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# IICA



# NEWS



## TRIFINIO: A PROJECT FOR PEACE AND INTEGRATION

"Trifinio," an integrated development project on the border shared by Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador, reflects Central America's hope and longing for peace and mutual cooperation.

This was the unanimous conclusion of the first meeting of the Coordinating Commission for the Trifinio Plan, which was held November 20-21, 1987.

Participating in this Commission were Roberto Carpio Nicolle, Vice-President of Guatemala; Dr. Rodolfo Castillo Claramount, Vice-President of El Salvador; Dr. Alfredo Fortín Ynestrosa, Honduran presidential designate; Dr. João Clemente Baena Soares, Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS); and Dr. Martín E. Piñeiro, Director of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA). Attending as a



*During the portion of the meeting that took place in Esquipulas, Guatemala, from left to right: the Mayor of that city, Prof. Roberto Sagostame; the International Director of the Trifinio Project, Luis Carrera de la Torre; the Secretary General of the OAS, Dr. João C. Baena Soares; the Vice-President of El Salvador, Dr. Rodolfo Castillo; the Vice-President of Guatemala, Dr. Roberto Carpio; the Presidential Designate of Honduras, Dr. Alfredo Fortín; the Director General of IICA, Dr. Martín E. Piñeiro; and the Representative of the European Economic Community, Dr. Antonio Cerini.*

## TRIFINIO: A PROJECT FOR PEACE AND INTEGRATION

special guest was Dr. Antonio Cerini, representative of the European Economic Community.

To symbolize the desire for integration and cooperation among the three countries, the meeting was held in the Salvadoran city of Metapán, in Esquipulas, Guatemala, and in Nueva Ocotepeque, Honduras, with the support of the aforementioned international organizations.

The following members of the Technical Committee of the Trifinio Plan also participated: César Linares of Guatemala, Carlos Aguirre of Honduras, and Adonis Moreira of El Salvador.

Also present were the International Director of the project, Luis Carrera de la Torre of the OAS; the Agricultural Coordinator of IICA, Víctor Tunarosa; the ex-officio Coordinator, Leopoldo Sandoval of Guatemala; and the Director of IICA's Central Area, Rodolfo Martínez Ferraté.

During the inaugural session held in Metapán, OAS Secretary General Dr. Baena Soares praised the profound impact of the Plan, its promising results, and its role as a symbol of unity between the three Central American countries.

He also mentioned the geopolitical implications of the Plan, citing it as an example of what can be

done within the peace-seeking, development-oriented framework of Esquipulas II.

Broad and dedicated cooperation from the international community is needed for this integrated effort, he affirmed.

Afterward, the vice-presidents of Guatemala and El Salvador and the Honduran presidential designate all affirmed that the Trifinio Plan constitutes a true historical milestone for the region and represents a longing for peace, progress and Central American unity.

### INTERNATIONAL RESERVE

One of the first agreements of the meeting was the signing of the declaration of the International Reserve "La Fraternidad" Biosphere, which includes the Montecristo range and the cloud forest on the three countries' common border.

The declaration signed by the government authorities is consistent with the efforts of UNESCO and the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources. It stipulates that only activities that contribute to science or to the conservation, improvement and use of natural resources will be permitted in the zone.



*The Vice-President of Guatemala, Roberto Carpio, the Vice-President of El Salvador, Dr. Rodolfo Castillo, and the Presidential Designate of Honduras, Dr. Alfredo Fortín, sign the declaration for the International Reserve of the "La Fraternidad" Biosphere. Various priority development projects of the Trifinio Plan will affect this reserve.*

The ecosystem of the zone is of world interest, according to experts. There is a rich abundance of plant and animal life, and an unlimited variety of touristic attractions. Actions that make use of these endowments constitute one of the most important sources of economic growth in the Trifinio Plan.

### IN ESQUIPULAS

During the second working session, held in Esquipulas, Guatemala, members of the Coordinating Commission reviewed the report presented by the International Director of the project, Luis Carrera de la Torre, on the progress made in eight months of work on the Trifinio Plan.

The report described the broad political and technical support for the Plan from more than 70 institutions in the three countries. Support was provided in preparing national diagnoses, and in identifying 28 priority projects and actions for rural beneficiaries. (See separate information on the characteristics of the Trifinio).

Another initiative toward integration dealt with at Esquipulas is public health. The three vice-ministers of health from the Trifinio countries signed a technical cooperation agreement on the matter.

During the third session, the Commission agreed to take steps to obtain funding from the international community. Efforts will be directed toward non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the private sector. Concurrently, IICA and the OAS will continue to facilitate institutional contacts to this end.

Besides extending special recognition to these organizations for their decided support over the last eight months, the Commission agreed to name a Technical Secretary for the project and to name Leopoldo Sandoval of Guatemala to the post.

As one of his first tasks, Sandoval will channel and renew all contacts needed to promote the Plan and obtain funding for the 28 projects, which deal with economic growth, infrastructure and social development.

### IN NUEVA OCOTEPEQUE

The fourth working session was held in this Honduran city and focused on the closing ceremony. The presidential designate of Honduras, Dr. Alfredo Fortín, and the General Director of IICA, Dr. Martín E. Piñeiro (see separate account), discussed the importance of the encounter and the optimism with which these initiatives should be viewed.

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### IICA's Director General:

### TRIFINIO SUCCEEDS AS COOPERATIVE EFFORT

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"Trifinio is an example of cooperative work, of collaboration between organizations and officials in three countries, and of what can be accomplished in spite of difficulties when a common will exists," said Dr. Martín E. Piñeiro, Director General of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA).

Speaking during the closing session of the first meeting of the Coordinating Committee for the Trifinio Plan, Dr. Piñeiro added that it had been invaluable "to become familiar with the true context within which the activities of the Plan are being developed."

"It is really marvelous to see up close the enthusiasm, the responsibility and the will to strive of those who have participated in this effort," he said.

The Trifinio Plan "is a concrete demonstration of the high spirit in favor of integration among the Central American countries," as well as an example of "effective integration between two international organizations, for cooperation with the countries that we serve," he said.

Referring directly to the OAS and to IICA, Dr. Piñeiro said that this group effort with a common goal and a clear understanding of the division of labor "makes our work more effective and results in a more rational use of resources."

The results achieved so far are surprising and encouraging, he affirmed. "That which began merely as a daring and visionary initiative has become a tangible and promising reality, thanks to the persistence and conviction of the vice-presidents, and to the impressive contribution of participating technical experts," he explained.

