

IICA



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NEWS



DIRECCION GENERAL

IICA AND THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY CONSIDER POSSIBLE JOINT ACTION

The European Economic Community expressed interest in increasing their participation in agricultural development programs for Latin America, and particularly for Central America. The Representatives of the EEC, attending a recent meeting at the headquarters of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), said they would like to work with IICA to improve the standard of living for inhabitants of rural zones in the region.

EEC representatives George Ponette, economic cooperation adviser, and Mendel Goldstein, in charge of international development cooperation for Latin

America, were received by IICA Director General Dr. Martín E. Piñeiro.

The EEC representatives proposed activities in 10 areas in Central America: technical and financial assistance; food aid, channeled through Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs); trade promotion; emergency aid; training; aid for refugees; technical assistance; energy aid; and assistance for regional integration.

In 1986 alone, the EEC provided funds of more than \$63 million for its development projects, and it estimates that more than 80 percent of the money was used for the rural sector.



During a working meeting in IICA's headquarters, from left to right, Dr. Martín E. Piñeiro, Director General of IICA; Mr. Mendel Goldstein and Mr. George Ponette from the EEC; and Dr. Cassio Luiselli of IICA.

IICA AND THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY...

In the area of technical and financial assistance, the funds were channeled into productive activities and agrarian reform; integrated rural development; support for the small farmer; research for agricultural extension work and rural trade, and other projects in Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama.

Commenting on the results of the meeting, IICA Director of External Relations Dr. Jorge Werthein noted that the EEC would be presented with "concrete project proposals, as part of a plan of regional agricultural recovery, in keeping with what was agreed upon recently in Canada by the Ministers of Agriculture of the hemisphere."

It was also observed that the EEC is the second largest trade partner with Latin America after the United States, implying significant commercial and financial links.

Latin American countries benefit from a trade agreement with the EEC that allows two-thirds of their exports to the region to enter duty-free, or with preferential treatment. Moreover, the EEC is the second largest source of public aid for development in Latin America.

Relations between the European Economic Community and the countries of Central America and Panama were revitalized after the September 1984 meeting of Ministers of Foreign Relations from both regions, in San Jose, Costa Rica. Also present at the meeting were the Foreign Ministers of the Contadora Group.

To continue the dialogue of this meeting, known as "San José I," the Ministers met again in Luxembourg. There, on November 12, 1985, a General Cooperation Agreement between Central America and Panama, and the countries of the European Economic community was signed. They also agreed to form a mixed commission to define cooperation actions for development.

In the first meeting of this European-Central American Commission, held in Brussels this July, the EEC reiterated its commitment to promoting the welfare of the Central America region, in coopera-

tion with the governments of the isthmus. It was declared that agriculture would be the most important area of concentration for development efforts.

Included in these efforts will be a \$250 000 grant by the EEC for the so-called Trifinio project, which IICA and the Organization of American States (OAS) administer jointly.

The purpose of the project is to strengthen the integration process in the region by developing the border zone between Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala.

IICA authorities who attended the meeting with EEC representatives said they were pleased with the Europeans' renewed interest in strengthening their already-significant presence in Latin America.

According to EEC statistics, it is Latin America's second-largest trading partner. Some 13 percent of Latin America's imports come from Europe, while 17 percent of its exports are sent there.

Moreover, Latin American Countries have a preferential trade agreement with the EEC, which allows them to introduce two-thirds of their exports into the European market tariff-free or with preferential treatment.

IICA authorities emphasized that the EEC can play an active and fruitful role in the region's agriculture through financial and technical cooperation actions.

The EEC provides the second largest source of public funding for Latin America overall, and is the largest source for South America. In the 1982-1984 period, the average amount of this aid was \$554 million, according to EEC statistics.

Likewise, the EEC has a large number of investments in Latin America. At the end of 1983, they totalled \$20 billion, or one-fifth of direct foreign investments in the region. This presence increased further between 1984 and 1985, when the EEC invested some \$1.2 billion in South America and \$1.6 billion in Central America.

COLOMBIA: BATTLING RURAL POVERTY TAKES PRIORITY

"The contribution in the Americas to the strengthening of democracy depends on the ability of our nations to make peace with the countryside, and the rural poor," declared Dr. Luis Guillermo Parra, Colombian Minister of Agriculture.

