

RESOLUTION No. 688

**THE IMPORTANCE OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION IN
AGRICULTURE**

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Forty-second Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

The presentation by Dr. Raquel Chan, IICA Chair in Biotechnology and Sustainable Development, on “The Importance of Science, Technology and Innovation in Agriculture”,

CONSIDERING:

That the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), as a knowledge management platform that is reinforcing and expanding technical cooperation actions, has established the Network of Goodwill Ambassadors and the IICA Chair initiative, with a view to creating linkages between IICA and its activities and prominent individuals involved in the academic, business and policy spheres of agrifood systems in the Americas;

That developments in biology, information and communication technologies, nanotechnology and engineering have consolidated their role as tools for the agriculture sector of the future; and advances in “new biology”, in particular, have provided more precise and reliable processes for research and development that are applicable in practically all spheres of agrifood activity, thereby facilitating a better understanding of natural resources and ecosystems; and

That modifications to the IICA Medium-term Plan (MTP) for the 2022-2026 period establish the need to position the potential of the bioeconomy in discussions and in the main regional and international technical and policy forums, through the generation and dissemination of information, analyses and evidence,

RESOLVES:

1. To recognize the distinguished career of Dr. Raquel Chan, IICA Chair in Biotechnology and Sustainable Development, and her contribution to the development of plant biotechnology, as well as to thank her for her presentation to the Executive Committee meeting.
2. To reiterate the importance of innovation, science and technology to increase the productivity, sustainability and inclusiveness of the agrifood systems of the Americas, and

to help achieve a new production-productivity-sustainability balance in agriculture, while also creating linkages between these systems and other sectors of the economy, through research and development (R+D).

3. To urge the Institute's member countries to continue building capacities for innovation, science and technology development in the agriculture sector, promoting increased public and private investment in this strategic area.
4. To ask the Director General to redouble IICA's efforts to support the creation of public policies, rules and regulations aimed at fostering and developing innovation, science and technology at the national, regional and hemispheric levels that reflect the unique characteristics and specific needs of the member countries of the Institute.