Regarding the Plan's goals for the next few months, Dr. Piñeiro said, "It will be necessary to formulate the priority projects and begin joint actions" with the "redoubled commitment of political will needed to overcome difficulties and mishaps, which will surely arise during this process."

4 "Also required will be an enormous technical commitment, and, to that end, IICA pledges its modest collaboration," he added.

The Trifinio Plan, as a source of recovery in areas weakened by grave social problems, represents a "beginning of the actions we must frame within a strategy of economic development and modernization," he said.

"It will thus contribute to regional economic recovery, and give life to the principle that there can be no peace without development," he added.

Finally, he noted, "I am sure I speak for everyone when I commend the work of the national and international technical experts who contribute to this project."

"May their efforts continue, so that the Trifinio Plan can become a reality and the first step in the construction of a Great Central American Nation," he concluded.

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## THIS IS THE TRIFINIO PLAN

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Trifinio is an integrated regional development plan, created by an agreement between the governments of Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras on November 12, 1986. The plan receives technical support from the Organization of American States (OAS) and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA).

The border zone, which separates the three countries and provides the name for the project, covers an extension of some 7,584 square kilometers (44.7 percent in Guatemala, 15.3 percent in El Salvador, and 40 percent in Honduras).

The region is composed of 45 municipalities: 15 in Guatemala (Chiquimila Department and part of Jutiapa), 8 in El Salvador (part of the departments of Santa Ana and Chalatenango), and 22 in Honduras (Department of Ocotepeque and part of Copan).

It is a mountainous region, with small valleys and agreeable temperatures that vary between 15 and 25 degrees centigrade during the year. It is semi-arid in part.

Because of the predominance of the forestry industry (which is active in 80 percent of the territory), only 18.4 percent of the forests remain. Land used for agriculture covers 8 percent of the region, and there are important hydraulic resources in the Lempa and Motagua river basins. There are also ecosystems of special interest to the world for their plant and animal life, such as the International Reserve of the "La Fraternidad" Biosphere. Noteworthy mineral resources include gold, silver, copper, lead, zinc, iron, jade, graphite and marble, among others.

There are also international tourist attractions, such as the Mayan ruins at Copan, the Montecristo range and the religious center at Esquipulas.

In demographic terms, there are 572 000 inhabitants (57.1 percent in Guatemala, 19.3 percent in El Salvador, and 23.6 percent in Honduras); the average density is 75.3 people per square kilometer.

Other important indicators are: 54 percent of the population is illiterate, 60 percent lives in extreme poverty, and more than half of the economically active population is unemployed.

The majority of the inhabitants are descendents of colonial settlers and maintain Spanish cultural traditions. More than 70 percent make their living in agriculture.

Morbidity and mortality are due primarily to poor environmental conditions and poverty. There is an wide incidence of diseases such as intestinal infections and parasites, malnutrition and anemia.

The Plan's 28 projects deal with three basic components: economic growth, infrastructure improvement and social development.

As concerns economic development, 13 projects are linked to the "La Fraternidad" Reserve: watershed basins, semi-arid zone agriculture, support for peasant development, promotion of livestock for meat and milk, irrigation, marketing of handicrafts, agroindustry, free trade zones, tourism and recreation, and exploitation of ores, among others.

The eight infrastructure-related projects involve connecting road networks, local roads, regional radio broadcasts, energy use and rural electrification.

In the area of social development, there are seven programs: they address preventive health care, water treatment, environmental education, regional training centers, housing, and others.

## Plant Protection Meeting

# MEDITERRANEAN FRUIT FLY DECLARED EMERGENCY IN HEMISPHERE

A hemisphere-wide emergency caused by Mediterranean fruit flies (Medflies), which are having a serious impact on the economies of the countries, was declared at the Fifth Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee of Plant Protection Directors.

Committee representatives from 31 countries in Latin America, the Caribbean and North America attended, as did observers from 15 international organizations. The meeting, organized by the Animal Health and Plant Protection Program of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), and the Dominican Secretary of State for Agriculture, was held November 9-14, 1987, in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

The declaration was also based on the appearance of a new species (*Dacus sp.*) in Suriname. Specialists are said to be alarmed about the risks the new flies pose to plant protection and controls in the region.

The delegates also proposed that the member organizations of the Inter-American Coordinating Group for Plant Protection make an immediate ef-

fort to identify the new fruitfly species: its distribution and hosts, the kind of damage it causes, economic importance as a quarantine risk, and the most effective means to control it.

The Coordinating Group was also entrusted with presenting a plan of action to step up the campaign against the Medfly at its next meeting, which will be attended by FAO and IICA officials.

Dangers posed by the Medfly are numerous and complex. According to Mexican specialist Dr. Jorge Gutiérrez Samperio, there are an estimated 5 000 species of the *Tephritidae* family that can be considered fruit flies. Of these, 150 are found in Mexico and 400 are found in the hemisphere as a whole.

Only 20 species are harmful. These, however, are capable of affecting an estimated 30 percent of fruit production in Latin America (or 35 million tons annually).

Although official data are not available, experts agree that economic losses run in the billions-of-

At the inauguration of the Fifth Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee of Plant Protection Directors, from left to right: Dr. Harry Mussman, Director of the Animal Health and Plant Protection Program at IICA; Mr. Juan Francisco Grullón, Undersecretary of Agriculture of the Dominican Republic; Dr. L. Harlan Davis, Deputy Director General of IICA; Dr. Manuel de Jesús Amézquita, Secretary of Agriculture of the Dominican Republic; and Dr. Gilberto Páez, IICA Representative in the Dominican Republic.



dollars range. The high costs of chemical treatment, training and research must be added.

### WIDESPREAD PROBLEM

Fruit flies, and specifically the Mediterranean fruit fly, are found in Latin America and the Caribbean, primarily in tropical regions (with the exception of a few countries such as the Dominican Republic).

Only Chile has managed, after enormous efforts, to eradicate the fruit fly almost completely. The only area where it still presents a problem is along the border with Peru.

Likewise, the only place in the United States where the insects occasionally cause problems is Florida.

According to Dr. Gutiérrez Samperio, the economic effects of this pest can be seen from two angles. The insects deposit their larvae in the fruit, spoiling it. This makes it necessary to spend constantly on control inputs, which in turn increases production costs significantly.

Indirect effects include quarantine expenses and overall impediments to fruit production.