"The Declaration of Ottawa, besides addressing current themes like agricultural modernization and trade, also focuses our attention on the struggle against rural poverty, and in support of agrarian reform and integrated rural development," stated Dr. Parra, who led his country's delegation at the Ninth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA), held in Ottawa, Canada, from August 31 to September 5.

SMALL FARMERS

The Minister added that in Colombia, as well as the majority of the Andean countries, "the process of modernization in agriculture must be directed toward the fundamental problems of the small farmer, who generally lacks land and infrastructure."

He affirmed that it "is necessary in each country to analyze the impact that macroeconomic adjustments have had on the agricultural sector."

Noting the ability of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) in the field of technical cooperation, the Minister observed that IICA "can serve as an important catalyst for knowledge regarding the impact and viability of adjustment policies in the agricultural sector."

"The linkage of the poor to greater production and consumption, and the resulting amplification of the market and strengthening of the national productive capacity, must be made in a manner that generates a self-sustained process of growth. Macroeconomic policy cannot consist of perpetual adjustment to the changes of the moment, which compel us to constantly revise our social model," warned Dr. Parra in Ottawa.

HORIZONTAL COOPERATION

Referring to horizontal cooperation, a theme repeatedly mentioned by the Ministers of Agriculture at Ottawa, Dr. Parra affirmed that, "As long as international trade conditions are not based on an equitable structure of competition and efficient production, horizontal cooperation will encounter great difficulties, because of the wide variation of fiscal resources available to the different countries for trade expansion and strengthening of markets."

INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT

Mentioning the prevailing conditions in the world economy, the Colombian Minister noted, "Developing countries consider it just to reiterate our demands for international agreements on price stability of basic products; agreements on the need for industrialized countries to abandon protectionist barriers; agreements on urgent monetary issues and, in conclusion, agreements on the pressing need to revise the international debt scenario."



Dr. Luis Guillermo Parra, Minister of Agriculture from Colombia.

BARBADOS: REGIONAL COOPERATION IS KEY TO DEVELOPMENT

A key factor in the development of Latin America and the Caribbean is the strengthening and ongoing creation of regional and subregional cooperation mechanisms, stated Warwick O. Franklin, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries in Barbados. Speaking at the Ninth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA), Franklin noted that regional cooperation actions are especially important in the field of technology generation and transfer.

REGIONAL INSTITUTIONS

"The fact that many of our countries are too small to finance the cost of adequate research facilities emphasizes the role that regional and subregional institutions must play in researching appropriate technology transfer," he said during the Conference, which was held in the Canadian capital of Ottawa, from August 31 to September 5.

"For some of our countries, this type of institution offers the only real hope of access to new developments in technology," he added.

The Minister pointed out that technology's potential can only be realized if it is efficiently transferred to farmers, particularly small ones. "The small producer has the legitimate right to count on reasonable access to land, training, irrigation and financing," he said.

"We believe that one of our principle resources is our own people," he affirmed.

Franklin commented on the role that the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) plays to encourage greater integration in the region.

"The Medium Term Plan (of IICA) offers much more than solutions for agricultural problems. I believe it offers a great opportunity for the people of Latin America and the Caribbean to amplify and

reinforce new forms of mutual cooperation," he said.

WORLD SITUATION

To rediscover the path of economic growth and development, Franklin observed that it is essential first to overcome the problems of protectionism, unstable exchange rates, and subsidized sales in international markets.

"We cannot confront the problems that affect the economy of our region, and the agricultural sector, without taking into account the world situation," he said. He also expressed optimism about "the commitment undertaken by the countries of the Generalized Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) to make the first significant effort to achieve a greater liberalization of trade in agricultural products."

"I have no doubt about the potential that exists in Latin America and the Caribbean as a region; certainly it is within our capacity to mobilize political will in our countries and prepare the mechanisms that will give us fair standing among the nations on earth," he concluded.



Mr. Warwick O. Franklin, Minister of Agriculture from Barbados.

UNITED STATES EMPHASIZES THE POTENTIAL OF THIRD WORLD ECONOMIES

Speaking at the Ninth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA), U.S. Agriculture Secretary Richard Lyng advocated the elimination of subsidies and emphasized the agricultural potential that allows for greater economic development in the Third World.

