment of the value of agriculture and the rural milieu <p><i>HMA – Jamaica 2009</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Institutional capacity - Investment in agriculture and rural development 	Governance
Strategic Objectives	<p>RURAL PROSPERITY – FOOD SECURITY – INTERNATIONAL POSITIONING</p>			<p>Overarching Goal:</p> <p>Sustainable Development of Agriculture and the Rural Milieu</p>



Ministerial Meetings “Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas”
held within the context of the Summits of the Americas Process



**Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
Secretariat of the Ministerial Meeting
Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas
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