The emergency declaration agreed upon in Santo Domingo is not the first effort to combat these pests. Numerous eradication and control efforts have been made over the years, and most countries have attempted to surmount the problem. Some have established international quarantines on exotic flies and local ones on domestic varieties.

In Central America and Chile, eradication projects have been carried out since the 1970s. Currently, one is underway in the Tacna region of Peru, and another in the border zone between Mexico and Guatemala.

### TRAINING CENTER

The participants at the meeting also studied a proposal to create an International Training and Research Center to fight this pest. Its objectives would include contributing to diminishing or eliminating the losses it causes in Latin America and the Caribbean, and helping to solve all related problems.

The proposals for the Center will be considered by the Inter-American Coordinating Group for Plant Protection at its next meeting. In addition, it is expected that, at this meeting, a final decision will be made on the hemispheric plan of action to follow up on the emergency declaration.

### REGIONAL PROJECTS

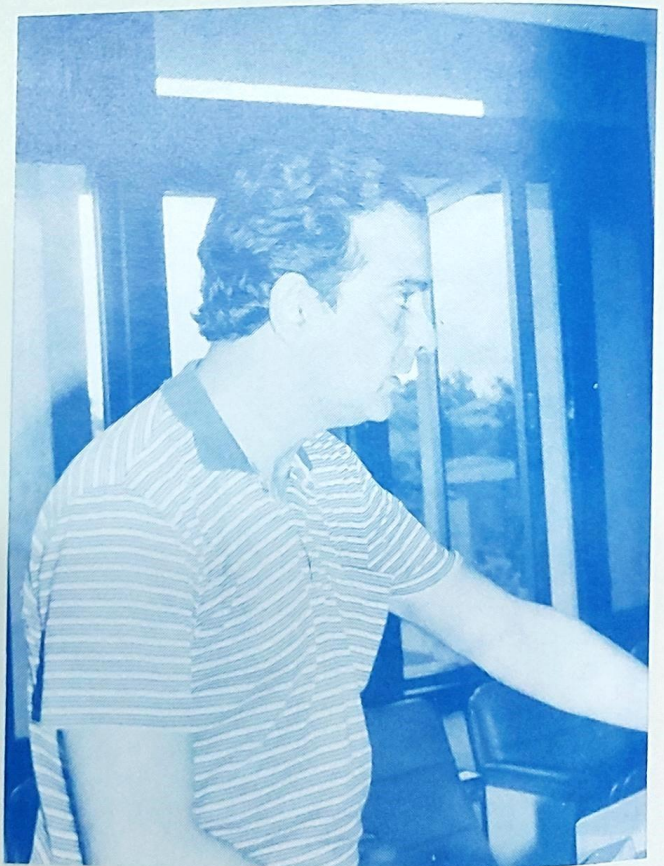
The workshop on the theory of plant protection, held during the meeting of Plant Protection Directors, resulted in the design of various projects for each of IICA's areas of action.

They are based on two plant quarantine strategies adopted recently by the North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO), regarding inspection procedures, early detection of new pests, and responses to emergency situations.

In the Central Area, specialists gave priority to creating a permanent quarantine training program and establishing a regional system for plant protection information.

Andean Area projects involve strengthening the plant quarantine system and diagnosis, detecting and managing fruit flies.

Caribbean Area projects deal with improving quarantine inspection procedures and regional fruit trade.



*Mr. Gustavo Muslera, Director of Plant Protection in Argentina, was elected first Chair of the Inter-American Coordination Group of Plant Protection during the meeting in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.*

Specialists from the Southern Area outlined the need to adopt a standardized regional system of inspection and quarantine regulations, and a system of detection and emergency measures for high-risk-entry exotic pests.

## INTER-AMERICAN GROUP

Members of the Inter-American Coordinating Group for Plant Protection also met in Santo Domingo, November 8, to discuss and approve rules of procedure. This group includes all regional plant protection organizations and programs in the Americas and the Caribbean. Its main goal is to strengthen and develop the inter-American system for agricultural and plant protection, through the coordination and exchange of information and experiences on shared plant protection issues.

The approved rules of procedure define three membership categories: permanent, associate and observers.

The following organizations belong to the first group: Plant Protection Committee for the Southern Cone (COSAVE); Caribbean Plant Protection Commission (CPPC); the Board of the Cartagena Agreement (JUNAC); the Andean Animal Health and Plant Protection System; the North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO); and the International Regional Organization of Agricultural Health (OIRSA).

The second category includes CATIE, CIAT, CIMMYT, CIP, GTZ, PNUMA and GIFAP, among others. This group will have an Executive Committee, a Chairperson, a Technical Secretariat, a Plenary, and working groups.

The Chairperson will have a two-year term, to be filled in turn by a representative from the permanent group, following the order mentioned above.

Mr. Gustavo Muslera, Director of Plant Protection in the Argentine Secretariat of Agriculture, was designated as the first Chairperson; he represents COSAVE.

## OPTIMISTIC

Commenting on the results of the meeting in Santo Domingo, Dr. Federico Dao, Deputy Director of Plant Protection at IICA, said he was optimistic about this new opportunity to exchange points of view and solutions for shared plant protection problems.

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"There is no doubt that the systems and mechanisms available for plant protection in all our countries have been strengthened by our analysis of these matters," he concluded.

The Sixth Meeting of Directors of Plant Protection will be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in 1989.



*Dr. Harry Mussman, Director of the Animal Health and Plant Protection Program at IICA, explained the goals and scope of the Program, as defined in the Institute's Medium Term Plan, to the Directors of Plant Protection of Latin America and the Caribbean.*

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## IICA CONTRIBUTES TO PLANT PROTECTION TRAINING IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

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A total of 3 100 functionaries and technical experts from Latin America and the Caribbean received training in various aspects of plant protection from the Inter-American Institute for Co-operation on Agriculture (IICA) between January 1986 and October 1987.

This announcement was made in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, during the Fifth Meeting of the Technical Consulting Committee of Directors of Plant Protection, held by IICA and the Secretariat of State for Agriculture of that country, between November 9 and 14, 1987.

The training data are found in the progress report on the activities of IICA's Animal Health and Plant Protection Program during the period mentioned above. These activities are part of the technical support offered to national institutions, in an effort to improve their capacity to reduce economic loss caused by diseases and pests affecting the production and marketing of agricultural products.

According to Dr. Federico Dao, Deputy Director of Plant Protection at IICA, the training involved courses and seminars, workshops, exchange meetings and in-service training, according to the needs of the member countries.