"If during the Uruguay Round we adopt policies that permit developing countries to grow, this would stimulate an enormous demand for agricultural products in the future," the Secretary said at the Conference, which was held in Ottawa from August 31 to September 5.

CONDITIONS FOR RECOVERY

The Secretary listed several conditions that are necessary for economic recovery in the Third World: "These countries must be able to export to industrialized nations, and they must receive sufficient income from their exports to achieve acceptable levels of prosperity."

He added that the U.S. proposal submitted two months ago to member nations of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), which would eliminate all subsidies and import barriers on agricultural products, will benefit the Third World.

"We believe firmly that the proposal of the United States will be of great benefit to developing countries, because it removes the obstacles for sustained economic growth," the Secretary said.

"Our effort has been to initiate a process for the elimination of subsidies and import barriers, and to establish rules that guarantee (the existence) of a strong world agriculture and vigorous international trade," he asserted.

NEW TECHNOLOGY

He also warned that new technological breakthroughs are rapidly changing the conditions of national and international trade.

"Modern technology is changing comparative advantage at an incredible rate in countries and among countries. However, existing policies in numerous nations are designed to ensure that nothing changes," the Secretary said.

"We must use the Uruguay Round to establish policies that permit a functioning market, which at the same time will allow for producer innovation, opportunities for exporters, and security for consumers," he added.

Noting that the United States was not seeking special concessions from this proposal, Secretary Lyng advocated to member countries of ICMA that they accept the challenge of eliminating subsidies "with vigor and dedication."

Organized by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), the ministers of the hemisphere united to discuss the possibilities of promoting an agriculture-led strategy for development in Latin America and the Caribbean.



Mr. Richard Lyng, United States Secretary of Agriculture.

ARGENTINA HAS SHARP CRITICISMS FOR SUBSIDIES IN DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

Highly critical of massive agricultural subsidy programs in developed countries, the Argentine delegation to the Ninth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA) advocated a revision of these policies.

Noting the effect of subsidized competition from developed countries on the Argentine economy, the Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Ruy de Villalobos, explained, "It has been calculated that total exports of grains and by-products in 1985 would have brought \$7.3 billion instead of the \$4.3 billion that was actually earned, if average prices paid between 1978 and 1980 had been maintained."

Villalobos added that "this difference of \$3 billion represents 50 percent of the annual service on the foreign debt; in other words, two-thirds of the total value of Argentina's imports."

"The Argentine case constitutes a solid example of the pervasive link between protectionism in some developed countries and the problem of the international financial crisis and external debt," he asserted.

Organized by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), the Ninth ICMA united the Ministers of Agriculture of the hemisphere to discuss the theme "Agricultural modernization, international trade and price policy within the framework of regional integration and joint international action."

The Argentine delegate also emphasized the importance of the agricultural sector for the economies of Latin America and the Caribbean.

"For the region as a whole, exports of basic products represent more than 80 percent of the value of total exports and 40 percent, if fuel is excluded," he said.

Furthermore, the Deputy Minister said that, "More than 65 percent of the overall value of the sale of Latin American primary goods abroad is destined for the economies of developed countries."

However, due to the subsidies applied in developed countries, there has been a drastic fall in prices for agricultural products.

"In present terms, prices declined 25 percent from the end of 1980 to 1982, and they fell an additional 5 percent since June 1985," he said.

"Thus, the imperative economic growth that our countries demand is drastically limited by the fall in the value of agricultural exports, which keeps us from maintaining the level of imports we need to grow," the Deputy Minister said.

He also mentioned several encouraging signs, such as the GATT negotiations; the joint action of the Cairns group, composed of countries seeking to eliminate protectionism and subsidies for agricultural products; and the recent declaration of the Organization for Cooperation and Economic Development (OCED) that recognizes "the role of comparative advantages as an essential factor in market indicators."

Finally, he was confident that the joint declaration signed by the Ministers of Agriculture of the hemisphere would serve to reinforce these principles.



Mr. Ruy de Villalobos, Under-Secretary of Agrarian Economy from Argentina.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: A VAST PLAN OF AGRICULTURAL RECOVERY TO SECURE POLITICAL STABILITY

A vast plan of agricultural recovery and agroindustrial expansion will be initiated in Latin America and the Caribbean, in order to contribute to lasting regional peace and political stability, said Dr. Martín E. Piñeiro, Director General of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), on the 27th of October in Madrid.