IICA's services in this field are channeled through the Regional Technical Committees and through specialists that IICA has designated for each of its four geographic areas (Central, Caribbean, Andean and Southern). In the Central Area, for example, which includes the Dominican Republic, training consisted of the diagnosis, identification, management and prevention of plant protection problems in tropical crops. A total of 700 people benefited from this training.

In this area, IICA has also carried out studies and research on the institutional organization of national plant protection programs, plant protection legislation and the use of pesticides.

In the Caribbean Area, where more than a thousand people received training, the activities covered safe use of pesticides and diagnosis and control of plant pests and diseases in food crops, as well as specific courses on the detection and control of coconut and oil palm heart rot.

IICA's Animal Health and Plant Protection Program has finalized its plans for the formation of a Plant Protection Committee in the Southern Cone countries: Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Uruguay. This will take place in December in Montevideo, when the Ministers of Agriculture of these countries meet.

Steps have also been taken to establish an International Training Center on the Integrated Management of Plant Protection Problems, to be headquartered in Tucuman, Argentina, based on the experience of the "Centro de Investigaciones para la Regulación de Poblaciones de Organismos Nocivos" (CIRPON).

Problems that received the most attention concerned the cotton boll weevil, citric cancers, fowl pests, fruit flies, Mediterranean fruit flies, and the pine moth.

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## SOUTHERN CONE COUNTRIES CREATE PLANT PROTECTION COMMITTEE

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Ministers of agriculture from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay plan to meet during the first quarter of 1988 in Montevideo to coordinate the creation of the committee for Plant Protection in the Southern Area (COSAVE), and to consider a cooperative agreement between these countries and IICA.

This plan was announced on November 17 in Santo Domingo by Dr. Harry Mussman, Director of the Animal Health and Plant Protection Program at the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA). Dr. Mussman's announcement came at the end of the Fifth Meeting of Directors of Plant Protection in Latin America and the Caribbean.

COSAVE will be a regional advisory and coordinating organization for plant protection matters. Its primary goal will be to increase the region's capacity to confront common plant protection problems that affect agricultural crops and products in the Southern Cone countries.

The agreement provides for increased promotion, coordination and capability to prevent, diminish and avoid pests and diseases such as: fruit flies, citrus canker, cotton boll weevil, and predator birds. Also, problems of evaluating harvest losses, impacts and risks of agricultural pesticides, pest management, plant quarantine, plant protection information and legislation will be studied. The scope of these plans makes it necessary to obtain international financial and technical cooperation.

According to COSAVE regulations, IICA will be represented by the Regional Coordinator for Plant Protection in the Southern Cone Area, and designated as the Executive Secretariat. It will coordinate and elaborate plans, prepare and publish documents, disburse available resources, and offer technical advice to member countries.

COSAVE will also consist of three advisory organs: the Council of Ministers, Steering Committee, and Deputy Secretaries. Respectively, these groups will establish policy, consider and approve COSAVE strategies and priorities, and analyze and diagnose plant protection problems in the region.

COSAVE has received the support of all the presidents of Southern Cone countries, but has yet to be formally ratified.



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## EUROPE BACKS PLAN FOR REACTIVATING AGRICULTURE

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During a recent official visit to various European countries, Dr. Martín E. Piñeiro, Director General of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), and Dr. Jorge Werthein, Director of External Relations for the Institute, found ample support for the newly announced plan to reactivate agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Their travels took them to Spain and France between October 22 and November 4, 1987. After this, Dr. Werthein spent eight more days in Austria, West Germany and Italy.

In Spain, both officials met with authorities from the Ministry of Agriculture and the Institute for Ibero-American Cooperation (ICI) to analyze the cooperation agreements now in effect, and suggest new options to support the development of agricultural projects in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Plans were discussed with ICI representatives to teach Spanish to public officials from English-speaking Caribbean islands who work in agriculture and related fields. At first, ICI teachers will hold classes in the Caribbean, and later the students from these countries will travel with scholarships to IICA headquarters in Costa Rica, where they will receive intensive language instruction, in addition to specialized courses in agriculture.

With IICA officials, Spanish authorities analyzed their participation in IICA's Fund of Observer Countries and discussed the upcoming Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), IICA's governing body. The meeting is slated to be held in Seville in 1991.

Dr. Piñeiro also participated as a special guest in the World Food Production Conference, in Madrid, where, on October 27, he delineated the outlook for Latin American and Caribbean agriculture.

### IN FRANCE

IICA officials toured various scientific research centers in the city of Montpellier, and held special interviews with agricultural officials in public-sector institutions. These included the National Insti-

tute of Agricultural Research (INPA) and the Office of Overseas Scientific and Technical Research (ORSTOM), among others.

During an interview with the news agency Inter-Press Service (IPS) in Paris, Dr. Piñeiro said that when the Mandate of Ottawa was approved by the Ministers of Agriculture of Latin America and the Caribbean, "we came to Spain and France in order to stimulate even more interest for IICA's work among European observer members, and to ask for a greater commitment of financial and technological assistance."

Dr. Piñeiro added that Europe should participate more actively in IICA's technical cooperation programs, "with a more intense and better articulated approach that broadens Latin America's learning opportunities in important fields such as biotechnology."

"Our proposals have been welcomed warmly, especially our request for collaboration with the comprehensive plan to reactivate agriculture. This plan, entrusted to IICA by its member countries during the Ninth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA), permits a more complete and efficient use of French experience in particular and European experience in general," Dr. Piñeiro said.

### IN AUSTRIA

Dr. Jorge Werthein's (IICA's Director of External Relations) primary aim in visiting this country was to meet with representatives from the Development Assistance Fund (DAF) of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

Dr. Werthein and Fund officials discussed various approaches for complementary action to promote agricultural development projects in Latin America. These approaches coincide with the priorities and working plans of the Fund, which aims to extend its influence beyond the African continent.

Because the Fund has a limited technical and administrative capacity, its leaders view the IICA infra-

10 structure as an excellent way of channeling their funds and making them available to IICA's 31 member countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. Also, IICA's proven capabilities and experience are a further advantage.

"The idea is that countries of the region propose projects to IICA, which in turn can assist in formulating them," Dr. Werthein said. "Then the projects can be presented to the DAF for funding. Evaluation and follow-up can also be made through the Institute."

Dr. Werthein added that Austrian government officials were interested in supporting the creation of a Fund of Observer Countries, to enable them to intensify their assistance to development projects abroad, primarily in Central America.

## IN GERMANY AND ITALY

Dr. Werthein also had very positive results when he met with West Germany officials of the Ministry of Economic Cooperation, the German Foundation for International Development and the Konrad Adenauer and Friedrich Ebert Foundations, and other cooperation entities. He was guaranteed a broad commitment of assistance from all these groups for the plan of agricultural reactivation that IICA is preparing.

In Bonn, the German Society for Technical Cooperation (GTZ) disclosed plans for an official visit to IICA headquarters in January, 1988. During their stay in Costa Rica, GTZ officials will work to coordinate needed support for IICA initiatives.

Dr. Werthein held similar meetings in Italy, and he represented IICA at the General Assembly of the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), in Rome.

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### *In Washington, D.C.:*

## OAS ASSEMBLY ENDORSES IICA PLAN FOR REACTIVATING AGRICULTURE

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The Organization of American States (OAS), during its XVII General Assembly, held in Washington, November 9-13, 1987, approved a resolution to support a request made by the ministers of agriculture of the hemisphere.

The Ministers from the 31 member countries of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) met in Canada in early September and requested that IICA prepare a strategic plan of joint action for revitalizing agriculture in the region.

Appearing before the General Assembly of the OAS, IICA Director General Dr. Martín E. Piñeiro explained the principle results of the Ninth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA), held in Ottawa.

The "Declaration of Ottawa" expresses the unanimous consensus that revitalization and modernization in the agriculture sector is a key element in the new strategy to stimulate economic growth and development in the region, he said.

The Declaration also points out the "close ties between economic and social development and

peace and democracy," and supports "efforts that favor peace throughout the hemisphere, including the recent achievements in Central America," he added.

Dr. Piñeiro noted the plan for revitalizing agriculture that the Ninth ICMA recommendation had entrusted to IICA, and stressed its importance in the process of regional integration.

In defining this plan, "the Ninth ICMA not only created a mechanism to follow up and put into practice the political mandate that was agreed upon; it also implemented a process whereby actions that consolidate the renewed tendency toward integration can be initiated," the Director General said. "This allows for the revitalization of agriculture and of the economy as a whole."

He explained that the plan will be prepared in collaboration with the Member States, the rest of the organizations of the inter-American system, and other specialized groups. It will assign priority to the various proposals for joint action from the countries, which in turn will make international cooperation stronger and more efficient, he said.

*Central America:*

# MEASURES ANALYZED FOR AGRICULTURAL RECOVERY AND GROWTH

Searching for means to impel agricultural recovery and growth in Central America, a joint meeting of Minister of Agriculture and ministers for economic integration and regional development from the area met November 23-24 in Guatemala City.

Participants also included officials and specialists from the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (BCIE), and the Permanent Secretariat for the General Treaty of Central American Economic Integration (SIECA), as well as other regional and international groups.

### CORECA Projects

At the meeting, participants examined several projects that were presented by ECLAC. They aim to stimulate agricultural recovery and marketing through irrigation and drainage projects, agroindustry and marketing. They would involve the creation of an agricultural products and inputs exchange, and a marketing firm for fruits and vegetables.

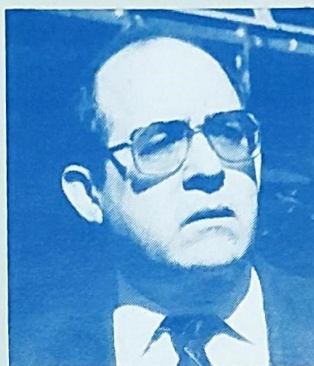
Four resolutions dealing with the severe drought of 1987, the Esquipulas I and II agreements, and the Special Protocol on Grains (Limon Protocol) were approved at the meeting.

The Ministers requested that the Regional Council for Agricultural Cooperation (CORECA) prepare a report on the economic effects of the drought, and an emergency plan to confront it.

CORECA and SIECA were also asked to estimate the availability of basic grains; determine the degree of shortages; propose a means for price-setting institutions to communicate easily; design a mechanism to facilitate and promote joint purchases of foods and agricultural inputs, based on real demand in each country, and suggest formulas to obtain external funds to tackle the emergency.

### RESULTS

Dr. Reynaldo Pérez, Coordinating Secretary of CORECA, confirmed that support from other in-



*Dr. Reynaldo Pérez,  
Secretary of CORECA.*

ternational organizations for regional development was enlisted during this meeting. He also recognized the contributions of various policy support groups, and the programs and projects of the agricultural sector. As an example, he cited CORECA, which is made up of the Ministers of Agriculture of Central America, Panama, Mexico and the Dominican Republic.

IICA representatives at the meeting were Cassio Luiselli, Assistant Deputy Director General for Operations, and Félix Cirio, Advisor to the Director General. They presented reports on the agreements adopted by the Ministers of Agriculture during the Conference at Ottawa, and the commitment of the Institute to contribute to development in the region.

In Guatemala, the Ministers recommended that the vice-ministers of agriculture, and the vice-ministers for Central American economic integration and rural development plan a meeting for the third week in January of 1988 in San Jose, Costa Rica. The proposed meeting will focus on the results of studies done by CORECA's Technical Committee in the 13 areas designated as priorities during this meeting.

The ministers expressed satisfaction with the results of the meeting, which they viewed as a means for strengthening the spirit of peace demonstrated at Esquipulas. They also mentioned that they would like to see the 13 project profiles presented at the upcoming meeting between Central American government representatives and members of the European Economic Community, scheduled to take place in West Germany in February.

## EXPERTS ANALYZE STRUCTURAL ADJUSTMENT LOANS IN COSTA RICA

World Bank Structural Adjustment Loans must be modified so they can serve as more useful agents of development, concluded a panel of experts in the closing session of a seminar organized by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA).

"SALs (Structural Adjustment Loans) should have social and political components so that, rather than being necessary evils, they become effective instruments for promoting development in Latin America," stated Ricardo Lombardo, Undersecretary of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries in Uruguay.

### PARTICIPANTS

Experts from 12 Latin American countries participated on their own behalf in the seminar titled, "Sectoral and Structural Adjustment Programs: Implications for Agricultural Reactivation and Development." Organized by IICA and the Economic Development Institute (EDI) of the World Bank, it was held from November 30 to December 2 in San Jose.

Participants warned that the World Bank should consider the effect of the SAL programs, especially on the poorest sectors of the population, as well as their overall social and political costs.