Discussing his report, "Agricultural Perspectives in Latin America and the Caribbean," during the World Food Production Conference, Dr. Piñeiro noted that IICA has begun efforts to present what it calls a "Proposal for a large-scale plan of action for the recovery and modernization of agricultural production in what could be termed a 'Marshall Plan' for agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean." The presentation is scheduled for mid-1988.

He added that, "Similar to the Marshall Plan, the initiative we propose will support three central themes: the re-establishment of adequate flows of

investment, a transfer of technology based on regional needs, and a reduction in trade restrictions on agricultural exports in Latin America and the Caribbean."

He also indicated that in the region there is "a growing conviction" that a plan with these characteristics "must consider as vitally important the implementation of joint activities, coordinated among groups of countries in the region, which should place multinational technical and financial cooperation before national interest."

The Director General of IICA indicated in his report that the task of preparing a proposal for a strategic plan for regional agricultural recovery was entrusted to the Institute by the Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture, who met in Ottawa, Canada, from August 31 to September 5.

"The securing of democracy in Latin America and the Caribbean can only be assured if political changes are accompanied by satisfactory economic results," asserted Dr. Piñeiro. He also emphasized the importance of agricultural modernization in the region.

Dr. Piñeiro referred to the possibilities of achieving these results in spite of difficult international circumstances.

He explained that world trade in agricultural products grew at a rhythm of 4 percent annually in the 60s and 70s, but only at 1.3 percent annually between 1979 and 1986.

Furthermore, the prices of the 15 principle products of Latin America and the Caribbean fell between 25 and 60 percent during the 1981-1986 period, Piñeiro said. He identified the principle products as wheat, rice, corn, sorghum, beef, soya, sunflowers, cotton, sugar, bananas, chocolate, coffee, palm oil and dried coconut.

Although agricultural production in the last two decades rose at an annual rate of 3.3 percent and



Dr. Martín E. Piñeiro, Director General of IICA.

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3.6 percent respectively, during the 1980-86 period production grew at less than 2 percent annually, with negative growth rates in 1982 and 1986.

"Moreover," Piñeiro added, "In the last year, 11 countries showed negative growth rates."

In spite of these signs of deterioration in the agricultural sector, "It is important to emphasize that (agriculture's) productive performance suggests a greater capacity to resist the international economic crisis," assured IICA's Director General.

He explained that the real agricultural gross national product for the region fell only 11 percent since 1980, as compared with the 1960-1980 period. By contrast, the non-agricultural sectors's GNP fell by a full 25 percent during the same period.

"Even though between 1960 and 1980 industrialized countries increased their participation in agricultural trade (from 53 percent to 64 percent of exports) at the expense of the developing countries, the region of Latin America and the Caribbean was more competitive than the rest of the developing countries, decreasing its participation by only two percent, from 14 percent to 12 percent.

Piñeiro also noted that, between 1970 and 1985, the 20 most important agricultural products in Latin America and the Caribbean—accounting for 91 percent of the region's agricultural exports in

1985—showed an important increase in their production volume.

"Eleven of them grew by more than 80 percent, but the value of the exports grew by only 40 percent, due to the drastic drop in prices," he affirmed.

"This productive capacity under adverse conditions points to the importance, for the majority of the countries in the region, of both agricultural production and extensive available natural resources," he emphasized. "These are factors that reaffirm the need for agricultural recovery as a central element in an overall strategy of economic growth."

To emphasize the possibility that agriculture can play a key role in overall economic recovery, he noted a study of 11 Latin American countries in which "Thirty percent of the gross value of agricultural production is accounted for by intermediate national consumption from other sectors, while 38 percent of the gross value of this sectors of the economy, which demonstrates the multiplier effect, both 'forwards and backwards,'" in agriculture.

However, in order for agriculture to fulfill its potential, changes are needed both in the international economy and within each country of the region.

Among these changes, Piñeiro cited greater liberalization of world trade in agricultural products, better incentives, modernization of the agricultural sector, a "continuous and growing" access to technological innovations, an increase in internal and external financial flows, and policies that allow more marginalized farmers to be incorporated into the process of modernization.