On this note, Nicholas Wallis, Chief of EDI's Agriculture and Rural Development Division, said that emergency programs should be prepared to attend to the needs of the most vulnerable sectors.

"However, these programs must be implemented before the SAL program is applied and not after, as is generally the case at this time," he added.

Nevertheless, Robert Junguito, ex-Minister of Agriculture and Finance of Colombia, noted, "Under current conditions, the social and political costs of these adjustment programs are less than what would have to be paid if they are not applied."

### CONCLUSIONS

Seminar participants concluded that it is important to put SAL programs into practice "by incorporating them into a clear-cut strategy of national development" that specifies all the changes that are needed to modernize the economies of the Latin American countries.

Another conclusion was that the SAL programs should be more flexible, so they may be adjusted to constant changes on the international scene.

"One of the characteristics of the SAL programs that makes them very attractive is the agility and speed—in theory—with which they are disbursed," commented Ruy de Villalobos, Undersecretary of Agrarian Economy in Argentina.

"However, in the implementation process arranged with the World Bank, changes usually come up, most often in international economic conditions, and the program must be readjusted", de Villalobos said. "Currently it implies considerable delays, particularly in the disbursement of the second financing interval."

"This affects the most attractive elements of the SAL programs, agility and speed," he added.

Referring to international economic conditions, seminar participants concluded that the most significant characteristic will continue to be instability.

"There is enormous uncertainty about how financial markets will develop," said Carlos Pomareda, Director of the Agricultural Policy Analysis and Planning Program at IICA. "This will be determined in large part by the monetary and fiscal policies of the principal developed countries."

On this note, Edward Schuh, Director of Agriculture and Rural Development at the World Bank, discussed fluctuations of the U.S. dollar. "The United States is now the largest debtor country in the world, which means it must gear its economy

even more toward exporting," the expert said. "If we consider that its current trade deficit is US\$ 160 billion, and that it must change this situation and generate a surplus of between US\$ 20 and US\$ 39 billion annually, we can get an idea of how much the dollar will have to fall and, then, the magnitude of the 'shock' that will hit economies like those of Latin America, which are so tightly linked to this currency."

Another cause of uncertainty on the international scene is the protectionist policies and heavy subsidies applied by developed countries to agricultural trade.

Pomareda emphasized that adjustment programs in the agricultural sector in Latin America will not have the desired results if distortions in international markets are not eliminated.

He added that seminar participants viewed the current process of multilateral negotiations at the Uruguay Round of the Generalized Agreement on Tariffs and Trades (GATT) as "an excellent opportunity to advance in this direction."

Junguito then explained that one of the main resolutions of the seminar notes the growing interrelation between sectoral agricultural policy and macroeconomic policy in each country.

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"New problems that confront agriculture call for an understanding of its relation to the general economy, both at the national and international levels," he said.

"In this sense, IICA, with its capacity to convene the authorities of the sector in the hemisphere, has a central role to fulfill: It must prepare the countries to handle this new dimension of agriculture," he added.

Lombardo emphasized that IICA can also serve as a bridge between governments and international financial organizations on agricultural matters.

Wallis noted that this seminar provided the first opportunity for the EDI, and consequently the World Bank, to meet with experts who have a direct role in implementing SAL programs in the agricultural sector, and to listen to their experiences and observations.

The Director General of IICA, Dr. Martín E. Piñeiro, emphasized the "intellectual generosity of the EDI, which has always been willing to support seminars, knowing beforehand that criticisms will be made."

"It is essential to promote discussions, analysis and exchange of experiences between governments and international organizations," Piñeiro asserted.

*Dr. Martín E. Piñeiro, Director General of IICA; Antonio Alvarez Desanti, Costa Rican Minister of Agriculture and Livestock; and Dr. J.A. Nicholas Wallis of the World Bank's Economic Development Institute, principal speakers during the opening ceremony of the seminar on Structural Adjustment Programs.*



## IICA'S EDITORIAL SERVICE PUBLISHES BOOK ON "MANDATE OF OTTAWA"

The Editorial Service of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) has published a book titled "Reactivating Agriculture: A Strategy for Development." The book is a result of the Ninth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA), and is based on the working documents of that meeting. Both English and Spanish editions are available.

As explained by IICA Director General Dr. Martín E. Piñeiro, this book contributes to the search for new economic and social development strategies in Latin America and the Caribbean.

"This book... outlines an alternative proposal that re-evaluates the role that agricultural reactivation and modernization can play in the economic development of the region," he stated in the prologue.

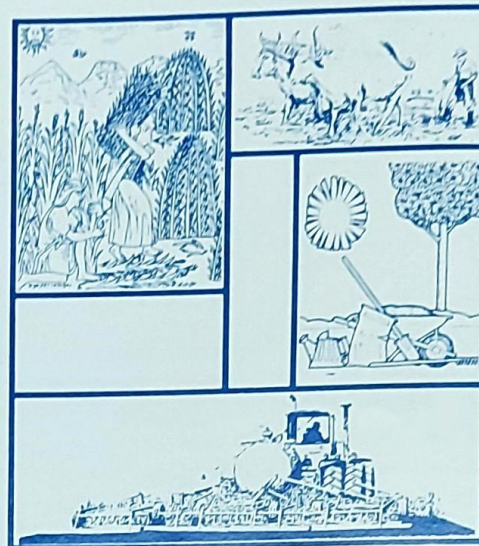
The proposal is based on the thesis that reactivating the agricultural sector through increases in productivity and efficiency will have a favorable effect on the balance of payments, reduce inflationary pressures, have an important multiplier effect on the rest of the economy, and exert an immediate beneficial influence on the poorest sectors of the population: those who live in rural areas.

The first part of the book contains the working documents that served as antecedents and the framework of the Ninth ICMA. They cover four main topics: Recent trends, outlook and potential for agriculture in the Americas in the international economic context; incentive policies for agricultural modernization; Technological innovation for agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean; problems, opportunities and issues; and the Trade crisis and agricultural development: options for international cooperation and regional integration.

The second part contains the Declaration and Recommendations of the Ottawa Conference. These embody the results of the meeting of Ministers and therefore reflect the principle subjects on the agenda for agriculture in the region.

"The 'Mandate of Ottawa' is an important step forward in the search for definitions," Dr. Piñeiro said. "It is built on a consensus of opinion that allows us to direct our efforts, establishing the basis for coordinated action among the countries of the region with international agencies for financial and technical cooperation."

### REACTIVACIÓN AGROPECUARIA UNA ESTRATEGIA PARA EL DESARROLLO



Likewise, it entrusts IICA with preparing a "strategic plan of joint action for agricultural revitalization in Latin America and the Caribbean," in coordination with the countries and other international organizations. The plan must place priority on joint activities among countries, and the design of mechanisms to coordinate the initiatives with the needs of technical and financial cooperation.

Finally, it should be emphasized that the working documents presented at the Ninth ICMA were prepared by a dedicated group of IICA professionals. Valuable contributions were also made by officials and specialists from IICA member countries during two technical seminars, held in Cartagena, Colombia, and San Jose, Costa Rica.

The Ninth ICMA was organized by Félix Cirio and J. André Ouellette. Participating technical experts included: Jorge Ardila, Lizardo de las Casas, Helio Fallas, Mario Kaminsky, Eduardo Lindarte, Cassio Luiselli, Guillermo Pavés Herмосilla, Carlos Pomareda, Rodolfo Quirós, Jorge Torres and Eduardo Trigo.

"Reactivating Agriculture: A Strategy for Development" can be obtained at IICA Representations in its 31 member countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.

# IICA REPRESENTATIVES IN THE MEMBER STATES

**ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA**  
Representative: Franz Alexander\*

**ARGENTINA**  
Representative: Mr. Carlos Garramón  
Office Location: Defensa, 113,  
Piso 7, 1065  
Buenos Aires, Argentina  
Telephones: 346127/9037/1375/5413  
3315608  
Cable: IICABAIRES  
Telex OAS: 21197 OEAAARG  
Electronic Mail: 2844

**BARBADOS**  
Representative: Mr. Michael Moran  
Office Location: Codrington House  
St. Michael  
Bridgetown, Barbados, W.I.  
Telephones: 4274742 — 40426.47.41  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 705-C  
Cable: IICABARB  
Telex OAS: 2352 OASBARB  
Electronic Mail: 549

**BOLIVIA**  
Representative: Mr. Alberto Franco  
Office Location: Ave. 20 de  
Octubre No. 2619, entre Campos y  
Pinilla  
Telephones: 374988, 352086, 371892  
Mailing Address: Casilla 6057  
Cable: IICA  
La Paz, Bolivia  
Telex: 3355 IICABV — 3266 OEABV

**BRAZIL**  
Representative: Mr. Norberto Pasini  
Office Location: SHIS Q1-05  
Bloco "D"  
Comercial Local, 71600 Brasília, D.F.  
Mailing Address: Caixa Postal 09-1070,  
71600 Brasília, D.F.  
Telephones: 248.6799-5477-5647-5531  
Cable: IICA  
Telex: 611959 INAGBR  
Electronic Mail: 1536  
Telex OAS: 611055 OEABR

**CANADA**  
In-Charge, Mr. Ernani Ma. da Costa Fiori  
Location: Carling Executive Park,  
1565 Carling Avenue, Suite 508  
Ottawa, Ontario, K1Z 8R1  
Telephone: (613) 725-1118  
Electronic Mail: 2166 IICACND

**COLOMBIA**  
In-Charge: Mr. Mario Blasco  
Office Location: Carrera 30,  
Calle 45, Ciudad Universitaria  
Bogotá  
Telephones: 244-2868, 244-90.05 al 09  
Mailing Address: Apartado Aéreo 14592  
Cable: IICABOG  
Telex OAS: 44669 OEACO  
Electronic Mail: 1836

**COSTA RICA**  
Coordinator of Plan of Action:  
Mr. José A. Holguín  
Office Location: Carretera a Coronado,  
Provincia de San José, Costa Rica  
Mailing Address: Apartado 55, 2200  
Coronado, Costa Rica  
Telephone: 29-02-22  
Cable: IICA  
Telex: 2144 CR  
Electronic Mail: 1332

**CHILE**  
Representative: Mr. Alfredo Alonso  
Office Location: Ave. Apoquindo  
No. 4431, Santiago, Chile  
Mailing Address: Casilla 244,  
Correo 34  
Telephones: 485363, 2283003  
Cable: IICA  
Telex: 240644 IICACL  
Telex OAS: 440196  
Electronic Mail: 2130

**DOMINICA**  
Representative: Mr. Franz Alexander\*  
Office Location: c/o Division of  
Agriculture, Botanical Gardens,  
Commonwealth of Dominica, W.I.  
Telephone: 448-4502  
Send telex to St. Lucia  
Electronic Mail: WINDIICA 1561

**DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**  
Representative: Mr. Gilberto Páez  
Office Location: Avenida Primera,  
Esquina de Fray Cipriano de Utrera,  
Centro de los Héroes,  
Santo Domingo, República Dominicana  
Telephones: 533-7522, 533-2797  
Mailing Address: Apartado 711  
Cable: IICAOEA  
Telex: 2020350 IICARD  
Telex OAS: 4140 OEARD  
Electronic Mail: 537

**ECUADOR**  
Representative: Mr. Jaime Román S.  
Office Location: Ave. Mariana de Jesús  
No. 147 y La Pradera  
Quito, Ecuador  
Telephones: 234395, 239194, 543146,  
563070  
Mailing Address: Apartado 201-A  
Cable: IICA  
Telex: 22837 IICAED  
Telex OAS: 22161 OEAED

**EL SALVADOR**  
Representative: Mr. Carlos A. Rucks  
Office Location: 61 Avenida Norte  
y 1a. Calle Pte.  
Edificio Bukele 2da. planta,  
San Salvador, El Salvador  
Telephones: 23-25-61, 23-37-74  
Mailing Address: Apartado (01) 78  
Cable: IICA  
Telex OAS: 20246 OEAEAS  
Electronic Mail: 2144

**GRENADA**  
Representative: Mr. Franz Alexander\*  
Office Location: Cottage No. 25,  
Morne Rouge, St. George's, Grenada  
Telephone: 4547  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 228  
Cable: IICA  
Telex: 3417 IICAGA  
Advisable to send telex to St. Lucia  
Electronic Mail: 2143

**GUATEMALA**  
Representative: Mr. Armando Reyes Pacheco  
Office Location: Primera Avenida 8-00,  
Zona 9, Código Postal 01009  
Guatemala, Guatemala, C.A.  
Telephones: 64304, 62306, 62795  
Mailing Address: Apartado 1815  
Código Postal 01901  
Cable: IICA  
Telex OEA: 5977 OEAGU  
Electronic Mail: 2143