After reminding his audience of the consensus among the American Ministers of Agriculture on these issues, as expressed in the "Declaration of Ottawa," Piñeiro assured that "There is, then, a clear possibility of generating an important axis of accumulation toward agricultural recovery; initiating agroindustrial growth in such a way that industrial development is not based on extracting the surplus from agriculture, but rather on a overall economic recovery induced by better agricultural earnings that result from increases in productivity."

WORLD BANK EMPHASIZES COMMON INTERESTS WITH IICA

The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) has concerns and interests that in large part are shared by the World Bank, said Avishay Braverman, Division Chief of the Bank's Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Mr. Braverman, who attended the Ninth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA), held last September in Ottawa, Canada, emphasized four points of agreement between IICA and the World Bank.

"In the first place, we believe that trade barriers, including those established by developed countries, must be eliminated. They imply very adverse conditions in the terms of trade for agricultural products, in developing countries in general, and in Latin America and the Caribbean in particular," he said.

"We agree that it is also important for agricultural development to take into account sectoral, inter-sectoral and macroeconomic policies, because these together determine the future of the agricultural sector," he added.

The World Bank representative mentioned that another area of agreement includes initiating actions to reverse "a historic tendency to favor urban zones in policies governing investments, prices, and exchange rates, which results in a bias against agricultural development."

FIGHT AGAINST POVERTY

The fourth point of agreement, Braverman pointed out, "is the renewed commitment that both institutions have to fight poverty."

"We place high priority on food security. On our agenda, in our analysis, we emphasize alleviation of poverty and food security, two key aspects for the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development at the World Bank," the official said in Ottawa.

ECONOMIC REFORMS

Braverman also noted the need for countries to reform their economic policies in order to take better advantage of the resources offered by the World Bank.

"The Bank has lent many millions of dollars to Latin America and the Caribbean in recent years, but it must remain clear that development is not only a question of injecting money," Braverman said. "This tactic only constitutes a true solution when, in addition to receiving money, countries implement viable development projects and economic reforms."

Braverman affirmed that the World Bank places special emphasis on actions taken by receiver countries to improve their capacity for analysis and research with respect to economic policies.



Mr. Avishay Braverman, of the World Bank.

IICA AND THE INSTITUTE FOR IBEROAMERICAN COOPERATION BEGIN TRAINING ACTIVITIES

An international course on the preparation and evaluation of agricultural projects on the farm level was conducted in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, as a result of a joint effort between the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and the Institute for Ibero American Cooperation (ICI).

This was the first course held jointly by the two organizations. The goal was to improve the professional and technical work of the agricultural public sector in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The course was held in the Center of International Formation, an ICI organization, and attended by 10 Bolivian professionals and 20 from Argentina, Chile, Brazil, Uruguay, Paraguay, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia and Venezuela.

PARTICIPANTS

Taking the course were agronomists, veterinarians, economists, and sociologists linked with development banks, research institutes, producers' associations, development corporations, agriculture ministries and national planning offices.

Various themes were covered, including the productive structure of the farm, balanced and partial budgets, planning criteria, development schemes, finances and profitability, and market studies. IICA's participation was channeled through the Investment Projects Center (CEPI), whose specialists Roberto Casás and Jorge Caro were in charge of the course.

According to Casás, this initial joint experience between IICA and ICI was a complete success, and he predicted similar results in future projects.

THEMES

The course allowed participants to refresh their knowledge about agricultural planning units, finan-

cial evaluation and investments, while at the same time improving their capacity to advise producers about the use of new technologies for the production and financing of new investments.

FUTURE COURSES

Casás added that next year's courses for the training program have already been established. Two will be conducted in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, and will cover preparation and evaluation of projects at the regional and national levels, as well as administration and management of projects.

The third course will cover preparation and evaluation of projects on the farm level. Participants will include various Central American professionals, and the course will be held at IICA headquarters in Costa Rica.

Those interested in obtaining more information on these new training options should consult either organization. Both have offices in countries throughout Latin America.



Mr. Roberto Casás, IICA specialist.

IICA AND THE UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH EXAMINE THE POSSIBILITY OF JOINT COOPERATION

The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and the University of Guelph, in the Canadian province of Ontario, are studying the possibility of carrying out joint cooperation projects to benefit the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Both entities mentioned the possibility of a project on animal health and production that would be initiated in the Caribbean, said Ernani Fiori, Representative of IICA in Canada.