**GUYANA**  
Representative: Mr. Franz Alexander\*  
Office Location: 229 Church Street  
Queenstown  
Georgetown, Guyana  
Telephones: 68347, 68835  
Mailing Address: P.O.Box 10-1089  
Cable: IICA  
Telex: 2279 IICAGY

**HAITI**  
Representative: Mr. Percy Aitken-Soux  
Office Location: 18 Ière Impasse Lavaud  
Port-au-Prince, Haiti  
Telephones: 5-3616, 5-1965  
Mailing Address: B.P. 2020  
Cable: IICAPHAITI  
Telex: 2030511 IICAH  
Telex OAS: 3490047 OEAHAI

**HONDURAS**  
Representative: Mr. Juan Antonio Aguirre  
Office Location: Edificio Palmira,  
2do Piso (Frente Hotel Honduras Maya)  
Telephones: 31-54-62/62-7284  
Mailing Address: Apartado 1410  
Tegucigalpa, Honduras  
Cable: IICA  
Telex OAS: 1131 OEAHO  
Electronic Mail: 2139

**JAMAICA**  
Representative: Ms. Jan Hurwitch  
Office Location: 11 Fairway Ave.  
Kingston 6, Jamaica  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 349  
Kingston 6, Jamaica  
Telephones: 9276462, 924837, 9270007  
Cable: IICAJA  
Telex OAS: 2270 OASJAM  
Electronic Mail: 1757

\* The Representative of this Office is based in the IICA Office/Saint Lucia.

**MEXICO**

Representative: Mr. Héctor Morales  
 Office Location: Shakespeare No. 30  
 Primer Piso, Colonia Anzures,  
 México, D.F., México 11590  
 Mailing Address: Apartado Postal 5-345  
 México, D.F., México 06500  
 Telephones: 250-71-54, 531-52-03  
 531-59-03, 545-61-64, 545-64-62  
 Cable: IICAGROEA  
 Telex: 1763492 OEAMEX —  
 176375 IICAME  
 Electronic Mail: 304

**NICARAGUA**

Representative: Mr. Alfonso Chirinos  
 Office Location: Reparto Belmonte  
 Casa No. 50,  
 Managua, Nicaragua  
 Telephones: 51-4-43, 51-7-57  
 Mailing Address: Apartado 4830  
 Cable: IICA  
 Telex: 2274 IICANK  
 Telex OAS: 1004 OEANK

**PANAMA**

Representative: Mr. Eduardo Salvadó  
 Office Location: Via España, No. 124  
 (Edificio del CITIBANK) Piso 7,  
 Oficinas 703 y 704  
 Telephones: 69-5779, 69-5308  
 Mailing Address: Apartado 10731  
 Zona 4, Panama  
 Cable: IICA  
 Telex: CATIEPA 3382 (darle prioridad  
 a este)  
 Telex OAS: 2713 OEAPAC  
 Electronic Mail: 2500

**PARAGUAY**

Representative: Mr. Sergio González  
 Office Location: Calle Juan E.  
 O'Leary 409  
 Edificio Parapity, 5° piso,  
 Asunción, Paraguay  
 Telephone: 41-650

Mailing Address: Casilla de  
 Correos 287  
 Cable: IICA  
 Telex: 5359 PYIICA  
 Telex OAS: 165 OEAASN

**PERU**

Representative: Mr. Israel Tineo  
 Office Location: Alvarez Calderón  
 No. 535  
 San Isidro, Lima, Perú  
 Telephone: 22-28-33  
 Mailing Address: Apartado No. 14-0185  
 Lima 14, Perú  
 Cable: IICA  
 Telex OAS: 25281 OEAPE  
 Electronic Mail: 2099

**SAINT LUCIA**

Representative: Mr. Franz Alexander\*  
 Office Location: Choc Bay  
 Telephones: 25482, 21688  
 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1223  
 Castries, St. Lucia  
 Telex OAS: 6302 OASLU  
 Electronic Mail: 1561

**SAINT VINCENT AND  
THE GRENADINES**

Representative: Mr. Franz Alexander\*

**SURINAME**

Representative: Mr. Mario Barreto França  
 Office Location: Cultuurtuiniaan, Oude  
 Directeurswoning Boven, Paramaribo  
 Suriname  
 Telephones: 72710, 741177  
 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1895  
 Cable: IICASUR  
 Telex: 167 SURTORSN

**TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO**

Representative: Mr. Chelston Brathwaite  
 Office Location: Pannel Kerr  
 Forster Building

Orange Grove Rd. Tacarigua  
 Port of Spain, T. & T., W.I.  
 Telephones: 645-1058, 645-1059 (Director)  
 Mailing Address: IICA Office in Trinidad  
 & Tobago  
 Cable: IICAPOS  
 Telex: (Public Booth) 24508 BEECHTT  
 Telex OAS: 22244 OASTTGW  
 Electronic Mail: 1574

**UNITED STATES**

Representative: Mr. David Black  
 Office Location: 1889 F. Street, N.W.  
 Suite 820, Washington D.C., 20006-4499  
 Telephones: (202) 458-3767, 458-3768,  
 458-3769  
 Cable: IICAWASH UT  
 Telex: 197649 IICA UT  
 Telex OAS: 248381 OASUT  
 Electronic Mail: IICA US 408

**URUGUAY**

Representative: Mr. Emilio Montero  
 Office Location: Calle Andes 1365,  
 Piso 8  
 Montevideo, Uruguay  
 Telephones: 90-83-39, 90-83-26  
 90-82-84  
 Mailing Address: Casilla de Correos 1217  
 Cable: IICA  
 Telex: 6443 IICA — 6457 OEAUR  
 Telex: IICAUY 22571  
 Electronic Mail: 1975

**VENEZUELA**

Representative: Mr. Mariano Segura  
 Office Location: Centro Villasmil,  
 Piso 11, Esquina de Puente y Victoria  
 Telephones: 571-8211, 571-8844,  
 571-8055, 572-1243 (Director)  
 Mailing Address: Apartado 5345  
 Caracas, Venezuela  
 Cable: IICA  
 Telex OAS: 21533 OEAVE  
 Electronic Mail: 2805

\* The Representative of this Office is based in the IICA Office/Saint Lucia.

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Editors: Mario Segura and Miguel Martí. Translator: Betsy Lordan. Revision of English: Susana Raine-Najarro, Michael J. Snarskis. Art: Olman Trigueros. Design: Jimena Ugarte. Director of External Relations: Jorge Werthein.

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