Accompanied by Dr. Pedro Acha, Coordinator for Institutional Affairs, Fiori met with University of Guelph authorities at the beginning of the month to examine the project. University officials at the meeting included Dr. Bert Matthews, President, Dr. O. Nielsen, Dean of the School of Veterinary Medicine, and Dr. Betsy McGregor, Coordinator of International Programs.

VETERINARY PROJECT

A veterinary medicine project, which would be financed by the Canadian Agency for International Development (CIDA), is designed to offer Caribbean veterinarians the opportunity to study and conduct research projects at the University of Guelph.

The project would also give Canadian veterinarians the chance to visit the Caribbean, in order to gain first-hand knowledge of the problems and needs of the countries in this field, explained Dr. Harry Mussman, Director of IICA's Animal Health and Plant Protection program.

Dr. Mussman added that the university is considering creating a tropical center for veterinary medicine "that would be of great usefulness not only for the Caribbean, but also for all the nations of Central America."

As part of an agreement between the Ministry of Agriculture and Food in the province of Ontario,

the University of Guelph, founded more than 100 years ago, maintains a research program with a budget equivalent to U.S. \$15 million.

"Thus, this institute is responsible for the majority of agricultural and veterinary research programs in the province of Ontario, for which it has six research centers and some 4 000 hectares of land at its disposal," Fiori said.

From November 23 to December 4, a mission comprised of representatives from the University of Guelph and IICA will visit Guyana, where they will discuss the general framework of the project with local officials, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

"After meetings with more than 50 people, individually or in groups, we can attest to the special interest the university has, not only in carrying out this project, but also in exploring the possibility of initiating joint projects in other areas with IICA," Fiori added. The IICA official was optimistic that, with the participation of authorities and experts at the Institute, new cooperation proposals could be presented to the University of Guelph for the benefit of the member countries of the Institute in the hemisphere.



From left to right, Mr. Bert Matthews, President of the University of Guelph and Mr. Ernani Fiori, IICA Representative in Canada.

ISRAEL AND IICA PREPARE NEW MEANS OF COOPERATION

The government of Israel and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) renewed their working relationship in order to contribute to agricultural development and rural well-being in Latin America and the Caribbean. The two entities announced their plans at a meeting held at IICA headquarters on October 14.

The Israeli mission was comprised of Efrim Dubek, Director of the Department of International Cooperation in the Ministry of External Affairs; Simon Moratt, Israeli Ambassador to Costa Rica; and Aryeh Zur, First Secretary of the Embassy.

Representing IICA were Director General Martín Piñeiro, Deputy Director General L. Harlan Davis, and Director of External Relations Jorge Werthein.

During the meeting, Israel emphasized the interest it has in renewing its cooperation with IICA and putting into effect the terms of the treaty signed by both entities in 1977.

Israeli representatives noted that Israel, as an observer nation of IICA and a country with vast agricultural experience, could share a great deal with IICA Member States.

The Israeli delegation also mentioned some of their country's accomplishments in the field of international development cooperation, including training and education through courses and seminars, and technology transfer under the guidance of experts.

The courses offered by the Israeli government cover a wide range of themes and are taught in Spanish, English, and French. They vary in length from two weeks to a year.

In 1988, the Israelis will offer 22 courses in English, 6 in Spanish and 6 in French. Themes include agricultural administration, disease control in domestic animals, systems of pressurized irrigation, the role of research and extension work in agricultural development, dairy cattle, and administration of agricultural training institutes.

Courses are taught in Latin America by Israeli professors or in Israel. Some courses integrate both alternatives.

According to Israeli authorities, these training courses are especially valuable in practical terms. Teachers stress application of theoretical material in the various countries that participate in the training. Courses are planned to teach instructors, extension workers and technicians, as well as academic and highly trained professional personnel.

Financing for the courses is arranged through full and partial scholarships, and paid for by the government of Israel or international organizations. IICA authorities expressed optimism regarding these new opportunities for cooperation with the government of Israel, and promised to prepare a new, specific agreement in the near future.



From left to right, Efrim Dubek, Simon Moratt and Aryeh Zur.

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The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, IICA, is headquartered in San Jose, Costa Rica. It is the specialized agency for agriculture of the Inter-American System. It was founded by the governments of the hemisphere in 1942 to encourage, promote and support the efforts made by its Member States for agricultural development and rural well-being. It has 29 member countries and 12 observer countries.